

HARLYN PRIMARY SCHOOL
Autumn Term Curriculum Information

Year Group: Reception

Date: September 2026

Topic: Ourselves & Celebrations

Personal Social and Emotional Development

The children will settle into school life and become part of the school community. They will develop their social skills through play by sharing, making new friends, turn-taking and negotiating. They will grow in self-confidence and self-awareness and will form positive relationships with adults and other children throughout the school. They will also learn how to manage their feelings and behaviour.

Physical Development

The children will learn how to control and co-ordinate their bodies and learn how to move creatively and safely. They will develop both fine and gross motor skills such as jumping, running, balancing, throwing, catching, cutting, writing, and rolling, and we will be learning how to use small and large equipment and tools appropriately. The children will have two PE lessons per week – indoor gymnastics/dance and outdoor games activities with our specialist sports teacher. We will be discussing the effects of exercise and how we can stay healthy. The children will also develop confidence and independence in getting dressed and managing their own personal hygiene. There is continual access to a range of activities to develop physical skills in the classroom and through outdoor play activities.

Communication and Language

We will develop communication and language skills through discussion, role play, rhymes and stories. The children will learn how to speak with confidence during carpet sessions and listen and respond with relevant comments, questions or actions. They will be encouraged to think and discuss ideas using talk partners. They will learn and use new vocabulary relating to topics and join in speaking and listening circle time games. The children will develop speaking, listening and questioning skills by sharing work and show and tell sessions.

English

The children will develop sound recognition using the Twinkl phonics programme and learn how to form the letters of the alphabet. They will use their phonic knowledge to begin to read and write decodable words and begin to read some common tricky words. We will also be learning to write our names, news, cards and lists. Ongoing activities include the writing table, painting easel, the reading corner, the listening area, the role play area and a weekly library session.

Mathematics

The children will learn number rhymes and will use games and puzzles to develop their numerical skills to 10 and beyond. We will be learning about counting, ordering and writing numbers, estimating, and developing mathematical language such as 'one more/one less'. We will be exploring patterns in the environment and 2D and 3D shapes.

Understanding the World

The children will become confident in moving around the school. We will learn about ourselves and our friends, staying healthy and the five senses during our Superhero Week. We will explore different celebrations and festivals. The children will also learn about how they can look after their environment. Ongoing activities include construction toys, small world toys, sand, water and the class computer. During our weekly Computing session, the children learn and gain experience in using a computer and Ipad independently. We will be using computer programmes such as 2simple and Purple Mash to support our learning in class.

Expressive Arts and Design

The children will develop techniques using a range of media. They will be painting portraits of themselves and will develop control when painting. We will be using junk modelling to make items during our topic work and also developing our creativity through drama and role play. Music lessons will be taken by our specialist music teacher once a week and the children will have access to instruments and music in their classrooms.

Additional Information

Aspects of each area of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum will be represented through outdoor play where we will learn through both focused activities and structured play. Please support your child at home by sharing your child's reading books daily, reinforcing sounds, words and numbers. Please ensure children have their book bag at school each day as well as a suitable coat/jacket for outdoor learning. Children are provided with a piece of fruit each day to eat at morning playtime. Free milk is available up to the age of 5 (coolmilk.com), and at a small charge thereafter. Water is available all day in each classroom. Please read the weekly newsletters that will be emailed to you.