

Summer (1) 2026

Reception Curriculum Letter

Mrs L Ainscough & Mrs N Cassidy

Welcome back! I hope you have all had a fun and relaxing half term break. Let's hope we start to see some nicer weather as we move further into spring. We have another busy and exciting half term ahead!

Topic

Our topic in Reception for this half term is 'What's growing in the garden?' In our Science, we will be learning about minibeasts and growing. We look forward to making a bug habitat!

Religious Education

Our Religious Education branch this half term is 'The Ends of the Earth. In this unit, in an age appropriate way, pupils will study the events that flowed from the Resurrection and Ascension in the coming of the Holy Spirit and the work of the apostles and early Church. They will also learn about the Catholic Church today as the apostolic Church and how its liturgy and structures flow from the early Church.



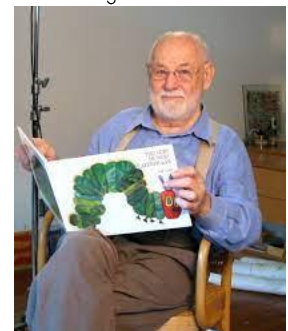
English

In our English, our main texts are 'The Woolly Bear Caterpillar' by Julia Donaldson and 'Seed to plant' by National Geographic Readers. Our fiction texts your child will explore are A good place by Lucy Cousins, I love Bugs by Emma Dodd, Christopher's Caterpillars by Charlotte Middleton, Matisse's Magical Trail by Tim Hopgood and Tad by Benji Davis. Some of the non-fiction texts we will explore are Things with Wings by Paul Shipton, Lift and Look Bugs by Tracy Cottingham.

We will be focusing on including spaces between words and using a capital letter correctly within sentences. We will also be focusing on spelling words with some digraphs and trigraphs in and writing simple sentences using our current phonics knowledge.

Author of the Half Term

Our Author for Summer Term is Eric Carle! We will be reading lots of stories by Eric Carle and learning one by heart.



A few notices:

- All teachers have release time during the week for PPA (planning, preparation & assessment). Mrs Swarbrick 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.
- Everyday your child has access to a drink of milk in the afternoon. 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 certificate.

- 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.



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Weekend News

We will continue with writing our weekend news to help develop the children's writing skills. Each week your child will be invited to write and draw a picture about what they have been doing at the weekend outside of school. This will then be shared with the rest of the class during speaking & listening time. It may help your child if you have a brief chat with them about their weekend.

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



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!

Reading Volunteer

Mrs McCullough comes in every Monday afternoon to listen to your children read. Please can you make sure your child has their reading book in school on a MONDAY so they can read with Mrs McCullough.

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 is focused on our outdoors! This will take place on the 12th May 2026 in the afternoon. Look out for a separate message with more details.

If you have any questions about anything please feel free to catch us at the door at the beginning or at the end of the day. We are always happy to talk.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely
Mrs Lisa Ainscough & Mrs Nicola Cassidy
Class Teachers

