

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the new school year! It has been wonderful to be back in class with some of the children I taught last year, they are proving to be superb role models to the new reception children. The children are beginning to get to know one another and are settling well into GEPS. Starting school is such a huge milestone for the children (and parents!) but what an exciting year ahead we have. The year will be filled with educational visitors, school trips, a harvest festival, a Christmas pantomime, a nativity performance- all whilst learning the national curriculum too! We are very lucky to have Mrs Hart, Mrs Sadler, Mrs Badley, Miss Wilkinson (Jo), Mrs Bowman, Miss Bowman (Maggie) and Miss Daya to support the children in The Nest this year.

Teaching and Learning

This term, our key enquiry question is: ***“What makes a home?”*** *We will make links in other areas of the curriculum to this question and have discussions about the children’s answers- their answers may change from the start of the term to the end of term as their knowledge and understanding widens.* Our new topic is **“All Creatures Great and Small”**, where we’ll be exploring the wonderful world of animals—from tiny minibeasts to magnificent mammals. The children will learn about where different animals live, what they eat, and how we can care for them. We will be cooking, welcoming visitors, going on a school trip and making cross-curriculum links during the term to give the children a fun experience whilst learning. Information about other areas of learning can be found on the Autumn Overview document below.

Class Dojo and Tapestry

We will use Class Dojo to share our learning throughout the week, along with any important updates. Staff are available to contact through Dojo but please ensure any changes to going home arrangements are sent to the office too. For new reception parents, I will be sharing some information about Tapestry (your child’s individual online learning journal) over the coming weeks with instructions on how to activate your account.

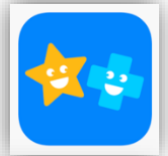
Reading

We will be aiming to check your child’s reading diary at least once a week. Please do let us know via dojo if your child needs a new book beforehand. We will be sending new reading diaries home for children in reception, along with reading books soon too. These books follow our phonics scheme and include sounds we will be learning at school. Please take the time to read to/with your child every night as it is one of the biggest things you can do to make a difference at home! You can talk about the story, model saying sounds and blending them back together again, ask questions about the story and see if your child can spot letter sounds that they have been learning at school. I will share more information about reading diaries

and a prompt sheet which should hopefully be helpful. Our expectation is that children read at least 3 times weekly.

SMART learning

School pays for a subscription to Doodle maths and Doodle English which are apps you can use at home. The logins will be stuck in the front of the children's reading diaries and you can either scan the QR code or download the app and sign in with the username and password. Year 1 should still be able to access these apps with their current logins but if you need a password reminder, please just let me know. Before the half term break, we will launch our high frequency word (HFW) books for the reception children (year 1s will continue to use their previous ones). We use these HFW books to check the children's progress at school, but is it important you use them at home too. They are a great way to warm up the children's brains before reading their books to you.



In previous years, we have always done a 'meet the teacher' in person, but this isn't always easy for parents to attend if they work etc and it is also a lot of information for you to take in and remember. This year, we are going to trial it via a video. In the next week or so, I will share a video all about our upcoming term and the expectations. I will also answer any common questions and helpful tips for supporting your child this year. If you have any questions after you have watched the video, please feel free to catch me after school or send me a dojo message.

If you have any questions, please feel free to pop in and see us at any time or send me a message.

Miss Wadforth and all the team ☺

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(see curriculum overview below)

Year R/1 Autumn Term 2025

TERM: Create THEME: All Creatures Great and Small

KEY ENQUIRY QUESTION: What makes a home?

AUTHENTIC OUTCOME:	Possible ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donate food, bedding and accessories to Danaher Animal Shelter.
VISIT:	Visitors - a vet, people with experience in South Africa and Safaris. Visit Shepreth Wildlife Park
English	Talk 4 Writing: The Three Little Pigs Non-Fiction: Recounts and shape poetry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly guided reading and comprehension skills • Daily phonics lessons, using <i>Sounds-Write</i> • Frequent handwriting lessons, using <i>Penpals</i>
Maths	Reception: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matching and sorting • Comparing numbers • Shape • Patterns and size Year 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place value within 10 • Addition and subtraction within 10 • Shape
Religious Education	Christianity: What do Christians believe God is like? Hinduism: How does a celebration bring a community together?
Science	Wild and Wonderful Creatures (Animals, including humans) Food chains (living things and their habitats)
Music	Autumn 1 - Introducing beat: How can we make friends when we sing together? Autumn 2 - Adding rhythm and pitch: How does music tell us about the past? Nativity songs and singing
PSHE	Autumn 1 - Being Me in My World: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping others feel welcome and work well together. • Make our school and community a better place. • Recognise the feelings of ourselves and others.

	Autumn 2 - Celebrating Difference: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand that being different makes us all special. • Standing up for ourselves. • How to be a kind friend.
Art & Design	Medium: Printing Artist: Andy McKenzie <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experiment with a range of media • Enjoy using a variety of drawing tools • Draw on different surfaces and coloured papers • Explore lightening and darkening paint
Computing	Autumn 1: E-safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use technology safely and respectfully, keeping personal information private; identify where to go for help and support when they have concerns about content or contact on the internet or other online technologies.
PE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jungle Dance • Gymnastics • Multi-skills • Fundamental Movement Skills: Balancing, galloping, running, falling and jumping.
Design Technology	Food: Preparing fruit and vegetables Making South African food with a visitor
P4C	If you were bigger than your parents, who would be in charge? What makes us human? Should everybody be treated equally? What does it mean to be treated fairly? Can one person make a difference? Does it matter what you look like?
Spirituality	Be ready to say sorry when mistakes are made, to forgive themselves and others. Be kind to those all around us.