



# Bramham and Shadwell Federation

## Curriculum Newsletter: Class R January – February 2026



Literacy	Mathematics	Understanding the World
<p>Reading</p> <p>In our daily RWI session our focus for the children is to:</p> <p>Read all Set 1 sounds speedily;</p> <p>Use Fred Talk to read familiar and unfamiliar words quickly, including new vocabulary and names.</p> <p>Read familiar words speedily.</p> <p>Read short ditty stories fluently.</p> <p>Writing:</p> <p>The children will focus on accurate letter formation.</p> <p>In daily phonics the children will continue to use Fred Fingers to segment and write simple words before practising writing simple sentences.</p> <p>Through adult and child initiated independent writing challenges children will have the opportunity to practice their writing skills.</p> <p>Comprehension</p> <p>We will be reading a range of books, both fiction and non-fiction, linked to winter and dinosaurs.</p> <p>The children will be learning how to use the features of a non-fiction book.</p>	<p>In Number the children will:</p> <p>Continue to practise subitising - seeing numbers quickly, without counting</p> <p>Explore the composition of numbers to 8</p> <p>Use stories and rhymes to explore splitting numbers into parts to 5</p> <p>Compare quantities using the language of 'more than' 'fewer than' and 'an equal number'</p> <p>Count to 30</p> <p>In Pattern the children will:</p> <p>continue to develop their mathematical language when talking about 2D and 3D shapes.</p> <p>explore measuring and comparing the length, height, weight and capacity using a range of equipment.</p> <p>copy, continue, create, spot errors and identify the unit of repeat in AB, ABC, and ABB patterns.</p>	<p>The children will observe the changes outside during winter and then move on to learning about birds and some different animal behaviours during the winter. They will use their observational and research skills to find answers to questions including:</p> <p>What is the same and what is different in the outside environment in winter compared to autumn?</p> <p>How do animals find food and shelter in the winter?</p> <p>Why do some animals hibernate in winter?</p> <p>What is the quickest method to melt ice?</p> <p>Following a visit from the Teddy Bear Hospital team, we will be learning about our bodies, doctors and hospitals. We will also participate in the Big School's Bird Watch.</p> <p>The children will learn about Chinese New Year and compare the similarities and differences to other festivals they have learnt about.</p> <p>The children will have a weekly Picture News assembly with a topical focus. This will help to develop their understanding of British Values.</p>

Communication and Language	Physical Development	Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Expressive Arts and Design
<p>Each week we focus on key vocabulary linked to our theme and texts of the week.</p> <p>During daily interactions on the carpet and throughout provision children will discuss, plan and review enquiry-led learning projects and activities with adults and their peers.</p>	<p>The children will continue to develop their <b>gross motor skills</b> and be physically active through the daily provision of large building equipment, water channel construction, obstacle courses, den making and large-scale painting activities.</p> <p>In PE lessons the focus will be on ball skills and balance. Our PE day will change to <b>Fridays</b>.</p> <p>Exciting <b>fine motor</b> activities will be provided to support children's developing pencil and scissor control, and strength and stamina when writing.</p>	<p>Our theme this term is 'Keeping Safe'. Each week the children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- share a story time that focuses on the weekly ethos statement linked to 'keeping safe'.</li><li>- participate in a circle time to cover any issues or changes that are occurring inside or outside of school.</li></ul> <p>The children will participate in activities linked to children's mental health week and learn how they can look after their own mental health and support others.</p>	<p>As well as the ongoing opportunities and resources available in the classroom for children to express themselves, the children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>continue to develop their joining skills to create a hatching egg and/or compass.</li><li>Embed the colour resist technique to paint a dinosaur of their choice.</li><li>Create shelters from natural materials.</li><li>Use small world resources and musical instruments to retell/sing familiar stories/ rhymes and create their own.</li><li>Recognise musical patterns, add actions to songs and use percussion instruments to explore ways to change sounds, e.g. quietly, loudly, slowly etc.</li></ul>

Helping at Home		Dates for the Diary and any other information
<p>Here are some helpful reminders of the resources you can access at home to support your child's learning and key vocabulary that we would encourage you to explore with your child to help them with their learning.</p>		<p>Our PE day will change to Fridays. Please could children come into school in PE kit every FRIDAY.</p>
Literacy	Weekly reading and phonics homework Please support your child in reading for 15 minutes at least three days a week.	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January – Reception Stay and Play 9.00-9.45
Maths	Online access to Numbots	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January – Teddy Bear Hospital visiting Reception
Understanding the world	<b>Key vocabulary:</b> Shelter, hatch, seasons, winter, habitat, hibernate, world, nest, extinct, dinosaur, carnivore, herbivore, omnivore, palaeontologist, stethoscope, x-ray, health, heart rate, vaccination, first aid, protein, carbohydrate, balanced diet,	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> February – NSPCC Number Day
Expressive arts & design	Key vocabulary: artwork, join, colour, water colour, tool, paint brush, split pin, wax crayon, colour resist, technique, mixing, pulse, rhythm, notation	9 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> February – Children's Mental Health Week
Physical Development	Target: zip up coat independently. Challenge: Tie up trainers	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February – Safer Internet Day
PSED	Key vocabulary: trust, safe, respect, fair, unfair, share, mental health	
<p><b>Other ways to support at home:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Play games together:</b> Playing games together such as board games, card games and puzzle games can strengthen key skills such as problem-solving and resilience building.</li> <li><b>Promote writing:</b> Looking for opportunities to write can be a great way to apply spelling knowledge and writing skills as well as to practise handwriting – shopping lists, family occasion cards etc.</li> </ul>		