



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to an exciting new school year! We are thrilled to have your children join us in Reception, where they will embark on a journey of discovery, growth, and creativity.

In our curriculum, we focus on fostering a love of learning through engaging activities that develop key skills in literacy, numeracy, and social interaction. Our approach is child-centred, allowing each student to explore their interests and strengths in a supportive environment.

We believe that collaboration between home and school is essential for your child's success. Throughout the year, we will keep you updated on our themes, activities, and how you can support your child's learning at home.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. We look forward to a wonderful year together!

General information:

Tuesday 10.40 – 3.30 – Mrs P.C teaches Music, RE and CbIDs based learning.

Wednesday: 20mins Spanish lesson with Senorita Franco.

Thursday – PE please send children to school wearing PE kits.

Friday – Forest school (PE Kits and all weather waterproof clothing).

Children have access to physical development activities, hands on messy play both indoors and outdoors on a daily basis. Practical warm and waterproof clothing is expected to ensure comfort while they learn.

Please ensure your child brings a water bottle to school and a healthy snack separate from their packed lunch.

Please support your children's practice of Sun Salutes yoga and Word of Wisdom at home on the weekends.

A note from Mrs P.C about CbIDS (Consciousness-based Interdisciplinary Studies)

This term our CbIDS aspects of orderly growth include: We are here to enjoy, Creativity, Energy, Intelligence, Purposefulness, Rest and activity, Orderliness and Purification.



CbIDS is at the heart of all teaching at Maharishi School. The Key Ideas taught in Reception are designed to enliven each student's awareness that there is something deep within the surface of everything. All CbIDS teaching begins with the self of the student and expands outwards to embrace nature and the world around us. The goal of CbIDS, together with the practice of Word of Wisdom twice a day, is to help develop and expand the consciousness and happiness of every student.

### **Autumn 1**

'We are here to enjoy,' is a key theme that we start off with at the beginning of each term. We will also study the key ideas of 'Growth,' and 'Order,' and we will be looking at examples of 'Life is found in layers'.

### **Autumn 2**

During the second half of the term, we will be looking at the key ideas of 'Outer depends on inner,' 'Roots,' 'Rest and activity,' and 'Action.' All the children's work is displayed in their special CbIDS books which all parents and carers will be given at the end of the academic year.

### Mathematics

In Reception, we focus on building a strong foundation in mathematics through engaging activities and structured learning. We use both White Rose Maths and the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics (NCETM) resources to provide a comprehensive framework that encourages a mastery approach to mathematics. It emphasises fostering a deep understanding of numbers, helping children make connections between concepts. Activities often involve practical, hands-on experiences that promote active learning.

Our curriculum is designed to support children as they explore numbers, shapes, and patterns, with specific emphasis on the following areas:

### **Match, Sort, and Compare, Measuring and Patterns:**

Children explore basic concepts of measurement, such as length and weight, through fun activities like comparing objects and using non-standard units (like blocks or hands). We also focus on patterns, encouraging children to recognise and create sequences with colours, shapes, and sounds. These tasks help develop their reasoning and



analytical skills, as they learn to identify similarities and differences in quantities and shapes.

## Numbers

With regards to numbers our maths programs begin with a focus on 1 to 3, helping children understand quantity, ordering, and comparison. They will explore how numbers can be represented in different ways and learn to recognize simple relationships between them. We then dive deeper into numbers 1 to 5, exploring their composition. Children learn to break down these numbers into parts (e.g., recognising that 3 can be made up of 2 and 1) and to understand that numbers are made up of smaller quantities. Children will learn to subitise—recognize quantities without counting—up to 5, which is foundational for later mathematical concepts.

## Shapes

To begin, children learn to identify and name basic shapes, focusing on circles and triangles. They explore the properties of these shapes and how they fit into the world around them, building foundational geometry skills.

### Shapes with Four Sides

Understanding shapes extends to recognizing and describing four-sided shapes (like squares and rectangles). Children will explore these shapes through drawing, building, and real-world observations.

