



Welcome to Reception Autumn 1 Newsletter 2026

Wishing you a very warm welcome to Priory Rise – Reception year. A year full of ‘firsts’ and not to mention ample of exciting opportunities to learn, progress and have fun. We are already incredibly proud of how well the children are settling into their new classes and routines, we hope your child is enjoying their time with us. We cannot wait to see what the rest of the school year has in store for us!

Our Curriculum

This half term our topics are ‘How to use our new environment, Black History Month, Diwali and Up in the Air’. Here is some information about the skills and knowledge your child will be learning during this half term, week by week. We have included the books and songs we will focus on too. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Weeks 1 and 2

- ☺ Induction and Home Visits

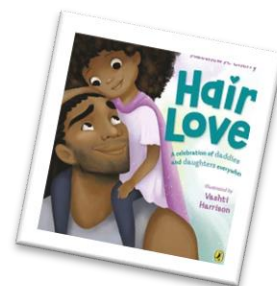
Weeks 3, 4 and 5

- ☺ Introduction to the setting.
- ☺ Following our school Golden Rules.
- ☺ Exploring the various areas within the setting.
- ☺ Looking after resources.
- ☺ Making effective and respectful friendships.
- ☺ Baseline Assessments.
- ☺ Reading books about starting school.
- ☺ Phonics - Phase 2 /s/a/t/p/i/n/m/d/g/o/c/k/ Tricky word (week 3 – is)
- ☺ Reading books about starting school.
- ☺ Develop a secure pincer grip. Practise writing grapheme which corresponds with initial phoneme in words.
- ☺ [Song of the week](#) – Wheels on the Bus



Week 6 - Black History Month

- ☺ Understanding equality and celebrating differences.
- ☺ Learning about past black heroes and the difference they made to society.
- ☺ Phonics - /ck/e/u/r/ Tricky Word - I
- ☺ Reading ‘Hair Love’ by Matthew Cherry and ‘Jubari Jumps’ by Gaia Cornwall
- ☺ Making effective word choices and using plurals and tenses appropriately when building sentences orally.
- ☺ Discussion over what is fair and what is not.
- ☺ Sharing views on how to treat others fairly.
- ☺ Explaining and describing feelings.
- ☺ [Song of the week](#) – Wind the Bobbin Up



Week 7 - CMK Class Trip

- ☺ How to keep ourselves safe on a visit.
- ☺ Deciding on a name for class bear.
- ☺ Trip to CMK - walk from The Hub to Build-a-Bear, make a class bear, visit CMK library.
- ☺ Introduce hearing other phonemes in sequence and understanding how to write graphemes to match phonemic sequence.
- ☺ Discussion about places visited and activities taken part in.
- ☺ Explaining where we would like to go in future.
- ☺ [Song of the week](#) – Five Little Men in a Flying Saucer

Week 8 – Community week on the theme of ‘Under the Sea’

- ☺ What do we know about the sea? Sea creatures, water and jobs.
- ☺ The difference between ‘under’ and ‘above’.
- ☺ Developing our vocabulary to describe sea creatures.
- ☺ Phonics - /h/b/f/l/ Tricky word - the
- ☺ Reading Sea stories.
- ☺ Speaking in whole sentences ensuring grammar is correct.
- ☺ [Song of the week](#) – I can Sing a Rainbow



Numbers & Patterns

Week 3 and 4

- ☺ Noticing and Comparing – developing good noticing skills when looking at amounts
- ☺ Grouping
- ☺ To decide how to group objects and creating rules for these.

Week 5

- ☺ To create pairs and using similarities and difference to classify.
- ☺ To learn to give reason for their choices and explain why.

Week 6, 7 and 8

- ☺ Numbers 1, 2 and 3



Art – Concentric Circles

- ☺ Studying the famous painting by Kandinsky
- ☺ Developing drawing circles, colour mixing and brush stroke skills/techniques.
- ☺ Producing a showstopper based on the work of Kandinsky- Squares with Concentric Circles.



PSHE, through our whole school programme - Jigsaw

Our theme this half term across the school is ‘Being Me in My World’.

- ☺ Meditation, looking after own wellbeing and calming strategies.
- ☺ Understanding where I belong.
- ☺ To begin to understand how we are different from our friends.



Music

- ☺ Begin to use musical vocabulary, e.g. pulse, rhythm, tempo.
- ☺ To learn the names of a variety of non-pitched percussion instruments.
- ☺ Begin to play along with a pulse.
- ☺ Begin to develop an enjoyment of music.



PE – Ball Skills

- ☺ To be able to move in different ways, hopping, running, jumping etc.
- ☺ To begin to develop a more fluent style of moving.
- ☺ To begin to manage the large open space in the small/large halls.
- ☺ To manage a range of equipment such as ball, hoops, beanbags and small balls.

Handwriting

At our school, we follow the Little Wandle Handwriting programme, which provides a clear and structured approach to teaching handwriting daily from the very start of Reception. Through short, engaging lessons, children learn correct pencil grip, letter formation and writing habits using consistent routines and memorable prompts. Letters are taught in carefully planned families, helping children develop confidence and fluency while reducing cognitive load. Handwriting is an important life skill that supports fine motor development, concentration, spelling, reading and overall writing achievement. By developing fluent and automatic handwriting from an early age, children can focus more on expressing their ideas and becoming confident, successful writers.



