

Medium Term Planning

Reception

Autumn 1 2026

Topics and Themes

Marvelous Me, My Family, Home, and Community

This topic supports children with settling into the new rules and routines of school and encourages them to make new friends and feel confident in their class. It teaches children about being helpful, kind and thoughtful at home and at school. This topic also teaches children how they are unique and special, the importance of friendship and how people in their family, school and local community are important and can help them.

Exploring Autumn

This topic teaches children about the natural changes that happen during the season of autumn, including how the weather changes, why trees lose their leaves and how animals prepare for winter.

Prime Areas of Learning In reception we will learn to...

Communication and Language

As listeners:

We are learning how to listen carefully to our teachers and friends during carpet time and play
We can show good listening by having our eyes looking, ears listening and lips waiting for our turn
We can take turns to talk and listen while our friends or teachers are speaking
We can follow simple instructions during play and learning
We can talk about what we are doing during our play.
We can join in with simple nursery rhymes and songs and enjoy joining in the actions with our bodies
We can listen to stories and talk about what we notice, like the characters, pictures or events
We can try out new words linked to our topics when we talk about what we see and hear like: *feelings, family, rules, kind, helpful, community, Autumn, seasons hibernate*

As speakers:

We can talk about very simple stories using familiar phrases from the stories we share together
We can talk in short sentences about who we are, where we live and who is in our family, and we can use these ideas to help us get to know our new friends and teachers
We can ask simple questions when we want to find out more about our friends, our families or the autumn changes we see outside
We can talk about what we notice in autumn, like falling leaves, windy weather and animals getting ready for winter
We can try using our new topic words in our play, such as family names, community helpers, Autumn colours, weather words and animal names

Physical Development

As we develop our gross motor skills:

We can stack, line up and balance blocks of different shapes and sizes in our construction play and when we build houses or autumn animal shelters
We can join in with action songs and nursery rhymes using our whole bodies.
We can move safely in big spaces like outdoors and in the hall, avoiding obstacles and our friends.
We can join in with Write Dance and Dough Disco to help us control our big movements and make our hands and fingers stronger
We can learn how to line up and queue sensibly for going for lunch, outdoors and into the hall for PE

Managing Our School Day:

We will practise putting on our own coats and hanging them up, ready for the colder Autumn and Winter days
We will learn how to manage mealtimes by learning to carry our own trays, sit safely at the dinner table and practice using cutlery with the support from our teachers

As we develop our fine motor skills:

Getting Ready to Use Our Hands:

We can use rolling pins and explore using our hands to squeeze, pinch, poke, roll and squash soft materials like playdough or foam
We can use simple tools like tweezers and stamps to help our hands get stronger for writing
We can build our hand strength through play with blocks, sand, water, and construction toys
We can hold a chunky crayon, triangle pencils and felt tip pens or chalk to make marks or to draw pictures of ourselves and our families
We can use paintbrushes to make big strokes, simple marks or to paint our own portraits and mix Autumn colours like red, orange and yellow in our creative area or easel
We can use scissors independently or with support to make snips in paper or cut along straight lines

Personal Social & Emotional Development	
<u>As individuals:</u> With help from our teachers, we will learn to say goodbye to our parents and carers and feel happy coming into school We will begin to build friendly and respectful relationships with our new teachers and new friends We will learn our new classroom routines and begin to understand what good behaviour looks like. With support from our teachers, we will show this by learning to following simple instructions, join in with tidy up routines, begin to take turns, and use kind hands and words We will learn to choose what we want to do in our new class and have a go by ourselves or with help when we need it We will learn not to give up straight away when things feel tricky – we will have a go and keep trying with our teachers' help We will learn to talk about our feelings using simple words like happy, sad, worried and excited Through our 'Marvellous Me' topic will learn new words to help us talk about our feelings – such as happy, sad, worried and excited With support from our teachers, we will learn how to take care of our classroom resources by learning to use equipment safely, put things back where they belong, and look after books and toys with gentle hands	<u>Managing our own personal needs:</u> With support from our teachers will learn to manage messy play in class by taking off our jumpers and putting them in our draws, and put on an apron to keep us clean With support from our teachers, we will learn to look after our own personal hygiene, including cleaning ourselves properly after using the toilet Through our topic Marvellous Me – we will learn how to look after our own bodies and be independent by learning to wash and dry our hands to keep ourselves healthy Through our 'Exploring Autumn' topic we will learn how moving our bodies every day helps us stay strong and healthy Through our 'Marvelous Me' topic we will learn what our bodies need to grow and how to make healthy food choices and begin to understand which foods are special treats
Specific Areas of Learning	
In reception we will learn to...	
Mathematics	Literacy
<u>As mathematicians:</u> We will begin to sequence simple events in our school day using our visual timetable to help us We will talk about what happens "now" and "next" using simple routine language such as "after play" or "before home time" We will learn to count things we see and hear, like objects, actions, and sounds We will learn to practice touch-counting up to three objects carefully, one at a time We will learn to count forwards to 5 and say which number comes next We will learn to sort objects into groups and talk about what is the same We will learn that we can sort the same things in different ways We will learn to compare different groups by saying which has more or less We will begin to name basic shapes such as circles, squares, triangles and rectangles We will learn to use words like "behind" and "next to" when we play and explore our new classroom	<u>As readers and writers:</u> We will learn new story words and phrases by listening to patterned books like "Who's been eating my porridge?" We will join in with simple action rhymes and learning to remember and perform them, such as "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes", "Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed" and "Autumn Leaves Are Falling Down" We will share stories together and learn to look carefully at the pictures in our books, talking about what we can see and what might be happening When we read by ourselves, we will learn to look after our books and turn the pages carefully <u>Key Stories:</u> The Colour Monster Goes to School by Anna Llenas Owl Babies by Martin Waddell The Family Book by Todd Parr Why Am I Me? By Paige Britt, Sean Qualls & Selina Alko One Family by George Shannon The Very Helpful Hedgehog by Rosie Wellesley Leaf Man by Lois Ehlert Fletcher and the Falling Leaves by Julia Rawlinson & Tiphannie Beeke Superhero Like You by Dr Singh Real Superheroes by DK & Julia Seal Busy Day Firefighter by Dan Green Handa's Surprise by Eileen Browne Super Duper You by Sophy Henn The Great Big Book of Families by Mary Hoffman

