



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to share how wonderfully the Reception children have settled into their school routines. It has been a pleasure to see how quickly they have adjusted and embraced their new learning environment. Their enthusiasm and positive attitudes towards learning are evident every day, and they are showing great progress in their behaviour for learning.

In phonics, the children have been focusing on Phase 2 sounds, and they are doing exceptionally well. They are beginning to blend and segment sounds, which is an exciting milestone in their early literacy development. I encourage you to continue practising these sounds at home to reinforce their learning.

In mathematics, the children have gained a strong understanding of the composition of numbers to 5. They are confidently exploring different ways to represent numbers and developing their skills in counting, sorting, and identifying number patterns. It is wonderful to see how they are making connections and building a solid foundation in numeracy.

Below you will find an overview of our Reception spring curriculum.

## Mathematics

### **Spring 1**

Reception mass and capacity learning focuses on helping young children understand the concepts of weight and volume in a practical and hands-on way. During this stage, children explore and compare objects of different sizes and weights, learning to use terms like 'heavy,' 'light,' 'full,' and 'empty.' When learning to compose the numbers 6, 7, and 8, children use concrete objects, such as blocks or counters, to build and recognise these numbers. By physically manipulating objects and organising them into groups, they develop a deeper understanding of number formation and the relationships between quantities. This method supports both mathematical understanding and problem-solving skills in a fun, engaging way.



## Spring 2

This half term will see children explore fundamental concepts like length, height, and time, as well as shapes and number patterns. When learning about length and height, they compare objects to see which is longer or shorter, taller or shorter, helping them understand measurements. They also begin to explore the concept of time, learning to recognise parts of the day (like morning, afternoon, and night), and understanding basic time concepts like "before" and "after."

In geometry, they are introduced to 3-D shapes, recognising and describing objects such as cubes, spheres, cylinders, and cones. Children explore the properties of these shapes, such as faces, edges, and vertices, helping them understand spatial relationships.

Additionally, they look at number patterns, such as counting in twos, fives, and tens, which leads them to begin recognising number relationships and developing number sense. Children also work with composition of numbers 9 and 10, understanding how these numbers can be made up of smaller numbers, such as  $5 + 4$  or  $6 + 3$ , strengthening their basic addition skills and understanding of number bonds.

### Literacy

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

### **Red Rose Phonics**

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of you who attended our recent Phonics Stay and Play sessions. It was wonderful to see so many of you engaging with your child's learning and enjoying the activities together. Your continued support at home truly makes a difference in their development.

As we look ahead to the spring term, we are excited to continue building on the phonics skills that we have been developing. The children will be working with Phase 3 sounds, focusing on learning new phonemes and blending these sounds to read words. We encourage you to continue reading words and sounds linked to the phonemes introduced in class to reinforce their learning at home.



Additionally, your child will begin to write simple sentences and captions independently. This is an important milestone, and we encourage you to support them by reminding them to use their phonics fingers when segmenting sounds for writing and to blend the phonemes (sounds) when reading. Your support in these activities will help your child gain confidence in their phonics skills.

## **Drawing Club**

A list of books covered under our literacy approach:

### **Spring 1**

Beegu by Alexis Deacon

How to catch a star by Oliver Jeffers

Lost and found by Oliver Jeffers

**Non - fiction writing:** Winter Signs - caption writing.

### **Spring 2**

Dogs don't do Ballet by Anna Kemp

Mighty Mo by Alison Brown

Bubblegum Bear by Melanie Joyce

Nothing by Yasmen Ismail

**Non - fiction writing:** Signs of Spring - caption writing.

## Understanding the World (UtW)

### **Spring 1**

**Topic: Every action has a reaction**

Book: Eco girl by Ken Wilson-Max

Hot and Cold countries and Changes to the climate

This unit will explore the topic of 'Hot and Cold Countries' as part of their 'Understanding the World' curriculum. This topic introduces them to the different climates around the world, focusing on areas that are hot, such as



deserts and tropical rainforests, and cold, like the Arctic and Antarctic regions. Children will learn about the weather and how it affects the environment and the animals that live there. They will also begin to understand how the climate can change over time and how these changes can impact the world. This topic encourages children to think about the importance of looking after our planet and the need for protecting environments affected by climate change, helping them develop an early awareness of global issues.

### People who help us - Job roles

In this unit children are introduced to the topic of 'People Who Help Us' as part of their learning about 'Understanding the World'. This concept introduces children to the diversity of roles in their communities and helps them understand the importance of cooperation. Reception students are introduced to various job roles, and the topic includes aspects of people, cultures, and professions that assist or support others.

## Spring 2

### **Topic: The whole is more than the sum of the parts**

Book: Seas by Carmen Saldana

### Environments

Children will explore the natural world through the topic of 'Physical Features and Environments'. This topic introduces them to various landscapes, such as mountains, hills, valleys and plains, as well as different types of water, including rivers, lakes, seas and oceans. Children will learn how these physical features shape the environment and the creatures that live in these areas. They will also discuss how environments change over time, whether through natural events like erosion or human activities. This topic helps children develop an understanding of the world around them and encourages them to think about how they can care for and protect the environment. Through exploration and hands-on activities, children will deepen their awareness of the diverse landscapes and ecosystems that make up our planet.

### People who help us - Community and voluntary

This unit builds on Reception's previous learning, exploring the roles of different people in our communities and how they support and help others. Children will learn about a variety of voluntary roles like community helpers, charity workers, and volunteers. By recognising the contributions these individuals make to society, children develop an appreciation for teamwork and the importance of helping one another. Activities and



discussions will encourage them to think about how they can help others and contribute to their community, fostering a sense of kindness and social responsibility.

## UtW scientific learning

### **Spring 1**

1. Opposites:

We will be exploring key concepts such as *hot and cold*, *freeze and melt*, and *push and pull*. Through activities and experiments, the children will be able to observe these physical changes and gain a deeper understanding of how the world around them works. They will also learn how to identify everyday examples of these opposites in nature and in their daily lives.

2. Antarctic Animals:

We will also delve into the fascinating world of *Antarctic animals*. Your child will learn about the unique creatures that live in this cold environment, such as penguins, seals, and whales. We will discuss how these animals have adapted to survive in such extreme conditions and what makes them special.

### **Spring 2**

1. Materials:

Your child will explore various materials and their properties. We will investigate the differences between materials such as wood, metal, plastic, fabric, and more, looking at their textures, flexibility, and uses. The children will engage in fun activities that involve sorting and experimenting with materials to understand how they are used in everyday objects and why certain materials are better suited for specific purposes.

2. Endangered Animals:

We will also be learning about *endangered animals*. The children will discover why some animals are at risk of disappearing and what can be done to help protect them. Through stories, discussions, and activities, we will explore animals such as tigers, elephants, and sea turtles, and learn about the importance of conservation efforts in preserving biodiversity.

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



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.

'We are here to enjoy,' is a key theme that we start off with at the beginning of each term. We will also be exploring the key principles of Enjoy and accomplish more. Every action has a reaction, Purification leads to progress, Problem solving and Fulfilment (Thought leads to action, action leads to achievement, achievement leads to fulfilment). Mrs P.C

**Please ensure your child wears the correct school uniform, 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.**

Thank you for your ongoing support. We are looking forward to an exciting and educational time ahead!

Yours sincerely,

Miss Laycock and the Reception team