

Year R Curriculum newsletter – Spring 1 2026



Belonging

Respect

Responsibility

In **Phonics**, we will begin phase 4 “Essential Letters and sounds” which is our whole school phonics scheme. The children will continue to learn the sounds that go with each letter and new Harder to read and spell words.

Spring 1
Our topics this half term are
“Winter wonderland & stomp stomp stomp”

In **Literacy**, we will be sharing fiction books about winter and starting to learn how to write simple sentences. The when we start “Stomp stomp stomp” (our dinosaur topic) we will share non fiction texts and begin to write simple facts about dinosaurs.

In **Reading**, we will continue to share books as a class and in small groups. We will be practising using the harder to read and spell words that we have learnt in phonics and we will also be practising sounding out and blending words to read sentences.

In **Communication and language**: This half term we will be focussing on re-telling an event or a story. Through our stories we will continue to learn new vocabulary and use it in our play and in our everyday experiences. We will continue with small Key group time in order for the children to share their own experiences and practise good listening skills as well.

In **Physical development**:

In PE this term we will be learning about “the fundamentals of movement (this includes balance, co-ordination and agility) We will also introduce how to use small indoor PE equipment. In outdoor PE we will be introducing Ball skills, looking at throwing and catching, bouncing and controlling a ball.

In **SCARF** (Safely, Caring, Achievement, Resilience, Friendship), we will be learn about different ways to keep ourselves safe. This will include learning about medicines, how to be safe indoors and outdoors and also which adults help to keep us safe at school and at home.

In **Mathematics**, We will be learning about numbers 6-10, which will include composition of number and comparing quantities. We will also be finding out about capacity, mass, time, length and height through lots of fun, active lessons. Before half term we will also begin to learn about 3d shapes.

In **Expressive Art and Design**:

During the first half of the half term we will learn about hedgehogs and have a go at making our very own clay hedgehogs. We will also create our very own Fossil sculptures and look closely at fossils to learn how to draw them.

In **Knowledge and Understanding the World**, the children will begin the term learning about winter and the changes in the season since autumn. We will also be learning about the earth’s environment in dinosaur times and comparing it to our world today. Before half term the children will learn about Chinese New Year and the way it is celebrated around the world.

We are so pleased with how the children have settled back into school after the Christmas holidays, they have all been very resilient and enjoyed getting stuck into our new topic.

We are very excited this half term to be having 3 “Mini” Topics. Our first is “Winter wonderland” where we will be learning all about the season of winter. Then we have a very exciting few weeks learning about all about Dinosaurs! This is a topic that the children always love and we can’t wait to learn all about the world that the dinosaurs lived in- no doubt we already have a few experts in our year group! Then in the final week before February half term we will learn all about Chinese New year and how it is celebrated around the world.

Helping your child at home –

- Some children are unable to write their name independently, please help them to practice this at home ensuring that each letter is correctly formed.
- In maths we are working on subitising numbers. Children should recognise amounts to 5 without having to count objects individually.
- Please remember to help your child with HRSW, we have noticed lots of children finding these tricky. Please share home learning with us through Tapestry using photos and videos. We will be sharing our learning in school with you via tapestry too so keep your eyes peeled for our Year group and class posts.

Reading



Learning to read is one of the most important skills that your child will develop over the next few years. The more support and encouragement that you can offer your child, the more likely it is that he or she will make good progress.

- Please continue to read regularly with your child, both with their school reading book, books allocated on ELS and with their school library books. The more reading the better! The children will now know a lot of sounds covered through our phonics lessons and should be able to sight read some of our “Harder to read and spell” words as well.

To reinforce the teaching in school, your child will bring home books to share with you that are closely matched to their phonic knowledge. Please aim to read with your child at least 3 times a week and sign in their reading diary.

You may like to visit www.oxfordowl.co.uk for further information about phonics, helping your child to read and for free resources and eBooks.

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 28th January – School

Nurses for visions screening

Thursday 29th January – Book browse @
2.45pm

Friday 6th February – NSPCC Number
Day (more info to follow)

Thursday 12th February – PTA School
Disco (more info to follow)

Friday 13th February – INSET Day

Monday 16th February – Friday 20th

February:

HALF TERM

Belongings



Please ensure your child’s name is on **all** of their clothing, lunch boxes and PE kits. Children need to bring their book bag to school each day.

Children will be having outdoor PE lessons on Tuesdays and indoor PE lessons Thursdays. Please make sure your child’s PE kit is in school with all items of clothing clearly labelled.

Library day –

Year R’s Library day is Thursday. Please ensure library books are in book bags each Wednesday so that we can return it to the library and your child can have a new book to bring home.