### Encouraging Learning at Home

- **Play Games:** Incorporate counting games and shape recognition into everyday play.
- **Explore Patterns:** Use objects around the house (like buttons or toys) to create patterns and encourage your child to identify and continue them.
- **Measure Together:** Involve your child in measuring activities, like cooking or building, to introduce basic measurement concepts.

By fostering a love for mathematics early on, we can help children develop confidence and a strong foundation for future learning. Thank you for your support in this exciting journey!



## Literacy

In Reception we endeavour to foster a love of reading and literacy.

### **Red Rose Phonics**

This term, we have been working to build phonetic awareness by recapping phase 1 phonics. This includes oral blending skills and listening for the initial sound in words. We have now commenced phase 2 phonics following the Red Rose Phonics program. This phonics program is designed to support children in developing their reading and writing skills through engaging, structured lessons. It focuses on building phonemic awareness and helps children connect sounds to letters. We are so excited about our new reading booklets that progressively match the letters and sounds that your children are learning in class. We are able to do guided and 1-1 reading sessions each week. We teach print letter formation and will send home letter formation poems and handwriting practise to support home learning.

### **Drawing Club**

In addition to phonics, we are excited to introduce our Drawing Club, which emphasises a fun vocabulary-rich approach to literacy. This approach encourages children to express their thoughts and feelings through drawing, while also enhancing their language skills. By discussing their illustrations, they will learn to articulate their ideas and build their vocabulary in a positive and creative environment.

We will be exploring a selection of wonderful books this term, including:

- **We're Going on a Bear Hunt** by Michael Rosen
- **Goldilocks and the Three Bears**
- **Oh No, George!** by Chris Haughton
- **Room on the Broom** by Julia Donaldson
- **The Elves and the Shoemaker**
- **Mr. Big** by Ed Vere

These stories are not only delightful but also provide rich opportunities for discussion and vocabulary development. Through storytelling, we'll explore themes, characters, settings and narrative. This encourages your children to engage with the text and think critically about what they read.



## **Supporting Literacy at Home**

To support your child's literacy journey at home, consider sharing stories together daily. Ask questions about the story and encourage your child to predict what might happen next. You can also practise phonics sounds through games and activities, reinforcing what we learn in class.

Thank you for your continued support in fostering a love of reading and learning. If you have any questions or would like more information about our literacy program, please feel free to reach out.

### Understanding the World (UtW)

In this area of learning, we explore the wonders of our environment, from the natural world to our community. Our activities will include nature walks, exploring different cultures, and learning about the importance of the seasons. We believe that fostering curiosity about the world around us helps children develop a sense of belonging and appreciation for diversity.

Our UtW curriculum is carefully designed to link in with CbIDs themes and values.

### **Autumn 1 topic: The world is my family**

We will be exploring the topic of family holidays and the diverse families that exist around the globe. This is a wonderful opportunity for our children to learn about different cultures, traditions, and the significance of family in various societies.

To enrich this experience, we encourage you to share any family holiday traditions you have, as well as stories about your own family's background. If you have photographs or items from your travels or cultural heritage, we would love for you to bring them in to share with the class.

We will also be discussing how families celebrate holidays in different parts of the world, which will help our children appreciate the diversity and similarities among families.

We believe that sharing stories from your family's past can help our children understand their own backgrounds and the diverse experiences that shape our community. We encourage you to think about significant moments—such as family traditions, holidays, or memorable trips—that



have influenced your family.

## **Seasons**

As we embrace the vibrant season of autumn, we are excited to share our upcoming learning experiences in Reception, particularly focusing on the beauty of the changing seasons and our adventures in Forest School.

During this season, our curriculum will centre around the wonders of autumn. We will explore topics such as:

- Changes in Nature: Observing the transformation of trees, plants, and wildlife as they prepare for winter.
- Harvest Time: Learning about the fruits and vegetables that are harvested during this season and their importance.
- Seasonal Celebrations: Discussing various cultural celebrations that take place in autumn, such as Halloween and Thanksgiving.

