

# Reception Curriculum Map for Spring 1

## Literacy

In Spring 1, children will explore engaging texts linked to space, winter, and cold places, including *Man on the Moon*, *Whatever Next!*, *One Snowy Night*, *Little Lost Penguin*, and *Lost and Found*. These stories support comprehension, vocabulary, storytelling, and discussion about characters, settings, and events. Non-fiction texts will introduce facts about space, polar regions, weather, and seasons, fostering early research skills. Children will also enjoy nursery rhymes and poems such as *5 Little Men in a Flying Saucer* and *I Can Build a Snowman*. Daily Read Write Inc. phonics sessions focus on blending sounds to read words, with parental support encouraged to reinforce reading practice and build confidence in literacy development.

## Mathematics

Children will build on number knowledge by recognising, representing, and working with numbers 6, 7, and 8 using ten frames, practical resources, and part-whole models. They will compare sets, explore “more,” “less,” “equal,” and begin finding one more or one less, while noticing patterns such as odd and even numbers. Practical activities will develop understanding of length, height, mass, capacity, and time, using everyday language like long, short, tall, first, next, and morning/afternoon. Through play, building, and exploring the environment, children will recognise and name common 3-D shapes. These experiences aim to nurture confident, curious mathematicians with strong foundations in number sense and mathematical language.

## PSED

Children will continue to develop independence, confidence, and emotional awareness. They will be encouraged to set simple goals, wait for what they want, and demonstrate resilience when tasks are challenging. Through daily routines and adult guidance, they will learn personal care skills such as washing hands before eating or cooking. Social skills will be fostered through interactions, helping children understand their own and others' feelings, regulate behaviour, and cooperate with peers. Opportunities to practise perseverance, turn-taking, and patience support growing self-regulation and confidence. These experiences lay the groundwork for children to manage personal needs effectively while engaging positively in social and learning environments.

## Communication and Language

Children will develop speaking and listening skills through small group, class, and one-to-one discussions. They will be encouraged to ask questions, use sentences with connectives such as “and” and “because,” and share ideas clearly. Stories, non-fiction texts, and structured talk activities will expand vocabulary and comprehension, supporting discussion and expressive language. These experiences foster confidence in sharing thoughts, understanding others, and participating in collaborative activities. By practising clear communication, children enhance their listening, questioning, and narrative skills, laying the foundations for literacy development, social interaction, and effective engagement in classroom discussions across all areas of learning.

## Physical Development

Children will develop coordination, control, and confidence through games and practical activities, learning simple rules, taking turns, and understanding teamwork and fair play. Discrete PE lessons will focus on Attack v Defence games, enhancing movement, awareness, and decision-making skills. Fine motor skills will continue to develop through handling scissors, pens, and glue, supporting accuracy and care in drawing and making. Activities also encourage balance, spatial awareness, and energetic movement in a variety of ways. Through both structured lessons and play, children will strengthen gross and fine motor skills, fostering confidence, independence, and physical competence that supports overall health and learning readiness.

## Art and Design

Children will explore creativity through threading and weaving activities, progressing through Levels 1–5, developing fine motor control, hand-eye coordination, concentration, and independence. They will apply these skills in projects such as flower threading and making hanging egg decorations, experimenting with materials, tools, and techniques. These experiences encourage self-expression, imagination, and problem-solving. Children will gain confidence in creating with different materials, developing a sense of pride in their work. Art activities are designed to nurture creativity while simultaneously supporting physical dexterity, focus, and cognitive development, helping children to explore ideas visually and tangibly, fostering expressive and independent learners.

## Understanding the World

Children will explore topics including space, weather, cold places, and the past. They will learn about the Sun, Moon, stars, planets, and day/night cycles, and investigate melting and freezing, observing seasonal weather changes. Geography learning will focus on the Arctic and Antarctic, using maps and globes to locate the UK and polar regions, exploring life in cold environments. Historical learning introduces early space exploration, comparing past and present experiences of astronauts. Through hands-on investigation, discussion, and non-fiction texts, children develop an understanding of environments, change over time, and cause-and-effect in the natural world, supporting curiosity, observational skills, and early scientific and historical understanding.