



Topics for Reception

The topics that we use in Reception to enrich the learning of our children are explored to develop several areas of learning. In addition, we may introduce mini topics that link in with children's interests. This is because if children are interested in a topic they are more likely to learn. The following are the main topics for each half term. Where possible we will link our literacy and maths teaching and learning to these areas too to give a broader understanding, immerse the children in their topics and to increase their topic based vocabulary. We also teach 4 mini week long topics each year to link to the seasons and changes that we see over Summer, Autumn, Spring and Winter. During these topics we like to explore and discover outside in our extensive grounds including forest school, the avenue of trees, the pond, the sensory garden and the willow maze.

Autumn Term

Merridale and me! The children explore the indoors and outdoors of their new setting. They become familiar with the routines and the new children and adults that they work and play with daily. We focus on friendship building and how to play kindly by sharing and taking turns. They investigate the grounds and Forest School, finding out about the wonderful outdoor classroom which changes as the seasons change. As part of this topic we learn how to access resources in the classroom with support and then independently so that we can explore the different areas of the classroom safely such as the creative area, the sand and water, construction and role play. In the role play we explore the home and build on what we do at home such as cooking, mealtimes, routines, dressing, and taking care of themselves and one another. As the children begin to develop friendships they learn about each other and tell us about themselves. We focus on our likes and dislikes, what we enjoy doing at school and at home, our families and our homes and community. We think about some of the people who help us in our community and take part in a mini Fire Fighter topic enjoying a visit from the Fire Fighters and finding out about how they help our community. We encourage lots of speaking and listening during this topic. The children learn to recognise and write their names and all about numbers to 5 the age we will be this year. We draw, paint and use computer programmes to represent ourselves and our family.

Let's Celebrate As Autumn arrives it is time to learn about the changes outside—the colourful leaves arrive and the children investigate them together with the seeds from the trees using them for printing in their art creations. The children will learn about the celebrations that take place at this time of year. They will explore the different festivals of Diwali, Eid and Christmas and we will have special days in class to celebrate each of these. They will learn about special celebration clothes, customs and food. They will talk about their own home and what they celebrate and look at similarities and differences. The children take part in a range of seasonal baking activities and look at how ingredients can be changed into something new. We also visit Kingswood for an exciting Christmas trail and treasure hunt as well as taking part in our yearly Christmas Production!

Dinosaurs Children are fascinated by this topic and it is an excellent way to engage and excite them to learn. Children learn about the different types of dinosaurs and enjoy finding out and remembering their names. They look at similarities and differences and learn about things that happened a long time ago. They explore fossils and bones and find out about how we know about dinosaurs now they are extinct. In the Dinosaur Museum role play they demonstrate their new learning by writing and talking about their knowledge. We use a range of exciting books about dinosaurs to foster a love of reading both fiction and non-fiction.

Spring Term

Winter Wonderland An exciting topic where the children learn all about colder climates. We begin by learning all about winter and learning our topic words for cold places. Then we recreate the story of Frozen and think about magical cold lands and learn about the process of freezing and melting. Finally we focus on the book The Arctic Explorer and go on our own adventure to the Arctic and Antarctic learning about different people, homes, habitats and wildlife along the way. Our role play starts as Elsa's Frozen Palace and then becomes our Arctic explorer's camp. We have lots of opportunities to create beautiful masterpieces in the creative area, build our own igloos outdoors and indoors for the lego people using sugar lumps. We also write postcards and letters from our camp in the Arctic or Antarctic.

Super heroes During our Superheroes topic we are visited by our local police force to think about people who help us to stay safe in our local area. We then learn about Super heroes and their special powers. We learn about our senses and imagine having our own super powers. The book 'Supertato' is one of our favourites and the children enjoy creating their own super vegetable and doing lots of other exciting and hands on activities around this book. We also learn about exercising and eating well so that we can be active and healthy. Finally we think about who our hero is and what makes them special to us.

Little Explorers During this topic the children will find out about their world starting with our local area and the country that we live in and then discovering different parts of the planet! We will travel to faraway places thinking about transport, languages, food, landmarks and weather. The children will enjoy finding out information from non-fiction books and developing their knowledge of people and places. We will make a class book about our topic which everyone can contribute to. The children will enjoy a walk around our local area ending with a visit to Bantock gardens and park where we can enjoy the outdoor space.

Summer Term

Fantasy and adventure In this topic the children will enjoy a number of traditional tales with magical characters and exciting settings. They will learn about story structures and will have the opportunity to act out and retell the stories. This topic is full of opportunities for the children to get creative through writing, singing, art, design and music. They will investigate different media to make their own designs and use instruments to create their own music for parts of the stories. We will learn about fairies and elves, princesses and witches, castles and dragons! As part of this topic we will enjoy a trip to Dudley Castle to find out what life was like in a real castle.

Walk on the wild side Children love to learn about animals and through this topic will find out about different creatures and their habitats on land and under the sea. Children enjoy learning the names for baby animals and seeing how they change as they grow into adults. We will compare animals and the places that they live thinking about how they move, what they can do and what they eat. We will learn about wild animals, farm animals, pets and how to care for them. We will also visit Dudley Zoo to see some real animals and learn more about them.

Growing and changing The children find out about growth by growing their own plants for the garden. They plant seeds and watch them grow then help to transfer them to the garden. They watch and learn how the plants change and they ensure that they take it in turns to look after them. As they explore in the garden we enjoy learning about minibeasts and the other animals. We learn the names of them and find out how they are similar and different. The children also explore their own growth, measuring their height and comparing the differences in size from the beginning of the year. They think about how they have grown and changed this year and what they feel they have got better at. This is a good opportunity to think about the changes of going to a new class and leaving Reception. Children will have opportunities to visit the Year 1 classroom and their new teacher so they are looking forward to this new step after the summer holidays.