

Literacy

We will be focussing on developing our understanding of poetry and rhyme this half-term, reading and retelling lots of different poems. We will also be exploring animal stories and using our understanding to create books of our own. In our daily ReadWriteInc sessions we will continue to develop our understanding of sounds and the graphemes (letters and groups of letters) that represent them, and will then use this knowledge to read simple stories.

Expressive Arts and Design

We will be encouraged to use our imagination to develop storylines in our play and to create music and songs in small groups. Later in the term, we will also be exploring the work of the Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama, who makes paintings and sculptures that are covered in dots. This will then hopefully inspire us to make lots of dotty art of our own!

Physical Development

In our PE sessions with Mr Butler we will continue to develop our coordination and spatial awareness. In particular, we will be focussing on our throwing and catching skills, using balls of different sizes. Back in class, we will continue to develop our fine motor skills, forming letters with the correct size and orientation and taking part in regular Marvellous Mark Making sessions to help us to secure this key skill.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will be meeting our next learning superhero, Claudia Curiosity, whose powers are questioning, exploring and risk taking. We will learn to complete challenges with independence and use perseverance to keep trying even when things seem difficult - and then celebrate when we succeed!

This half-term, we'll be learning about...

THINGS THAT I LIKE!

RECEPTION – SPRING 2026



Mathematics

As we continue with our *Essentials for Counting* programme, we will be exploring ordering, comparing and positional language. We will begin by returning to our key counting skills, counting all the objects in a group, recognising that the last word we say is the number in the group (called cardinality) and using the words *more*, *less* and *equal* to compare sets of objects. We will then move on to the language of position and direction, using words like *in*, *on*, *under*, *next to*, *beside*, *above*, *below*, *on top of*, *between*, *up*, *down*, *forwards*, *backwards*, *through*, *under* and *over* to talk about objects and actions. Finally, we will focus on beginning to record calculations using standard mathematical symbols.

Communication and Language

We will continue to develop our vocabulary through our words and signs of the week. As part of our 'Think I Like' topic, we will spend lots of time talking about our favourite places, foods, toys and games, trying to give reasons for our choices. This will also give us lots of opportunities to listen to other people and recognise that it's OK for different people to like different things! Linked to the stories we are reading, we will also take part in hot-seating activities so we can develop our ability to ask (and answer) questions, as well as working out how characters feel at key points in each story.

Understanding the world

As the weather changes, we will explore the changing seasons, looking carefully at the way that our natural environment adapts as winter gets colder and then the first signs of spring start to appear. Out in Forest School, we will investigate the different ways in which animals deal with the cold, and back in class we will think about the different things we do and clothes we wear at this time of year. In February, meanwhile, we will celebrate Chinese New Year, making decorations and sharing food, and will talk about other festivals and special days that are important to members of our community, linking in with our topic.

- Sharing stories is just about the most valuable thing you can do at home. Try to read with your child as often as possible and talk to them about the story. Can they remember phrases from the story? Which characters do they particularly like?

Literacy

- We follow the Read Write Inc phonics programme, and they have provided guidance on supporting your child at home: www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/

Expressive Arts and Design

- Act out stories together, sing and dance to favourite songs or encourage your child to tell you stories linked to their play.
- Talk about what your child has made at school and encourage them to describe the way they made it to you - and maybe have a go at making something similar together at home.

Physical Development

- Support your child in using mark making to share their ideas. These might not be recognisable letter shapes yet - any marks that have meaning to them count.
- Cook together, helping your child to learn how to use kitchen implements safely and developing fine-motor skills.
- Encourage your child to get dressed on their own, put their own shoes on and brush their teeth twice a day.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Play turn-taking games together, and support your child in learning to wait for their turn and listen to others.
- Encourage your child to talk about their feelings - can they name the emotion? What does it 'feel like' inside? What has made them feel that way?

Ideas for supporting learning at home:

THINGS THAT I LIKE!

RECEPTION – SPRING 2026

Mathematics

- Keep practicing counting, whenever and wherever possible - you could count houses on the way to school, footsteps on the way to bed, shoes in the house, objects in the shopping trolley, claps, nods... Anything and everything you can think of!
- Practice writing numbers in sand, salt or water, or try making numbers out of groups of pebbles.
- Compare groups of objects to find which is larger - are there more toys in the box or on the floor? Do we have more teddies or cars? Practice counting out the number in the group and use the language of more, less and equal to compare them.

Understanding the world

- Look for (and talk about) changes linked to the colder weather - what different clothes do we wear? Why does the car ice-up? What different things do we do? Can you spot any signs of spring?
- Set up a bird feeder in the garden and see which types of birds (and probably lots of squirrels) you can spot using it. You could practice lots of other key skills by counting them, drawing them or searching for their proper names online.
- Talk about the special occasions, festivals and events that your family will be celebrating this term - why are they important? What special things do you like to do together on these days?

Communication and Language

- We will continue to use Tapestry to share work that we have done in school and share ideas for learning beyond school. You can log in, view work and add comments and pictures at eylj.org. Speak to a member of staff if you're not sure about how to log in.
- Visit the library and see what books you can find that your child recognises already. Are there any they can retell? It's quick and easy to sign-up, and you can access a huge number of free ebooks and audiobooks. www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives