



11th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Reception Class Curriculum Newsletter

Welcome to term 1 in Reception. The children have made a fantastic start to school and are already settling well into the classroom routines. We have been very impressed with their enthusiasm, confidence and positive attitudes. We would also like to warmly welcome our new families to the school community. We look forward to working in partnership with you throughout the year to support your child's learning, wellbeing and development.

Before sharing our wonderful learning plan for this term with you I want to inform you about an update for Early Years Education from the Department of Education about drinks:

Important/New: Under the updated Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework and official [Early Years Foundation Stage nutrition guidance](#), early years providers in England must ensure that fresh drinking water is accessible to children at all times, and milk or water are the only drinks offered or provided in settings. Therefore, all water bottles must be named to avoid cross contamination and contain **ONLY** water as milk will be provided at snack times.

Our Learning This Term

This term, we will be exploring several exciting topics.

We will begin with 'All About Me', where the children will learn about themselves, their bodies and their senses. Our learning will be supported by the books *Funnybones* and *My Body*.

Next, we will learn about Harvest, exploring where our food comes from, life on a farm and the different machinery farmers use to help them. Our learning will be supported by the books *The farm that feeds us*, *Farmer Duck* and *Oliver's Vegetables*.

Later in the term, we will enjoy the story 'Winnie the Witch', using it as inspiration for a range of creative activities and learning experiences.

Literacy

We will also place a strong emphasis on mark making and early letter formation. Through a range of fun and engaging activities, the children will develop the strength, control and confidence needed for writing. They will practise forming letters correctly, making meaningful marks and beginning to write simple words as their confidence grows. Our aim is to help every child develop a love of writing while building strong foundations for future learning.

Maths

This term we will be focusing on the following themes from the White Rose Math's scheme of work:

- Match, sort and compare
- Talk about measure and compare

PE

We are very fortunate to have specialist coaches from Premier Sports leading our PE lessons on **Monday** afternoons. These sessions provide the children with exciting opportunities to develop their physical skills and confidence through a variety of sports and activities.

On **Friday** mornings, the children will take part in PE activities that focus on developing their fundamental movement skills. They will explore different ways of moving, learn to travel in different directions and practise moving safely and confidently within a space.

Westlea Primary School, Langstone Way, Westlea, Swindon, SN5 7BT.
phone: 01793 870469. email: admin@westleaschool.org.uk

Learning without limits, belonging without barriers.



Please ensure your child brings their PE kit into school at the beginning of each term. PE kits will remain in school and will be sent home at the end of the term for washing and refreshing before being returned for the new term.

PSHE

In Jigsaw, we will be exploring 'Being Me in My World'. The children will learn about their new classroom, make new friends and talk about their feelings. We will also learn how to be kind, follow our class rules and work together to help everyone feel happy and safe at school.

Phonics

This term, we will begin our phonics journey, with the children learning four new sounds each week. They will have daily opportunities to practise recognising, saying and using these sounds as they develop their early reading skills and begin blending sounds together to read simple words.

Each week, your child will bring home a phonics information sheet outlining the sounds and words that have been taught in school. We encourage you to use these at home to practise regularly with your child, as this will help to build their confidence and support their progress in reading.

Reading

From Week 4, your child will begin bringing home a wordless guided reading book. Please share this book together and spend time talking about the pictures, encouraging your child to describe what they can see, discuss the characters and predict what might happen next.

Your child will also bring home a reading for pleasure book. They are not expected to read this book independently. It is a book for you to enjoy and share together, helping to develop a love of reading.

We kindly ask that you read with your child at least **three** times each week and record this in their reading record. Please ensure that both books and the reading record are brought into school every **Wednesday** so that we can change the books regularly.

Attendance and Punctuality

Regular attendance is essential to help your child make the best possible progress in their learning journey. Every day in school counts, and frequent absences or late arrivals can mean missed learning opportunities that are difficult to catch up on. Our daily phonics session begins at **9:05am**, so arriving after this time means your child will miss important phonics learning and may disrupt the session for others.

If your child is absent, please remember to contact the School Office each day to report their absence and provide a reason. You can do this by calling **01793 870469** or emailing admin@westleaschool.org.uk.

Thank you for your support in helping your child attend school regularly and arrive on time each day.

With thanks

Ms. Willis
Reception Class Teacher

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