Prime Area: Communication and Language

- Articulate their ideas and thoughts in well-formed sentences.
- Connect one idea or action to another using a range of connectives.
- Engage in non-fiction books.
- Listen to and talk about selected non-fiction to develop a deep familiarity with new knowledge and vocabulary.
- Describe events in some detail.
- Use talk to help work out problems and organise thinking and activities explain how things work and why they might happen.

Prime Area: Physical Development

- Progress towards a more fluent style of moving, with developing control and grace.
- Combine different movements with ease and fluency.
- Confidently and safely use a range of large and small apparatus indoors and outside, alone and in a group.
- Develop overall body-strength, balance, co-ordination and agility.
- Use their core muscle strength to achieve a good posture when sitting at a table or on the floor.

Prime Area: Personal, Social and Emotional development

- Show resilience and perseverance in the face of challenge.
- Identify and moderate their own feelings socially and emotionally.
- Manage their own needs - personal hygiene

Specific Area: Literacy

- Read some letter groups that each represent one sound and say sounds for them.
- Read a few common exception words matched to the school's phonic programme.
- Read simple phrases and sentences made up of words with known letter-sound correspondences and, where necessary, a few exception words.
- Re-read these books to build up their confidence in word reading, their fluency and their understanding and enjoyment.
- Spell words by identifying the sounds and then writing the sound with letter/s.

Reception Spring Term 2026



Possible ideas and themes

Make and taste porridge for Goldilocks and the Three Bears
Explore materials, baking and changes with The Gingerbread Man
Create homes and shelters for The Three Little Pigs
Take a woodland walk, create journey maps and weave a basket with Little Red Riding Hood
Build bridges and create troll masks with Three Billy Goat's
Plant beans and observe changes - Jack and the Beanstalk
Celebrations: Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day
Easter
Seasonal changes - Winter/Spring

Four- and five-year-olds learn best through structured play, exploration and purposeful challenges. Activities focus on early literacy and numeracy, independence, teamwork and critical thinking. The boxes on this map highlight the specific skills we continue to develop as children deepen their learning.

Specific Area: Mathematics

- Recognise small numbers instantly (subitise) in different arrangements.
- Arrange numbers within 5 and describe what they see to build subitising skills.
- Spot smaller numbers hidden within larger numbers.
- Connect numbers to finger patterns and explore different ways to represent numbers on fingers.
- Join in with counting, noticing that each number is one more than the previous.
- Develop counting skills, including:
  - understanding that the last number counted shows "how many" (cardinality)
  - counting each item once and in any order (1:1 correspondence)
  - counting anything, including actions and sounds
- Compare groups of objects by matching.
- Start using the term "whole" when talking about objects with parts.

Specific Area: Understanding the World

- Explore the natural world around them.
- Describe what they see, hear and feel whilst outside.
- Compare and contrast characters from stories, including figures from the past.
- Comment on images of familiar situations in the past.
- Recognise that people have different beliefs and celebrate special times in different ways.

Specific Area: Expressive Arts and Design

- Create collaboratively, sharing ideas, resources and skills.
- Explore, use and refine a variety of artistic effects to express their ideas and feelings.
- Listen attentively, move to and talk about music, expressing their feelings and responses.
- Continue to develop storylines in their pretend play.













