

HAPPY
NEW
YEAR



Spring Term (1) 2026

Reception Curriculum Letter

Mrs L Ainscough & Mrs N Cassidy

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE! We hope you have all had a lovely Christmas and are ready for a successful and exciting 2026 in Reception Class. We can't believe how fast time has gone and we are now starting our second term together. We are looking forward to lots more fun and learning during this term.

Topic

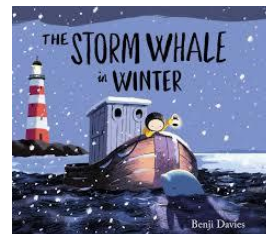


Our topic in Reception for this half term is 'Is China like Chorley' with a Geography focus. We will look at where we live in Chorley and how Chorley is in England. We then look at China. We will discuss how this is far away, from where we live. We will also look at some Chinese culture. Some key vocabulary we will learn is **land, sea, road, China, culture, landmarks and country.**



English

Our main texts for this half term are 'Storm and the Whale in Winter' by Benji Davies and 'Hello Penguins' by National Geographic Readers. Other texts your child will explore are The Storm Whale, Grandma Bird and The Great Storm Whale all by Benji Davis. We will also read, The Unexpected Visitor by J. Courtney-Tickle, The Snail and the Whale by Julia Donaldson and The Whale Who Wanted More by Rachel Bright. To support our non-fiction text 'Hello Penguin' we will be also reading I Can Fly by Fifi Kuo, Well Done Mummy Penguin by Chris Haughton and The Snow Thief by Alice Hemming.



We will be focusing on:

Using new vocabulary in sentences, in a range of contexts.

Saying a simple sentence that we would like to write (oral rehearsal for writing). Attempting to include spaces between each word

Beginning to use capital letter and full stop

Writing simple common exception words linked to phonics Programme

Spelling CVC words e.g. did, bed, his, him, put, red, sat, fun, hot, box, yes...

Beginning to spell some words with digraphs e.g. shop, pink, chat, thin, boat, cow, moon

Beginning to write a simple caption / sentence using phonic knowledge

Author of the Half Term

Our Author for Spring Term is Mick Inkpen! We will be reading lots of stories by Mick Inkpen and learning one by heart.



Religious Education

In our Religious Education, our topic for the half term is Galilee to Jerusalem. The focus of this branch is for children to develop a developing understanding of Jesus. Including how Jesus shows his love for us. We will learn about the visit of the Magi. Also, how Jesus grows up in a loving family, how Jesus blesses the little children and how a little boy shares his food to help other people.

A few notices:

- All teachers have release time during the week for PPA (planning, preparation & assessment). Mrs Owsianska will be covering Mrs Ainscough's PPA time on a Thursday afternoon. Throughout the week we have small 'key

worker' group time with either Mrs Ainscough, Mrs Cassidy or Mrs Swarbrick to sing songs/read stories/ opportunities for speaking and listening and 'Show and tell' including looking at 'magic' moments from home.

- The children will do P.E. every Friday afternoon. Please can you make sure your child comes to school in their PE kit every Friday.
- Please can you ensure that your child brings in a water bottle filled with water every day for them to access in the classroom. Please remember no juice is allowed in their bottle.
- As mentioned at our meet the teacher evening please can you encourage your child to be independent with putting their coat on and off as well as packing and unpacking their school bag.
- In our celebration assembly on Friday's children can show any certificates they have achieved e.g. swimming certificates

Outdoor Provision



Each day the children have access to outdoor provision, which can get a little messy and wet. It is important that your child has a waterproof coat and wellies (which are to be left outside the Reception classroom) as we enjoy playing outside - whatever the weather! Please can you ensure that your child's belongings are clearly labelled with their name.

Magic Moments

'Magic Moments' are one way in which you can contribute to your child's learning journey. They are to be completed by an adult when you see your child do something that perhaps you haven't seen before or make you go 'wow' or smile. Please add a photo or comment on Tapestry of your child's magic moment for us to share.



Reading Books and Homework



Your child will be given a reading book when we feel they are ready for one. If your child has already been given a reading book please can you ensure that your child brings their reading book and reading record book into school on a MONDAY. Their reading book will be changed (if needed) on this day only. Your child's reading book is important, however, this isn't the only book that they can read (or have a go at reading). Please encourage your child to read other books at home or in the library. If you wish to do so you can record the other books

they are reading into their reading record book too. Homework is given out/uploaded onto Tapestry as and when your child's phonics teacher feels they have new learning to consolidate at home. This may be every day. Please can you upload your completed homework onto Tapestry. Thank you for all your support with homework!

Tapestry

Hopefully everyone is able to access Tapestry and are enjoying viewing your child's learning journal. If you have any difficulties accessing this please do ask and I can ensure you have full access to your child's area.

Stay and Play

This half terms stay and play will be focussed around maths. The plan is to invite parents in over a few days to come and see how we teach maths in Reception class! This will be happening week commencing 19th January 2026 in the mornings. Look out for more information regarding this.

Yours Sincerely
Mrs Lisa Ainscough & Mrs Nicola Cassidy
Class Teachers

