



Reception Autumn Term 2026

Tell Me A Story..

This term our overarching theme will be 'Tell Me A Story...' We will have opportunities to focus on Personal, Social and Emotional Development and build Communication and Language skills as the children settle into school life. We will focus on reading for pleasure, extending vocabulary, books that follow the children's interests, favourite stories from home and traditional tales.

Phonics

We will begin to introduce phonics sounds using Read Write Inc. The children will learn to link sounds to letters and play 'Fred Talk' blending games which will support their early reading skills. Children will be introduced to new letter sounds each week which they will be able to practice in the environment.

Maths

This term we will be focusing on matching and sorting objects, looking at different groups they belong to and comparing objects to others, looking for similarities and differences. The children will be introduced to early numbers and discovering the value and composition of each number. The children will be learning to subitise and recognise 'how many' there are in groups up to 5.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Our focus this term will be on being a good friend and class rules and responsibilities. In Circle Time, the children will learn about our Ellacombe Values and play games to promote friendship and learn fundamental skills like sharing.

Communication and Language

Through direct teaching such as our story of the week, topic-linked work, independent activities and talk inspiring focus points the children will be given opportunities to learn and practise new vocabulary. They can recreate stories on our stage using props and other items. Children will practise listening and responding to what others say, and to express their own ideas.

Physical Development

We will begin to develop and strengthen gross and fine motor skills, as well as balance and coordination. The children will be given independent access outdoors to physical activities with bikes, scooters, balls, obstacle courses and other equipment. Finger Gym challenges will be used to boost hand and finger dexterity for writing, drawing and other hand-to-eye coordination tasks.

Continuous Provision

This term the children will be given lots of opportunities to access learning through hands on experiences.

The way a child engages with other people and their environment underpins their learning across all the curriculum areas. We are committed to building these key 'Characteristics of Effective Learning' as solid foundations for the rest of our children's school life and beyond. Big, messy, fun activities give children the chance to learn and explore in exciting, free and playful ways, to spark joy and chatter, to inspire curiosity, to grow confidence and to build perseverance. This gives them experiences which enable them to think critically, imaginatively and to problem solve.

If you are able, please have spare clothing in your child's bag, as they may get wet and messy!