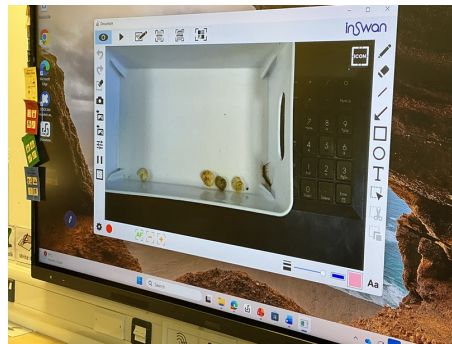


Reception Newsletter

April 2026



Celebration of Learning last term



Be Creative - Be Authentic - Be Your Best



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Key Learning for Summer 2

Literacy / English

Our key text this half term is *Astro Girl* by Ken Wilson-Max, Astrid wants to be an astronaut. Her dad tells her all the things she will need to do if she becomes one and her strong self-belief in her abilities is joyfully apparent. Then it's time to go and meet Astrid's mum from work and we discover who has inspired her to have this ambition. Information at the back of the book includes an introduction to five women astronauts from a variety of cultural backgrounds

Phonics

New phonics groups are already well on the way. Children will continue to build their sound knowledge by learning set 2 sounds and practising reading and spelling words containing these sounds. Daily phonics sessions will support blending, segmenting, and developing early reading fluency. Please continue to practise at home and using the virtual classroom films sent via Tapestry.

Mathematics

This half term, the children will be developing their counting and number skills through fun practical activities and games. They will explore the purpose of counting, build confidence in counting strategies such as counting on from different starting numbers, and learn how to count larger groups of objects, including those that cannot be moved. The children will continue to develop their subitising skills by recognising amounts without counting one by one and using their understanding of doubles to support this. They will use their fingers to represent numbers and explore how numbers within 5 can be made in different ways, before using double dice frames to investigate numbers 6 to 9 as '5 and a bit' and making links to other representations such as fingers and 10-frames. The children will also begin to explore how 10 can be composed in different ways and develop an understanding of the 'ten-ness of 10' by making their own collections of 10 objects. Alongside this, they will continue comparing numbers and sets of objects to identify which has more or fewer, while also learning about ordinality by understanding where numbers to 10 belong in order. Through number tracks, games and practical activities, they will compare numbers that are close together, far apart and next to each other.

Understanding the World

Our outdoor learning specialist and Forest School Instructor Mrs Peck will be teaching the children every Wednesday afternoon. We will also be exploring what lies beyond our immediate environment through our space theme.

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Personal, Social & Emotional Development (PSED)

In PSHE circle time this half term, we will be learning about how to keep ourselves safe in school and outside of school. The children will revisit and talk about who their trusted adults are and who they can go to if they need help or support in the community. We will also learn about people who help us, such as doctors, police officers and other community helpers who work to keep us safe and healthy. We will explore ways to stay safe in different places, including learning about road safety. The children will also think about important school routines that help keep everyone safe, such as fire drills, walking sensibly around school and eating safely. Through discussions and activities, the children will build confidence in making safe choices every day.

Expressive Art and Design

The children will continue to develop their creativity and artistic skills through a range of exciting activities. They will practise using good control when holding paintbrushes and painting carefully within the lines, as well as independently selecting additional tools such as stamps, rollers and other resources to add detail and improve their pictures. The children will explore colour mixing and matching to create specific colours and shades, including creating exciting galaxy paintings. They will also develop their imagination through music, dance and performance by making up their own songs, dances and shows. Through role play and storytelling, the children will adapt stories, combine ideas in their play and use props and spaces in new and creative ways.

Physical Development

We will continue our focus on holding a pencil correctly using a tripod grip, forming letters accurately and developing control over letter size and organisation. In PE, our unit this term is 'Tennis'.

Key Information and Reminders

Library - This will continue to be on a Friday. Please send books in on this day for children to change.

PE - PE will be on a Thursday.

Tapestry - Please read weekly memos for a regular insight into the learning in the classroom and key reminders. Please do access the links to support Phonics and reading at home.