Understanding the World	Expressive Arts and Design
<u>As world understander's:</u> Through our topics 'Exploring Autumn' and 'Marvellous Me' we will describe how playdough and clay change when we squash, roll and shape them to make our Diva lamps for our families Through our 'Marvellous Me' topic we will talk about how we were babies in the past and how we have grown and changed. We will learn that adults were children once too and enjoy looking at photos or talking about family memories During our circle time We can talk about ourselves and the people in our families We will explore how different festivals and celebrations such as Halloween and Bonfire Night are enjoyed by their own families and by people in other places and listen to how their friends may celebrate in different ways Through our topic 'Exploring Autumn' we will learn about the changes to trees and woodland plants and begin to understand seasonal changes. We will plant bulbs in our garden and predict how they will grow in the future	<u>As creators:</u> We will use mirrors to look closely at our own features and create simple self-portraits of ourselves for our class display Through our 'Exploring Autumn Topic we will explore colour mixing to make autumn colours like orange, brown, yellow and red." We will use our colours to make autumn pictures, leaf rubbings and natural art We will learn to collaborate with our friends to create artwork by taking turns, sharing materials and combining our ideas We are learning to feel the steady beat in music and show it by clapping, tapping or stamping in time We will learn to copy, remember and perform simple hand-action songs We will learn to sing lots of short, fun songs and perform them proudly with our new friends and teachers We are learning to play families and home games in our role-play area, using toys and props to act out the things we do at home We will use our imagination to play imaginary games indoor and outdoor
Phonics	
<u>Phonics and early reading:</u> In our new reception class, we will learn to become confident listeners and talkers We will explore sounds around us, copy rhythms, enjoy rhymes, rhyming stories and join in with songs and rhythmic activities We will play lots of games that help us hear sounds and match them to objects We will join in with our daily Power Phonics sessions, learning to listen carefully, learn to read individual letters by saying the sounds they make and join in with the activities to practice the sounds we are learning	<u>Key Texts:</u> This half-term, all our stories will help us learn about ourselves, our families and the changes we see in Autumn. They will also help us grow our language, enjoy books and become confident early readers. <u>Literacy Core Texts:</u> The Little Red Hen Funnybones - Allan Ahlberg Owl Babies (revisited for deeper comprehension) Peace at Last - Jill Murphy Pumpkin Soup - Helen Cooper Stick Man - Julia Donaldson The Gingerbread Man <u>Supporting Texts (wider reading and enrichment):</u> Fletcher and the Falling Leaves - Julia Rawlinson The Great Big Book of Families - Mary Hoffman We're Going on a Leaf Hunt - Steve Metzger The Busy Little Squirrel - Nancy Tafuri Autumn (Four Seasons series) - Ailie Busby Goldilocks and the Three Bears - Traditional Tales <u>Rhymes, Songs & Chants:</u> We will use daily to support rhythm, rhyme, memory and early reading behaviours. Traditional nursery rhymes Action songs (e.g., <i>Wind the Bobbin Up, If You're Happy and You Know It</i>) Autumn songs (e.g., <i>Dingle Dangle Scarecrow, Leaves Are Falling Down</i>)

Non-Fiction:

To support Understanding the World and our vocabulary development.
Simple information books about Autumn, leaves, trees, hedgehogs, squirrels, Harvest
Photo books about families, homes, babies, growing up

Drawing Club texts:

Owl Babies
Goldilocks and the Three Bears
Not Now Bernard
Colour Monster
Room on the Broom
Hansel and Gretel