

# Spring Term 1 2026

## What will we be learning and how can you help at home?

This term we will be learning about winter and seasonal change, exploring snow, ice and cold places around the world. We will talk about how people and animals adapt to colder weather and will begin to learn about celebrations that take place during this time of year, including Chinese New Year. We will continue to develop our drawing and early writing skills through our Drawing Club activities, using stories as inspiration for mark making, storytelling and vocabulary development. Our key texts this term include *The Snow Queen*, *Jonty Gentoo*, *Lost and Found*, *Snowball*, *Dear Zoo* and stories linked to Chinese New Year.

The children are now confident with Mastering Number; the scheme we use to teach maths in Reception. This scheme uses familiar Numberblocks characters from CBeebies to support children's understanding of number through practical, visual and playful experiences. This term, the children will be developing their skills in subitising (recognising quantities without counting), beginning with small groups and moving on to recognising numbers within larger sets, such as dice patterns. They will be encouraged to visualise quantities, describe what they see using mathematical language and explore how numbers are made up of parts to form a whole (composition). A key focus will be on the composition of 5, including partitioning it into different parts and exploring how numbers such as 6 and 7 are made from '5 and a bit'. The children will also practise representing numbers in different ways, including using their fingers, dice patterns and numerals up to 5. Later in the term, they will play dice and number-track games to strengthen their understanding of number order and quantity. We will also be learning to compare groups of objects, using the language 'more than', 'fewer than' and 'equal to', focusing carefully on number rather than size, colour or shape. Please keep a lookout for the Maths Scrapbooks, which are sent home fortnightly, for lots of maths fun!

### Phonics and Reading

During Spring Term 1, the children will be introduced to a range of Phase 3 phonemes, including: *ai*, *ee*, *igh*, *oa*, *oo*, *ar*, *or*, *ur*, *ow*, *oi*, *ear* and *air*. They will continue to practise accurate letter formation, blending sounds to read words and segmenting sounds to support spelling. A growing focus will be on reading and writing words and simple sentences that include these new sounds.

The children will also be learning and practising new tricky words, including: *was*, *you*, *they*, *my*, *by*, *all*, *are*, *pure* and *sure*. Reading remains a key priority and the children will continue to bring a reading book home each week, which will now include simple words and short sentences as their confidence develops. They will also continue to choose a book from our class library to take home and enjoy sharing with their families.



### PSED

Our school rules of being Ready, Respectful and Safe are now very familiar to the children. This term, we will be exploring what it means to be lost, discussing how it might feel and identifying safe adults and people who can help us. The children will also take part in activities linked to Internet Safety Day, helping them to begin understanding how to stay safe when using technology.

### Winter Weather

The children will continue to spend a lot of time outside, as they will choose their learning both outside and inside each day. Please ensure that your child has adequate clothing, wellies and splash suits so they are able to maximise their learning opportunities in our outdoor areas!

### Understanding the World

The children will be learning about seasonal change, including changes in the weather and what we need to wear to keep warm. We will find out about cold places and learn where animals such as penguins live, comparing different habitats and discussing how animals are suited to their environments. The children will explore freezing and melting, as well as floating and sinking, helping them to begin developing early scientific enquiry skills. We will also talk about **animal welfare** and how to care for living things. This term will provide lots of opportunities for the children to observe, investigate and ask questions about the world around them.

### Fine Motor and Gross Motor Skill Development

As the children move through Spring Term 1, they continue to build strength, control and confidence in both their fine and gross motor skills. There is an increasing focus on developing hand strength, coordination and precision to support writing, drawing and everyday tasks such as fastening coats and using tools independently. Activities that are particularly helpful include threading and weaving, construction (such as Lego), art and craft activities, using pegs and tweezers, small world play, playdough and more controlled cutting and snipping with scissors. The children are also encouraged to experiment with mark making and early writing using a range of tools, developing greater accuracy and intention in their movements.

Gross motor development remains equally important, with a growing emphasis on balance, coordination and controlled movement. Children will practise moving in a range of ways, including climbing, balancing, jumping and changing speed and direction, helping them to develop body awareness and confidence. These skills are vital foundations for later physical and academic learning, as well as supporting children's overall wellbeing. If you have any questions or would like ideas on how to support your child's physical development at home, please speak to your child's class teacher.



### Dairy Dates

Thursday 8th Jan Family Reading 8.50am - 9.10am  
Tuesday 13th Jan Writing in Action morning  
Wednesday 21st Jan Reading/Phonics Talk for families  
Thursday 29th Jan Family Drop ins  
Children's Mental Health Week  
Monday 9th Feb Marvellous Me Monday  
Tuesday 10th Feb Family Reading 8.50am - 9.10am  
Internet Safety Day Thursday 12th Feb  
Friday 13th Feb Last day of term