

Literacy

Dive Into Wonderful Stories!

This half term in Literacy, we will be exploring two fantastic texts: *The Lion Inside* and *Be Brave Little Penguin* by Giles Andreae and Rachel Bright.

These stories will help us think about feelings, bravery, friendship, and finding our voice!

We will also be enjoying a range of exciting books throughout the term, including:

Monkey Puzzle, Lion Hunt, Elmer, Farmer Duck, Rosie's Walk, A Squash and a Squeeze.

Through these stories, we will be learning how to:

- **Retell stories** in our words, using new vocabulary we have learned.
- **Predict key events** and talk about what might happen next.
- **Use and understand new vocabulary** confidently when discussing characters, settings, and events.

By the end of this half term, children will be working towards being able to:

- Write **simple phrases and sentences** independently.
- Use **finger spaces, capital letters, and full stops** in their writing.
- Attempt to write words containing **Phase 4 consonant clusters**.
- Write sentences that include **Phase 4 clusters and tricky words**.
- Write **CVC words** using the sounds they have learned in **Phonics Phase 2** and the beginning of **Phase 3**.

Phonics

In Phonics, we will be focusing on Phase 4 sounds and writing short, dictated sentences. Children will also be encouraged to orally spell given words.

Each week, we learn 4-5 new sounds, new and High Frequency Words (Please check the book bag on Tricky Mondays).

By the end of Summer 1, we are aiming for your child to be able to read Phase 2b&c books fluently. Children should be able to read aloud simple sentences and books that match their phonic knowledge, including some common exception words. Therefore, it is important that they are secure with the sounds we learn each week so they can use them to read 2- and 3-letter words.

Please practise ALL previous taught sounds and words.

Reception



Summer 1 2026

Reception children will take part in physical activity on Thursday afternoon.

Please remember to bring your **PE kit** 😊



M a t h s

In Maths this half term Reception children will be learning skills of

- Counting bigger groups of objects – Children will count larger sets and even things they cannot see (e.g., sounds or movements).
- Subitising numbers to 6 – Recognising small quantities instantly, including in familiar patterns (like dice or tens frames).
- Understanding numbers as “5 and a bit” – Exploring how numbers like 6, 7, 8 and 9 are made (for example, $5 + 2 = 7$).
- Building the number 10 – Learning different ways numbers combine to make 10 (e.g., $4+6$, $7+3$).
- Comparing numbers confidently – Comparing quantities and using simple track games to understand which number is more or fewer.

This half term, our **Understanding the World** learning will be inspired by the wonderful stories we are reading:

Monkey Puzzle-Exploring rainforest habitats, learning about animal families and how babies can look different from their adults, understanding how animals help one another

Lion Hunt -Discovering African habitats and the animals that live there, learning about maps and positional language as we move, talking about staying safe and being aware of our surroundings

Elmer-Celebrating diversity in the natural world, exploring patterns and colours found in animals, understanding individuality and what makes each creature unique

Farmer Duck-Learning about farm animals and their roles, exploring how humans care for animals and how animals help us, understanding teamwork, fairness, and helping others

Rosie's Walk-Beginning simple map skills, using positional language, exploring everyday outdoor environments

A Squash and a Squeeze-Talking about homes, space, and how environments changes, about needs—of humans and animals, exploring how creatures use their habitats.