## **Forest School Adventures**

A significant part of our autumn curriculum will be our weekly Forest School sessions. This outdoor learning environment provides our children with opportunities to:

- Engage in hands-on learning experiences in a natural setting.
- Develop essential skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, and creativity through nature-based activities.
- Foster a sense of wonder and respect for the environment as they explore and learn about local flora and fauna.

Your child will participate in activities such as:

- Nature walks to collect leaves, acorns, and other natural materials for art projects.
- Storytelling sessions around a campfire, encouraging imagination and language development.
- Team games and challenges that promote physical fitness and cooperation.



## **UtW Scientific learning**

**Body Parts Exploration:** We will engage in fun activities to identify and learn about different body parts, using songs, games, and art projects. The children will have the chance to create their own body outlines and label the parts.

**Pet Care and Features:** We will discuss different types of pets, their habitats, and how to care for them. Children are encouraged to bring in pictures of their pets or share stories about them.

## **Autumn 2 topic: We are here to Enjoy**

This term, we will focus on three main themes: Celebrations around the world, Family Traditions, and Toys and Games—both old and new. Through hands-on activities, discussions, and play, children will learn about their own experiences and those of others. Different types of celebrations (birthdays, holidays, cultural festivals). How celebrations are important to families and communities. Sharing personal stories about celebrations. Creating decorations and learning songs related to various celebrations. The meaning of traditions and how they shape family identity. Sharing and respecting diverse family practices.

We will also compare old and new toys, including the evolution of toys and games over time and explore how toys reflect culture and history. This learning will encourage curiosity and respect for diversity, foster communication skills through sharing experiences and develop critical thinking by comparing and contrasting past and present.

Religious Education links into this topic. The aim is to promote an understanding and respect for those with different religions and religious beliefs and to prepare our students to live in a diverse and modern Britain. In this unit pupils will learn about different celebrations across three of the world's major religions – Christianity, Hinduism, and Islam. They will begin to understand the important religious events for these religions. They will have the opportunity to reflect on celebrations that they have been a part of, as well as what they would like to celebrate in the future. Mrs P.C will teach the R.E aspect of this unit.



## **UtW Scientific learning**

### **Light and Sound, and Earth and Space!**

In our Light and Sound unit, children will explore how we see and hear the world around us. They'll experiment with making sounds, using musical instruments, and learning about sources of light. Activities will include shadow play and simple experiments to see how light travels.

For our Earth and Space topic, we'll take an exciting journey through our solar system! Children will learn about the planets, the sun, and the moon, as well as the importance of day and night. We'll use stories, songs, and crafts to make these concepts fun and engaging.

We encourage you to explore these topics at home too! Simple activities like observing the stars at night or making musical instruments from household items can reinforce what we learn in class.

### **Woodland Animals**

We will also dive into the fascinating world of woodland animals! The children will explore different animals that live in the woods, their habitats, and their behaviours such as hibernation and nocturnal animals.

We'll engage in fun activities, such as storytelling, art projects, and even a nature walk (weather permitting!) to observe local wildlife. We encourage you to discuss woodland animals at home, perhaps sharing any books or stories you have. If you have any woodland-themed items or experiences to share, please let us know!

### Expressive art and design

Throughout this area of learning, your children will have the opportunity to safely explore a variety of materials, tools, and techniques. They will experiment with colour, design, texture, form, and function, allowing their creativity to flourish. As they create, they will also learn to share their work with their peers, explaining the processes they used, which helps develop their communication skills.





Additionally, we will incorporate role play into our learning. Your child will use props and materials to bring characters from stories to life, enriching their understanding of narratives and enhancing their imaginative play.

Being imaginative is at the heart of this unit. Children will invent, adapt, and recount their own stories, both with their peers and during group discussions. We will also enjoy singing well-known nursery rhymes and songs, and when appropriate, we'll encourage movement in time with the music, making our sessions lively and engaging.

Reception have some fantastic arts projects developed through the school wide Access Arts scheme, they will have experiences such as mark making to music, drawing to torch light, printmaking and collage.

We hope that this information has been useful to you and that you have lots of home learning opportunities that can link to the learning that is taking place at school.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Laycock and the Reception team