



Reception Class Newsletter

Summer 2026

Miss Clarke

Our PE day is:

Thursday

Our Christian Value this term is

HOPE



Timings of the school day

8.40am	Reception gate opens Parents/carers say goodbye at the gate and the children go straight in to their classroom
8.50am	Reception gate closes and school day begins
3.20pm	School day ends, teachers bring children to Reception gate to be collected

Children arriving after the gates have closed must be brought by an adult to the main entrance and a reason given for their lateness. Up to 9.00am this will be marked as 'Late', after 9.10am, this will be marked as 'Unauthorised absence'.

Behaviour

Our school rules are to be safe, to be respectful and to be ready so that everyone feels accepted and valued within a calm and positive environment where we solve problems together. We award House Team Points to reward children for going 'above and beyond' in any aspect of school life. These are counted, announced and celebrated every Fri in our House Team Assembly.

If a child's behaviour falls below our expectations they will work through a series of stepped boundaries:

1. Redirection
2. Reminder
3. Yellow Card
4. Red Card
5. Follow Up

We will always contact parents and carers if a child's behaviour is causing concern and ALWAYS if it extreme such as physical aggression, verbal abuse or bullying.

Important Dates

More information will be sent home before each event. We will always give as much notice as possible if any dates and times have to be changed due to unexpected circumstances.

Monday 4 th May	May Bank Holiday
Thursday 14 th May	Postponed Easter disco
Monday 18 th May	Go Well Frisbee Day
Tuesday 19 th May	Rec/KS1 Sports Day
25 th to 29 th May	Half term
Wednesday 10 th June	Reception trip to Butterfly World & Preston Park
Friday 19 th June	Whole school colour run
Monday 22 nd June	Class photographs
Thursday 25 th June	Whole school transition day
Wednesday 8 th July	Reception assembly for parents/carers
Friday 10 th July	Annual Reports issued
Friday 17 th July	End of the academic year

Phonics: Read Write Inc

This term the children will continue to learn phonics through the Read Write Inc progressive phonics scheme. Based upon ongoing assessments, the children continue to work in groups tailored to the level which they are working. Heading into the final term, children will learn/ revisit set 2 sounds such as 'ay' 'ee' 'igh.' They will move on to reading words containing these sounds, and for the more confident children, they will begin to spell words too. All children will learn continue to learn the reception level high frequency words. Our focus this term will be on speedy reading. Please support your child to do this by 'Freding in your head' and then saying the work outloud.



For further information please visit the link below:



home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide/

Literacy

We want your child to develop a life-long love of reading. Reading is made up of two key elements: language comprehension and word reading.

Language Comprehension

Children listen to stories and a range of texts every day, as well as learning a new poem each week. Through discussion and questioning, they develop their understanding, vocabulary and enjoyment of reading.

Word Reading

Children use their knowledge of taught sounds to read words, including simple CVC words (e.g. p-i-g) and words with 'special friends' (e.g. f-i-sh, n-igh-t). We are now focusing on building fluency and confidence.

Writing

Writing is taught through our Read Write Inc programme, where children learn to spell using 'Fred Fingers'. We encourage independence and creativity through Drawing Club, where children generate their own ideas. So far this year, the children have been incredibly inspired by this approach.

We are also continuing to develop strong foundation skills such as good sitting posture (feet flat on the floor, back against the chair), correct pencil grip and holding paper steady. We kindly encourage you to support these habits at home before writing to help build strong routines.

R.E.

In R.E. this term we will be learning about special places for Muslims and Christians. We will think about places that are special in our own lives and find out about holy and important places for Christians and Muslims. As part of this we will visit St Mary's Church and learn about the key features. We will also take part in a virtual tour of a Mosque.

Key Vocabulary

Christians, Muslims, Church, Mosque

Pilgrimage, holy, Vicar, Father, Bible

Imam, Qur'an



Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/stmaryscockertonschool>

Communication and Language



Communication and Language underpins everything we do in Reception, and we will continue to nurture this every single day in our classroom. Back-and-forth conversations are so important in helping the children develop both their language and their thinking skills.

In our class, the children will be immersed in a language-rich environment through listening to a wide range of stories, non-fiction texts, rhymes and poems. We will provide lots of opportunities for them to practise and embed new vocabulary in their play and learning. Whether they are retelling stories in our puppet theatre, engaging in imaginative role play in our home corner or our doctor's surgery, or preparing to speak in our class assembly this term, we will be encouraging the children to become confident communicators.



