



RECEPTION CURRICULUM MAP AUTUMN TERM 2026



Learning our faith, living our faith, loving our faith

1. COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE

- Listen attentively and respond appropriately during stories, conversations and whole-class/small-group learning.
- Develop confidence in expressing ideas, needs and experiences using increasingly complete sentences.
- Learn, understand and use new vocabulary drawn from stories, experiences and curriculum learning.
- Ask and answer questions to clarify understanding and find out more.
- Retell familiar stories and recount experiences in an increasingly clear sequence.
- Develop conversational skills by listening to others, taking turns and building on what has been said.

2. PERSONAL, SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Develop secure relationships and a strong sense of belonging within our Reception community.
- Understand routines, expectations and boundaries and become increasingly responsible for choices.
- Recognise and talk about feelings, developing strategies for managing emotions and challenges.
- Develop resilience, perseverance and confidence when encountering new or difficult situations.
- Work and play cooperatively, showing kindness, empathy and respect for others.
- Recognise that families, communities and traditions may be similar and different, treating differences with respect.

3. PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- Move confidently and safely, developing coordination, balance, agility and spatial awareness.
- Develop core strength, posture and control through varied gross-motor experiences.
- Refine hand-eye coordination and fine-motor control through purposeful activities.
- Develop an effective pencil grip and increasing control when drawing and forming letters.
- Use tools such as scissors and cutlery safely and with increasing precision.
- Manage dressing, toileting, handwashing, eating and other personal-care routines with increasing independence.

STORIES WE'LL SHARE

AUTUMN 1 – ALL ABOUT ME

- Our Class is a Family
- In Every House on Every Street
- We're Going on a Bear Hunt
- Mr Grumpy's Outing



AUTUMN 2 – LIGHT, DARK & CELEBRATION

- Divali (Non-Fiction)
- Can't You Sleep, Little Bear?
- The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark
- Stick Man
- The Christmas Story



Our Autumn Journey

AUTUMN 1

All About Me



I wonder...
what makes
me, me?

AUTUMN 2

Light, Dark & Celebration



I wonder...
why do
we celebrate?



7. EXPRESSIVE ARTS & DESIGN

- Explore and select from a widening range of materials, tools and techniques.
- Develop increasing control when drawing, painting, joining, modelling and constructing.
- Mix colours and explore texture, pattern, line and form for a purpose.
- Sing familiar and seasonal songs, explore rhythm and respond creatively to music and movement.
- Develop increasingly sustained narratives through imaginative role play, small-world play and storytelling.
- Plan, create, adapt and talk about individual and collaborative work, including shared performance.

EXPERIENCES THAT BRING OUR LEARNING TO LIFE



Our School & Local Area walks, people who help us, maps & routes



Then & Now family/baby photographs, self-portraits, photographs & artefacts



Autumn & Winter Observations noticing, comparing and explaining seasonal change



Light, Shadow & Torch Enquiry observing, predicting and investigating



Celebrations & Performance family/community celebrations, cards & messages, Nativity



4. LITERACY

- Enjoy, discuss and respond to a rich range of stories, rhymes, poems and non-fiction.
- Learn taught sounds through Read Write Inc. and develop increasingly secure phonological awareness.
- Blend taught sounds to read words and build recognition of words matched to taught phonics.
- Talk about characters and events, sequence and retell familiar stories and make simple predictions.
- Apply taught sounds when writing purposeful words and simple phrases.
- Develop increasingly accurate letter formation and confidence in communicating ideas through writing.



5. MATHEMATICS

- Develop deep and secure number sense within 5 through counting, subitising, matching numerals and quantities, comparison and composition.
- Compare quantities using mathematical language such as more, fewer, equal, greater and less.
- Explore how numbers can be composed and represented in different ways.
- Notice, describe, copy and continue patterns.
- Compare size, length, weight and capacity through meaningful practical experiences.
- Explore, describe and manipulate shapes and use positional and spatial language with increasing precision.



6. UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

- Talk about ourselves, our families and significant people, recognising similarities and differences.
- Develop understanding of past and present through personal histories, photographs, stories and familiar events.
- Explore the school and local environment and begin to represent familiar places through simple maps and drawings.
- Observe and explain seasonal change from autumn into winter.
- Investigate light, darkness, shadows and materials through observation, prediction and practical enquiry.
- Encounter different communities, traditions and celebrations, making connections with our own experiences.



8. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- **Creation & Covenant:** deepen understanding of God's creation, our uniqueness, belonging and responsibility for one another and our world.
- Listen to, talk about and respond to Scripture through prayer, discussion, art, music and reflection.
- Explore giving thanks and caring for creation through Harvest and everyday action.
- **Prophecy & Promise:** explore Advent as a time of waiting and preparation and encounter the Nativity story in greater depth.
- Recognise important people and events within the Christmas story and begin to understand their significance.
- Participate thoughtfully in prayer, worship, Nativity and the celebration of Christmas.

Daily Prayer • Collective Worship • Virtues in Action