

Autumn Term 1 in Reception

A very warm welcome to all our new Reception children and their families! We are so excited to welcome the children and begin this exciting journey together.

We understand that starting school is a big step, so we will provide a gradual, nurturing start, with each child's individual needs and wellbeing our priority. From Week 2, the children will begin formal learning, including phonics, handwriting, English, maths and foundation subjects. Learning will be delivered in short, engaging bursts, using stories, songs and rhymes wherever possible, helping the children to develop a love of learning.

In Reception, we continue to follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework, building on the learning and development the children have worked towards in Nursery. The framework outlines the skills and objectives children work towards throughout Reception, supporting them to achieve a 'Good Level of Development' by the end of the year.

The curriculum is divided into Prime Areas:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Communication and Language

And Specific Areas:

- Mathematics
- Literacy
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

These areas are taught through a balance of play, exploration, practical experiences and adult-led activities. We will provide a stimulating and supportive environment where children can develop their confidence, independence and curiosity while building strong foundations for future learning.

Our priority is for every child to feel happy, safe, valued and excited to come to school. We cannot wait to watch the children settle into Reception, make new friendships and discover all the wonderful things they can achieve!

Miss McGinley

Websites

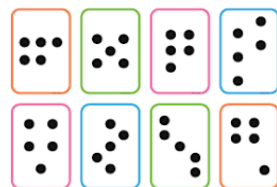
[Numberblocks - BBC iPlayer](#)

Pentland Primary School Curriculum Overview Reception Autumn 1



Maths

Our maths teaching follows the Mastering Number scheme, which supports children in developing a strong understanding of number and mathematical thinking. This term, we will explore the composition of numbers to 5, learning how numbers can be made in different ways. Children will develop their subitising skills, recognising small quantities without counting, and explore numbers as sets and groups, including when quantities are too large to subitise.



Phonics, English, Handwriting

From Week 2, we will begin teaching phonics daily using the *Little Wandle* phonics programme. Phonics is an essential foundation for learning to read and write, helping children develop the skills they need to blend sounds and read words independently. Through daily phonics and early reading, children will build confidence and develop the reading skills that open the door to the wider curriculum, supporting their learning and progress throughout school.

Our English teaching follows **Talk Through Stories**, a story-based approach that uses high-quality children's books to develop **language, vocabulary, comprehension and a love of reading**. Through repeated reading, discussion and carefully planned activities, children will explore stories in depth, develop their understanding and learn new vocabulary. These strong language foundations support children in becoming confident communicators, readers and writers.

In Reception, children will begin developing their handwriting skills through **Kinetic Letters**, a structured programme that supports confident, fluent and legible handwriting. Children will learn correct letter formation while developing pencil control, coordination and fine motor skills. This consistent approach helps children build writing stamina and confidence, providing strong foundations for becoming successful writers.

Science

During Autumn 1, the children will explore the human body, growing and healthy eating. They will learn about different parts of the body and how we change as we grow. They will also explore what makes a healthy diet and begin to notice the signs of autumn and seasonal change in the natural world.

RE

During Autumn 1, the children will explore the topic of belonging. Through stories and circle time discussions, they will consider questions such as *Where do we belong?* and *How does it feel to belong?* They will explore the different groups and communities they are part of and develop an understanding of what belonging means.

History

During Autumn 1, our topic is 'All About Me'. The children will begin to understand what we mean by the past and explore how they have changed since they were babies. They will learn about simple timelines and begin to understand that people and events can be placed in chronological order. We will also introduce Guy Fawkes as a significant figure from the past.

Art

During Autumn 1, the children will explore printing. They will experiment with different materials, including paint, ink and mud, and use a variety of tools and objects to create prints. These activities will encourage creativity while developing children's understanding of pattern, texture and mark-making.

PE

This term in PE, the children will develop their fundamental movement skills, building on their gross motor development. They will explore activities that support coordination, balance, strength and control, helping them to become more confident and capable movers.

Music

Our music lessons will continue to be taught by Miss Galloway. The children will build on their listening skills, explore rhythm and sound, and develop their enjoyment and appreciation of music through a range of engaging activities.

Related UNCRC Articles

Article 31 (leisure, play and culture) Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.