



Reception Curriculum Letter – Autumn 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Reception Team would like to welcome you and your children to Tetherdown. Our aims for the first term are:

- To get to know the children, help them to get to know each other and develop a sense of belonging within our class.
- To help children establish their independence in following a simple daily routine.
- To look at the skills and knowledge the children already have, then begin the next steps for their learning.

The children will spend their day choosing from various play activities set up indoors and outdoors. The children will also participate in various adult guided activities.

	Curriculum covered this half-term
Communication & Language	Children will be developing their listening and conversation skills through story times and small group tasks. We will be developing our speaking skills and vocabulary during story activities and during our self-directed play.
Literacy	We will continue to develop your children's love of books and will be reading and extending their knowledge of rhyme. In this first term we will also focus on developing early reading skills through identifying specific sounds and rhymes and leading on to learning letter sounds and names. The children will also be given opportunities to experiment with writing and practise early cursive handwriting skills. Later this term they will bring home reading scheme books once a week. The children will be encouraged to discuss their experiences and create stories. We will be holding a Reading/Writing Meeting for parents and carers to share in greater detail the ways in which we teach reading and writing in Reception.
Mathematics	Our focus will be on early number concepts, involving developing an understanding of the composition on numbers 1-5. They will also be practising the essential maths skills of matching and sorting. Later in the term we will be holding a Maths Meeting to share in greater detail the ways in which we teach maths in Reception.
Understanding the World	The children will learn about each other, our similarities and differences. We will talk about our families and our different cultural backgrounds. We will also look at special events such as birthdays, Halloween, Bonfire Night and Diwali. After half term we will learn about Autumn, the changing seasons and nocturnal animals. We will also find out about Christmas and Hanukah celebrations.
Physical Development	At the beginning of the term, we will encourage the children to listen and respond to simple instructions, to find ways of using different body parts and to think about the space around them. We will be providing many fun opportunities for children to work on developing their fine motor skills which will aid their writing skills.
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Through circle time and throughout the day we encourage the children to listen to each other and to recognise, share and manage their feelings. We help them to develop an understanding of the ways in which we can be kind and fair to each other and make friends. We aim to help the children understand and respect that people have different needs, views, cultures and beliefs. The children will also be involved in agreeing codes of behaviour. We will introduce

	the 'Zones of Regulation', a structured approach to help children regulate their emotions. We will send you further information on this as the term progresses.
Expressive Arts and Design	The children will experiment with a variety of media in creating artwork. They will be involved in colour mixing, making models and collage. The children will use constructional play equipment such as Lego, Mobilo and wooden blocks. We will be singing simple songs, developing listening skills and responding to music through movement. Our year group Christmas Play will also provide opportunities to learn new songs and to speak clearly and confidently.

Other Notes

- Waterproof and warm NAMED coats/jackets are essential as we do plan to spend as much learning time outside as possible. The classroom can get quite chilly as the doors are open frequently as children come in and out throughout the day. As the weather changes, we also encourage children to bring in named wellies in a named bag that can stay at school if possible so they can be used when we have rainy days.
- 'Show and Tell' sessions will happen weekly during this term. Children can bring in something they would like to show and talk about with the class. This might be a photograph, picture, book, toy etc. Nothing too precious please! Your class teacher will let you know the **particular** week for your child's Show and Tell. Each child will get 1 date every half term over the year.
- Birthdays: We will make your child's birthday a special day and will enjoy singing happy birthday to them. We would also like to celebrate your child's birthday and increase the number of books in classrooms by asking you to purchase a lovely book and donate it to your child's class – this is entirely voluntary. To avoid duplication, we will circulate our class book wish list. The school will celebrate the occasion by sharing the book with the class and inserting a book-plate with your child's name and birthday inside the front cover.
- If your child has been sick or has had diarrhoea they must stay home for 48 hours after the last episode. This is extremely important to prevent bugs from spreading to other children and staff.
- Now that the weather is changing, we would also be grateful if you could send in a box of tissues as we are expecting many runny noses!
- After half term, we will be starting our exciting outdoor learning programme. Our children will have timetabled sessions planned by our Outdoor Learning Practitioner Megan Greene. The Outdoor Learning will be linked with our EYFS Areas of Learning. Children will need to bring in wellies for these sessions, warm clothes if cold and a waterproof coat. We will send reminders of these dates.

We look forward to working with you and your children and to have an exciting and safe first term!

With Best Wishes

The Reception Team

Class Teachers: Mrs Moffatt, Miss McCann

Teaching Assistants: Mrs Swinhoe, Mrs Umer