



Reception Newsletter Spring 1 2026

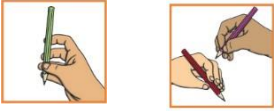


Welcome back to school. We hope everyone had a fabulous Christmas and you all enjoyed some family time.

This term we are focusing on developing key skills. These include:


- Letter formation
- Building friendships – lucky dip play partners to develop new friendships
- Turn taking
- Working with numbers – 0-10
- Retelling stories
- Looking at the days of the week and the weather
- Phonics
- Wiring letters, words and sentences
- Special person (daily reward for children following the class rules)
- Independence – putting on own coat, shoes, and gloves. (please practice putting on your child's own gloves at home. It is taking Miss Kirkley forever to help 26 children with their gloves!)

One of the biggest focuses this term will be fine motor skills, pencil grip and developing letter formation.

Have a little look below and see which box your child fits into with the pencil grip. All children should be working within box 3 by the end reception.

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| <p>1</p> <p>FINE MOTOR EXPECTATIONS</p> <p>– played four finger grasp, moving into tripod grip</p>  <p>Introduce and develop how to hold a pencil/Show a preference for a dominate hand</p> <p>Use a range of tools with increasing independence, competence and confidently (brushes, pencils, scissors)</p> <p>Begin to introduce and form letters correctly</p> <p>Be independent when putting on coats and cardigans</p> <p>Get undressed and dressed independently</p> | <p>2</p> <p>FINE MOTOR EXPECTATIONS – static tripod and quad grip</p>  <p>Use a range of tools independently, competence and confidently (brushes, pencils, scissors)</p> <p>Form letters with increasing accuracy</p> <p>Independently put on and fasten coats and cardigans independently</p> <p>Undress and dress with increasing independence</p> | <p>3</p> <p>FINE MOTOR EXPECTATIONS – dynamic tripod grip</p>  <p>Beginning to use accurate and efficient style of writing</p> <p>ELG</p> <p>Hold a pencil effectively in prep for fluent writing – tripod grip in almost all cases</p> <p>Use a range of small tools, including scissors, paintbrushes, cutlery</p> |
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Have a little look below and see which box your child fits into with their letter formation and sentence writing. All children should be working within box 5 by the end reception.

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| <p>1</p> <p>WRITING PROGRESSION</p> <p>Form some letters correctly</p>  <p>Write their name</p> | <p>2</p> <p>Form lower case letters</p> <p>Begin to spell words by identifying sounds and then writing the sounds</p> | <p>3</p> <p>Spell words by identifying sounds and then writing the sounds with letters</p> <p>Begin to use capital letters</p> <p>Begin to write short sentences with a</p> | <p>4</p> <p>Write short phrase and sentences with a capital letter and full stop</p> <p>Begin to reread what they have written to check it makes</p> | <p>5</p> <p>Begin to reread what they have written to check it makes sense</p> <p>ELG</p> <p>Write recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed</p> <p>Spell words by identifying sounds in them and representing the sounds with a letter or letters</p> <p>Write simple phrases and sentences that can</p> |
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| | | | | |
|--|--------------|------------------------------|-------|-------------------|
| | with letters | capital letter and full stop | sense | be read by others |
|--|--------------|------------------------------|-------|-------------------|

Role Play Area Revamp

I am developing the role play area in reception. I am a looking for some:

- Tea towels,
- Glasses without the lenses
- Aprons
- Hats of any description (caps, beanies, wooly hats etc...)
- Oven gloves
- Menus (take away, recipe cards)
- Cook books
- Tongs (small/large)
- Spoons (different sizes)
- Small pots and pans
- dry pasta (different shapes)

A few reminders:

- As the cooler weather approaches and we spend a lot of time outside each day, the children will need a warm coat, hat and gloves. A pair of wellies would be useful for wet weather play and of course our very popular mud kitchen.
- **All items of clothing** (including shoes) likely to be removed at any time **must be named** – for the sake of staff sanity! Things go missing all the time and it is so much easier for staff if your child has their name on their belongings.
- Snack is provided in the morning – children will be offered milk/water and a selection of fruit. Please provide a water bottle so your child has free access to water all day. You can also provide your child with a healthy snack. **NO cereal bars please!!!**

- Our school policy states children should not wear earrings. If your child already has their ears pierced you must either take the earrings out prior to the start of the day or put tape/plastic studs in.
- I completely understand that children need comfort items from home but right now we request that toys of any description do not come into Reception unless they are small enough to fit into their tray.
- If children are bringing in spare clothes, please leave them on their peg and we will make sure they are sent home if dirty.
- Lastly, if you are bringing in any paperwork such as consent forms or letters/money – please take them straight to the school office rather than hand them to a member of staff in early years.

Thank you,

Miss Kirkley (Reception teacher)
Mrs Horn (teaching assistant)
Mrs Anderson (teaching assistant)
Miss Maddison (teaching assistant)