

Friday 9th January 2026

Dear Reception parents/carers,

Reception Curriculum Letter – Spring 1

Welcome back, we hope you had a fantastic Christmas Holiday! Our topic for this half term is; 'Oh but it's cold outside' where we will have lots of winter themed learning. Below is a breakdown of what we will be learning in each subject.

Our Core Values

Happiness: We spread joy to those around us.

Compassion: We care and are kind to all.

Respect: We treat others, as we like to be treated.

Teamwork: We work well with everyone.

Reception Staffing

Chestnut Class teachers: Mrs Robinson

Chestnut Class learning: support assistant; Miss Dempsey

Chestnut Cover teacher: Mrs Mehta

Maple Class teacher: Mrs Frost/Mrs Lamacraft

Maple Class learning support assistant: Mrs Lamacraft/Mrs Childs

Communication

You can email class teachers directly on the class email accounts and we will do our best to get back to you within two working days.

chestnutclass@harefieldinfant.com

mapleclass@harefieldinfant.com

Reading

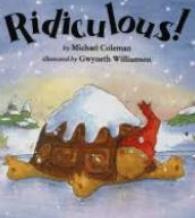
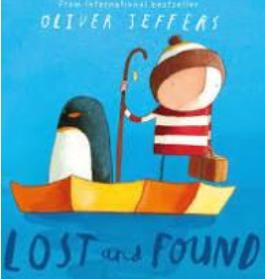
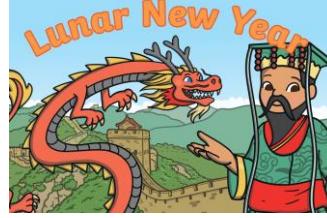
Library (story) books can be changed weekly, providing previous books are returned. This will be a book for you to read and enjoy with your child. Read it every day so your child become familiar with the texts, asking them questions and retelling the story. See if they can join in with repeated phrases or notice any rhyme and themes within the books you read.

Phonics blending books are sent home weekly on a Friday and should be returned the following Friday. Please read daily.

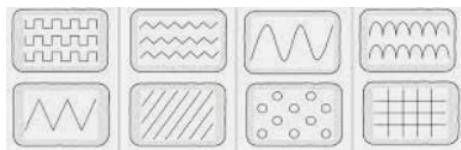
Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Our JIGSAW theme this half term is: Dreams and Goals. Where the children will be setting themselves some targets to work on in class. We will be thinking about the importance of never giving up. Learning to encourage others through the use of kind words. Learning about the importance of working hard in all we do and how we feel when we achieve a goal. Maybe you could set your child a goal at home and work on it each week.

English

		
<p>During this adorable tale about a tortoise that wants to see winter we will learn all about hibernating animals. We will have a guest pet in Reception for two weeks and will use this opportunity to learn all about tortoises and write our own tortoise fact sheets. As we move on to learning to write simple sentences.</p>	<p>A much-loved book about a boy who finds a penguin and tries to take him home. We will be learning to write simple letters pretending to be the characters from the story.</p>	<p>Children love learning the story of Chinese New Year and the exciting animal race. We will be acting out the story using costumes, masks and small world toys. Before ordering events from the story and writing simple sentences to match each picture.</p>

Each day the children will also be working on learning to form all their letters correctly through our daily handwriting lessons in phonics.



You could help your child by providing lots of opportunities to draw, colour and mark make at home.

Physical Development

PE is **Every Wednesday** (please can your children be sent to school ready in their PE kit.) This half term we will be exploring ball skills. Learning to roll, kick, throw and catch various different sized balls. In our fine motor activities, the children will have plenty of opportunities to use tools such as scissors and cutlery safely and effectively. We will be working on forming all our letters correctly and drawing pictures that are more detailed.

Phonics

Children are placed in ability groups for phonics this helps us to make sure all children are making quick progress.

Ditty Group- Will be learning the special friends; qu, sh, ch, th, nk, ng, ll, ss and ff. They will read a Ditty sheet each day. This helps them learn how to read simple captions. A sheet will come home daily for you to read with your child.

Group C – Are working on learning to read words independently using all single letter sounds.

Group B are working on learning all single letter sounds of the alphabet and learning to blend using magnetic letters.

All children will bring a blending book home weekly to embed the sounds taught that week when reading words.

Mathematics

This half terms phases for maths are 'Alive in 5', 'Mass and Capacity', 'Growing 6, 7, 8' and 'Height and Length'

During 'Alive in 5!' we will deepen our understanding of numbers to 5, including subitising to 5, learning our number bonds to five and using numbers up to 5 to add and subtract to solve problems. We will also be learning all about zero and what this means.

During our Mass and Capacity unit, children will learn about containers being **full, nearly full, half-full, nearly empty and empty**. We will learn about mass using the words: **heavy/light, heaviest/lightest**. We will be ordering objects according to their mass or capacity.



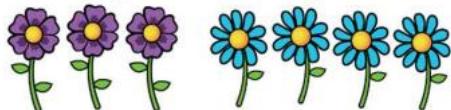
Look at the plates. Do they have the same? How can we make it fair?



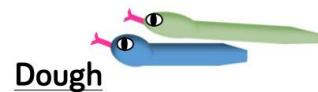
Which container holds the most?
How many cups fill the jug?

During our 'Growing 6, 7, 8' phase we will learn all making 6, 7, and 8. We will be comparing amount of objects using the language: **more, most, less, fewer**. We will be making pairs and finding totals in practical ways.

When learning about length and height children will learn to compare and order objects according to its length or height. Using language such as: **taller, shorter, tallest, shortest, longest, shortest**.



What can you tell me about the flowers? How has 7 been made here? Can you make 7 a different way?



Dough
Can you make some snakes using dough?
Can you order them by length? Which is the shortest, longest?

Understanding the World

We use White Rose Science to steer our learning about the world around us, through stories and play activities.

This half term our topics are:

Changes in Winter – Learning about typical weather in the winter and hibernating animals

Let it Flow - Learning all about water, floating, and sinking. Making boats for penguins.

From Jungle to Desert – Learning all about different habitats. How animals are adapted to suit their habitat.

Key Vocabulary

Changes in Winter	Let it Flow	From Jungle to Desert
Winter, cold, warm, freeze, frozen, melt, ice, rainy, sunny, frosty, snowy, water, leaves, tree, change, hibernate, hedgehog, polar, polar bear, penguin, fur	Water, wet, dry, flow, float, sink, sand, mud, container, pour, fill, full, empty, mix, large, small, tall, wide, shallow, deep, heavy	Warm, hot, sandy, sunny, dry, wet, rainy, cold, icy, jungle, desert, tiger, zebra, giraffe, monkey, ostrich, elephant, lion, snake, camel, frog, lizard, scorpion

We will learn all about Antarctica and compare it to England.

We will learn about British wildlife and how we can care for it. Making bird feeders and taking part in the Big Garden Bird Watch.

We will learn all about Chinese New Year and how it is celebrated. We will compare China to where we live.

Art and Design

We will be using to use a wide range of different materials to make representational images of different winter scenes.

We will be making representations of penguins using a range of different media including pencils, paint, clay and junk modelling.

During our music lessons, we will be learning many new winter themed songs.

We will be using props to act out familiar stories.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us via email on our class email accounts.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Frost and Mrs Robinson