Dark Nights, Bright Lights Autumn 2 2026

EYFS Development Matters 2021

Communication and Language

Children in Reception will be learning to…

- Understand how to listen carefully and why listening is important
- Learn and use new vocabulary
- Ask questions to find out more and check they understand what has been said to them
- Articulate their ideas and thoughts in well-formed sentences
- Describe events in some detail
- Use talk to help work out problems, organise activities and explain how things work
- Engage in story-times
- Listen to and talk about stories to build familiarity and understanding.
- Retell the story, once they have developed a deep familiarity with the text, some as exact repetition and some in their own words
- Use new vocabulary in different contexts
- Listen carefully to rhymes and songs, paying attention to how they sound
- Learn rhymes, poems and songs
- Engage in non-fiction books
- Listen to and talk about selected non-fiction to develop a deep familiarity with new knowledge and vocabulary

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children in Reception will be learning to…

- See themselves as a valuable individual
- Build constructive and respectful relationships
- Express their feelings and consider the feelings of others.
- Show resilience and perseverance in the face of challenge
- Identify and moderate their own feelings socially and emotionally
- Think about the perspectives of others
- Manage their own personal hygiene needs

Physical Development

Children in Reception will be learning to…

- Revise and refine fundamental movement skills such as running, jumping, climbing, crawling
- Develop their overall body strength, co-ordination, balance and agility
- Develop their small motor skills so that they can use a range of tools competently, safely and confidently, e.g. pencils, paintbrushes, scissors and cutlery
- Use their core muscle strength to achieve a good posture when sitting at a table or sitting on the floor
- 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 the foundations of a handwriting style which is fast, accurate and efficient

Literacy

Children in Reception will be learning to…

- Read individual letters by saying the sounds for them.
- Blend sounds into words, so that they can read short words made up of known letter – sound correspondences.
- Read a few common exception words
- Form lower-case letters correctly
- Spell words by identifying the sounds and then writing the sounds with letters
- Write short sentences using words with known letter – sound corresponences

Maths

Children in Reception will be learning to…

- Count objects, actions and sounds
- Subitise (recognise an amount without having to count)
- Compare numbers
- Understand the 'one more than/one less than' relationship between consecutive numbers
- Explore the composition of numbers to 5

- Select, rotate and manipulate shapes to develop spatial reasoning skills.
- Continue, copy and create simple repeating patterns

Understanding the World

Children in Reception will be learning to…

- Talk about members of their immediate family and community
- Comment on images of familiar situations in the past
- Compare and contrast characters from stories including figures from the past
- Recognise that people have different beliefs and celebrate special times in different ways.
- Understand that some places are special to members of their community
- Recognise some environments that are different from the one in which they live
- Understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them

Expressive Arts and Design

Children in Reception will be learning to…

- Explore, use and refine a variety of artistic effects to express their ideas and feelings
- Return to and build on their previous learning, refining ideas and developing their ability to represent them
- Create collaboratively, sharing ideas, resources and skills
- Listen attentively, move to and talk about music, expressing their feelings and responses
- Sing in a group or on their own, increasingly matching the pitch and following the melody
- Explore and engage in music making and dance
- Watch and talk about dance and performance art, expressing their feelings and responses.
- Develop storylines in their pretend play