We are really looking forward to hearing their ideas and voices shine!

Mathematical Development

In Maths, we are going to be very busy this term as we take part in our exciting Sunflower Challenge! ☀️ The children will explore maths through planting and caring for sunflowers, bringing learning to life in a hands-on and meaningful way.

Throughout the challenge, we will be focusing on key mathematical concepts including comparing amounts and length, the composition of numbers, addition and subtraction, understanding one more and one less, as well as doubling and number bonds to 10.

Key Vocabulary

number, subitise, sort, group, compare, double, add, subtract more, less, fewer, total, equals, taller, shorter, full and empty.



PSED



In our final term of the academic year the children will learn about themselves. They will look at how they grow and change.

They will learn to name all of their body parts using the correct terminology. We will also learn how to look after our bodies, which will include learning about making healthy food choices, toothbrushing, the importance of sleep and looking for alternatives to screen time.



We will begin to prepare children for the transition to class one. More information will follow on this towards the end of the first half term.

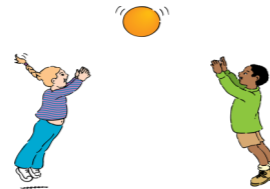
Key Vocabulary

Grow, change, baby, toddler, child, teenager, adult, body, muscles and bones

Physical Development

Children will develop their ball skills through the topic of 'minibeasts'. They will practice rolling and receiving a ball, throwing to a target, bouncing and catching, dribbling with feet and kicking a ball.

Children will be able to develop their fine and gross motor skills through a range of game play using a variety of equipment. Children will be given opportunities to work independently and with a partner.



In the final half term, the children will develop their understanding of playing games through the topic of 'transport'. The children will also learn how to score and play by the rules, how to work with a partner and begin to understand what a team is, win humbly and lose gracefully.

Understanding the World



Our focus this term is based on new life, growth and changes. As part of our topic, we will be going on a school trip to Butterfly World on the 10th June, and having some 'visitors to our classroom....



We will also become Sunflower experts! We will plant a seed, care for seedlings, learn about what they need to grow and finally their lifecycle.

Key Vocabulary

Grow, change, new life, life cycle. Ladybirds, egg, larva, pupa, adult

Caterpillar, chrysalis, butterfly and metamorphosis



Creative Development

The children will have lots of opportunities to be creative this term... From observational drawings of minibeasts and plants to studying the work of famous artists such as Vincent Van Gogh, Georgia O'Keefe and sculpting in the style of Ana Tzurev.



Key Vocabulary

paint, draw, colour, mark-make, lines, circles, shapes, colour, mix, primary, secondary, texture, form, technique, pattern, artist, mould and shape.

Enrichments

As part of our enriched curriculum this term, we have planned a range of exciting experiences to enhance the children's learning.

Understanding the World

We will be visiting Butterfly World on Wednesday 10th June, where the children will explore life cycles and habitats up close. We are also hoping to welcome the Darlington Bee Keepers into school for a special visit.

Physical Development

We have lots of active and fun events planned this term! Sports Day will take place on Tuesday 19th May, and we will also be taking part in our Colour Run on Friday 19th June—both fantastic opportunities for the children to be active, have fun and work together.

Additional Information

Your child should bring their book bag to school every day. This should contain their reading folder.



Please remember to send your child to school with a named water bottle, **everyday**. This should contain water only.



As we head into the summer months and the weather (hopefully!) warms up, please ensure Factor 50 sun cream is applied before school. It would be wonderful if your child could also bring their own named sun cream to keep in school. Roll-on creams or aerosol sprays are ideal as they support the children in applying this independently, and staff will oversee this at lunchtime.



As we spend lots of time learning outdoors, please ensure your child also brings a **sun hat** each day. We also kindly ask that a **lightweight raincoat** is kept in their bag, as the weather can still be a little unpredictable!



Additional Information

- As the weather improves, our P.E. lessons will move outdoors, so please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather conditions. If your child wears earrings these will need to be removed at home.
- Homework books to be handed in on Wednesday.
- Reading books will be collected on Thursday and **changed after school**. **Your child will receive two reading books on a Friday** as well as a book from our class library to snuggle up and share at bed time