

Curriculum Letter for YR – Autumn Term 1 2026

General Information

Welcome to our first curriculum letter for Reception. We are extremely proud of how well the children have started to settle into school life and we are looking forward to a fun-packed first half term 😊.

As the weather is so changeable, please make sure your child has a coat in school every day and remember to name absolutely everything. In Reception, we kindly ask parents for a voluntary termly donation of £3. This fund enables our children to take part in regular messy play and cooking sessions, as well as helping to pay for replacement items throughout the year such as craft materials. The donation is paid through Arbor. You will receive more information in the upcoming weeks regarding this payment. Many thanks in advance for your support.

Curriculum

Topic: Our topic this half term is **Me and My Family**. This is a great starting point for the children to find out about each other and to explore their interests and experiences. We will be reading lots of fantastic stories and doing a range of activities linked to them. Our core books are *Barbara Throws a Wobbler* by Nadia Shreen, *So Much* by Trish Cooke and *What Makes me a Me?* by Ben Faulks & David Tazzyman. We will also be reading lots of books linked to the theme of starting school.

Knowledge & Understanding of the World: Each term we explore the seasons; at the moment we are looking at **Autumn** and finding out about how things change over time. We will be using a great resource on our doorstep, the school field! We will also be going on a nature walk to Aldersbrook Park. In RE our topic is 'Who made the Wonderful World?' We will be learning about Harvest and celebrating Harvest Festival.

Personal, Social & Emotional Development: Class circle time sessions provide a calm and safe environment to talk about our feelings. We use the Colour Monster stories and feelings jars to explain our emotions, especially in a new situation.

Literacy: We follow the **Little Wandle** phonics and reading programme. This includes daily whole class phonics lessons, as well as regular reading sessions with an adult throughout the week. Once the children are fully settled, we will share more information with you about phonics and reading. There will be a parent workshop in the autumn term about phonics (more details to follow).

Mathematics: Maths is taught daily, following the **My Mastery** scheme. To start off with, we will be counting a set of objects accurately and comparing amounts. We will also be focusing on reading and writing numbers. We will be using everyday objects to explore weight, length and capacity and recognising shapes in our surrounding environment.

Expressive Art & Design: We will be exploring mark making through different drawing materials and beginning to draw from observation using faces and self-portraits. We will also be using natural objects to make the portraits. We will also be starting our first music unit called **Me!** when we will teach 5 well-known rhymes and action songs.



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Physical Development: PE is timetabled for Friday mornings with Coach Kymani, and all children must wear their PE kits to school. **PE starts on Friday 18th September.** PE takes place in small groups with the children learning to play games together which focus on developing their gross motor skills.

Reading

Children will bring home a library book each Friday to share with their family. After a few weeks, the children will be given a phonics activity or reading book. More details to follow. **Please bring book bags to school on a Friday only.**

Homework

Each Friday we set a short homework activity on *Tapestry*. This is either a hands-on activity, a talk task or an assignment on *Busy Things*. The task will reinforce learning that has taken place during the school week.

Key Dates

Welcome Meeting	Friday 18 th September 3 p.m. main hall
PTA Bake Sale	Friday 18 th September (after school)
PTA Smarties Challenge starts	Monday 21 st September
RB trip to Aldersbrook Park	Wednesday 7 th October
RW trip to Aldersbrook Park	Monday 12 th October
PTA Disco	Friday 16 th October (during school day)
INSET Days	Wednesday 21 st - Friday 23 rd October
Half Term	Monday 26 th October - Friday 30 th October