Autumn 2026

Early Years Foundation Stage Newsletter

Welcome to Reception! We hope your child has found their first days at school to be an enjoyable and happy experience. It has been a pleasure to welcome them in, and we look forward to getting to know them better and helping them to progress in their development.

Communication between school and home is very important and we hope newsletters are one way we can provide you with up-to-date information about the experiences your child is having in school.

Our topic for this term is *'My Favourite Things'* and, as with all our work in the Foundation Stage, the topic will involve a strong emphasis on practical activities to develop the children's learning. Below is a summary of some of the activities in which the children will take part.

Personal, Social & Emotional development	**Communication and Language**	**Physical development**
We will use 'My Happy Mind' to help create a positive mental wellbeing culture in which children build resilience, self-esteem, and character. Additionally, the children will learn strategies to help them with new beginnings and starting school, following the '1 Decision' scheme.	In oracy, the children will contribute ideas about why events happen in stories, why they think a character is behaving a certain way and predict what might happen in the story. They will develop their communication, including irregular tenses and plurals and sing a large repertoire of songs.	The children will be introduced to Physical Education and structured movement through the topic of 'fantasy and adventure' and 'everyday life'. Fundamental skills will include balancing, running, changing direction, jumping, hopping and travelling. The children will develop their fine motor skills so that they can use a range of tools competently, safely and confidently.

Literacy	**Mathematics**
In Autumn 1, the children will develop their literacy skills through the text 'The Whale Who Wanted More'. They will be able to draw, paint and make a fish and be able to contribute orally to a short story about their fish. In Autumn 2, the children will learn from the story 'The Pirates are Coming'. They will create a pirate ship and interact with their peers to role play parts of the story, this will involve relevant mark making and the use of simple CVC words.	During the first half-term, the children will learn to recognise, represent, and manipulate numbers to 5. They will focus on comparing two groups of objects and correctly identifying which has more, fewer or whether they have the same amount. In Autumn 2, the children will explore 3D and 2D shapes as well as focusing on positional language. They will find one more and one less than a number within 5 and concentrate on number bonds to 5 in the context of a part-whole model.
Understanding the world	**Expressive Arts and Design**
In our learning we will use the text 'Houses and Homes' to talk about different kinds of houses around the world. We will talk about members of our immediate family and show some sense of our own history. We will consider what we can do now and how we have changed since we were babies. In our RE lessons, we will learn about baptism in churches. During Forest Friday, we will be using our senses to explore natural materials outdoors. We will be discussing different seasons and looking for changes in our outdoor environment.	Throughout the term we will be creating self-portraits as part of our settling in period. We will create collages of whales and learn about the use of paper and other materials for collage effects. We will make firework pictures for Bonfire night and create Christmas cards and presents for our families. We will complete a programme of music about 'Me!' We will learn several nursery rhymes and action songs. We will also learn simple songs about Diwali, Bonfire Night and Christmas. We will take part in the Christmas play with songs and dances.

Teaching Assistant Support
There will be full-time support in the Reception class. Over the week we are lucky to have the support of Mrs Howarth, Mrs Crook, Mrs Cawley, and Mrs Carney.

PE Days
The children will be getting changed for PE before each lesson so they will need to have their PE bag in school. These will be sent home at the end of a half term for washing. PE kits should include shorts and their house-coloured t- shirt. Games lessons will take place outside so please ensure that your child has warm clothing and trainers. Our PE lessons will take place on a Monday and Wednesday, so your child's kit needs to be in school by Monday 14th September. Please make sure that ALL items are named and include in the PE bag a spare pair of underwear and socks in case of accidents.
The children will also be very active on Fridays in their Forest Friday sessions and will need to wear joggers and their usual uniform t- shirt and jumper/ cardigan. If possible, please provide a pair of wellies to stay in school.

Phonics and Reading
In phonics we follow the Read Write Inc programme. The children will be introduced to a sound a day in school, and we will send a link each day via email to a short video so you can reinforce at home, including letter formation. Please use pure sounds rather than letter names. When the children can blend, we will then move to sound books which link to the letters we will be learning in our phonics sessions, and your child will bring these home on a Friday. The Read Write Inc books link closely with the phonics being taught in school. Please comment in your child's reading record. It is invaluable to teachers to know that your child is receiving support from home in reading and phonics. Please aim to read with your child for 15 minutes every night.

Baseline assessment
Your child will participate in the reception baseline assessment (RBA) within the first 6 weeks of starting reception. The purpose of the assessment is to provide the starting point for a progress measure that will help parents understand how well schools support their pupils to progress between reception and year 6. The RBA is a short, interactive and practical assessment of your child's early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills when they begin school.

Tapestry
We use Tapestry to build a very special record of your child's experiences, development and learning journey through their reception year. Please look out for a letter regarding setting up access to your child's Tapestry online learning Journey.

Class Dojo
Throughout the school we run the Class Dojo incentive. The children earn Dojo points throughout the week and will be rewarded with a certificate in class if they win the highest number of points. Additionally, the winning house will wear own clothes on Mondays. Please check the sway which will be sent home on a Friday. The children are already showing a keen interest in this and are very excited about earning points. Instructions on how to set this up came home in a separate letter.

School Behaviour Plan
We hope that with our 3 simple school rules, we won't need sanctions and we will be awarding lots of dojo points and praise. If anyone does need a reminder or support to get back on track and following our 3 rules of be ready, be respectful, be reflective, the new system will be as follows…
*Green card reminder - A gentle reminder of our 3 simple rules: Be ready, be respectful, be reflective.
*Yellow card - Stop, think, make the right choice. Think carefully about next step.
*Last chance - Conversation with an adult including 5 mins take up time.
*Red card – Parents informed. 10 minutes off playtime. Complete reflection activity.

Menu

We ask that you submit your child's menu choices by **Friday at midday** for the following week via your MCAS account. We are very lucky that the children have the opportunity to pre-order their lunch and Mrs Grady and her team work very hard to provide tasty and healthy meals for the children to enjoy. We really appreciate your support in completing the menus online as this allows us to start the day promptly.

Snack Time

In EYFS, the children will receive a piece of free fruit each day for their snack provided by the national fruit scheme for school aged children. Currently, reception children will only have a fruit snack at playtime and they will be supervised whilst eating. We will only be offering our snack shack ordering from year one onwards.

We would appreciate it if you could send in a full water bottle each day with your child as they will be encouraged to drink water throughout the day. Milk can be ordered termly in advance via your MCAS account, and the children receive this at snack time.

My Happy Mind

We will incorporate the 'My Happy Minds' mental and emotional well-being programme into our timetable. Once a week, all children in school will participate in activities linked to five modules - meet the brain, celebrate, appreciate, relate, and engage. Each module introduces a new set of content and habits to help children build resilience, self-esteem, and confidence.

To further support and reinforce this learning, myHappymind has developed a dedicated Parent App. You can access these resources online from your computer or conveniently through the app on your phone. The Parent App is designed to support you as a parent or carer by helping you understand what your child is learning, providing fun activities you can enjoy together at home, and giving you access to a Kids Zone featuring myHappymind Games, along with lots more!

To access these materials, you will first need to create your free account. You will need to enter your name, email, and authentication code 151153. We really encourage you to make use of this free content so that you can support your child in getting the best out of the curriculum.

Dates for your diary

- Thursday 24th September 2026 – European Languages Day
- Wednesday 30th September (6pm) – EYFS curriculum evening

Polite reminders

- Please remember a filled water bottle, a waterproof coat and your child's book bag each day.
- Please complete a lunch menu by midday each Friday via your MCAS account.
- Please ensure all school uniform, including shoes, are named.
- Please remember to look on our website, and read the weekly newsletter, to keep up to date with other events that will be happening within school.

We will not allow your child to leave school unless we recognise the adult. Please do let us know any regular home time arrangements and if there are any changes then please contact the office who will pass on your message. If for any reason you are late in the morning, please sign in at the office.

As you can see, we have a wonderful term ahead and we are sure that your child will enjoy all the new opportunities and experiences that Reception has to offer. Please do not hesitate to contact us at any point if you have any queries or concerns.

Thank you for your support and co-operation. We look forward to meeting you all.

The EYFS Team

Our School Rules	School Values
Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Reflective	Curious Responsible Active Respect Creative Brave Lower Park School