Information for Parents

Meet the Team

Fireflies Teacher and EYFS Leader – Mrs Reynolds
Fireflies Teaching Assistant – Mrs Lawrence



Beetles Class Teachers – Mrs Woods and Mrs Fox
Beetles Teaching Assistant – Miss Tyrrell



Other Staff Members

Sports Coaches – Mr Elkington and Miss Bond



Honeybees Teacher – Miss Leaney
Honeybees Teaching Assistant – Mrs Wright



Higher Level Teaching Assistant – Miss Smith



Music Teacher – Mrs Bosdet



Home Visits

Thank you to all our families for welcoming us into your home. As teachers, we find visiting your home hugely beneficial and a privilege, and the informal discussion not only provides us with a wealth of information about your child, but eases their transition into school smoothly. We hope you found the visit useful too.



P.E. – Thursdays and Fridays

Children will take part in 2 x P.E. sessions per week, inside either the small or large hall for this term. Our specialist P.E. coaches Mr Elkington or Miss Bond will take the session on Thursday and either Mr Elkington or Miss Leaney will lead on Fridays. Your child needs to come to school on both days wearing their PE kit. Please ensure clothing is clearly labelled. If you have any questions regarding uniform, please speak to your child's class teacher. Thank you.

Star Boards

Celebrate something special that your child manages at home by completing a star for your child to share with their class. We will then add it to their class display. We gave you a sheet of stars during the home visit. Simply write a short note about the achievement, add your child's name, cut it out and send it into school. Let us know if you need extra stars and we will pop some into your child's book bag.



Drop Off - Welcoming Parents into the Building

At the moment, you are welcomed into the Reception setting to support your child with managing their belongings, finding their peg and self-registering. From **Monday 9th November**, we will collect the children from Gate 6 at the front of the school. Each class will make a line and walk into the building with the Teacher or Teaching Assistant, instead of parents. This drop off will remain at 8:30am.

Before this starts, we will be hosting a 'Family Friday' on **Friday 6th November**, whereby parents will be welcomed into their child's classroom. You will get to see how amazing the children are at following their morning routine. This will be from 8:30-8:50am.

Collection at the End of the Day

As we have now moved to fulltime days, we will no longer be using the nursery exit. Instead, we will dismiss children at 3pm using the doors in the classroom that lead onto the back playground. We ask parents and carers to form a queue so we can dismiss children safely, one at a time from the front of the line. Please enter through gate 7. Please can you ensure all adults that are collecting have been given permission on Arbor.



Creative Modelling

The children love to make and create models using junk modelling. We are accepting any donations of small box

packaging, old gift bags, ribbons, card or anything else you think the children may be able to get creative with. Sadly, we cannot accept the cardboard tubes from toilet rolls or anything that has contained nuts, meat or dairy.

Clothing

We cannot stress the importance of labelling your child's clothes and belongings. Much of our uniform is the same and it can prove tricky to tell which items belong to which child. Please ensure all items are clearly labelled, including shoes. Thank you for your support with this.



'Under the Sea' Dress-up Day

The rest of the school had a dress up day themed around 'Under the Sea' during the first full week of term. Our dress up day will now be **Friday 23rd October**. Please note this date has changed following prior communication. Children may come into school dressed in anything related to 'Under the Sea' if they wish.

Snacks, Water Bottles and Safer Eating

Each day we will offer your child a school snack which will be a piece of fruit or veg. Your child will not need an additional snack from home during the school day. Please provide your child with a named water bottle each day filled with water, not squash. Many children have been bringing water bottles but some of these are not yet named. Thank you. Please see the attached Safer Eating guidance if you are providing your child with a packed lunch for lunchtime.

Class Visit to CMK Library and Build-A-Bear

We are busy planning Reception's first school trip, you will receive details about this via Arbor.

Personal Care

We would expect children who are starting the Reception year to be independent or almost independent in managing their toileting needs. The exception to this would be any child with a medical need. As mentioned in the induction information, we can manage children who have the odd accident - maybe because they are engrossed in their play or anyone with a care-plan because of their medical need - but we are unable to manage children who are yet to be toilet trained by their parents at home. If your child is not yet independent, please work with them to support them to achieve this as soon as possible. For some useful tips please see the website www.eric.org.uk/poo-and-wee

Reading

As your child begins and progresses along their magical reading journey at school, there are some important things to remember. Here are some facts...

- ☺ For a new skill to become automatic or for new knowledge to become long lasting, sustained practice is needed.
- ☺ Children will need good reading role models.
- ☺ Children will need access to lots of different reading material.
- ☺ Small daily acts of reading matter, gaps can quickly open.
- ☺ Children who are read to daily hear over a million more words than children who are not.
- ☺ Reading should be a pleasurable experience.
- ☺ Support and model to your child until they are confident, this may take longer than you expect, be patient.

Phonics Books and Reading Records

As we progress through the teaching of Phonics and begin teaching graphemes/phonemes, tricky words and their aptitude to letter sounds, we will assess your child in line with the Little Wandle Phonics programme and your child will be issued with a Phonics book. They will also be given a red reading record. Please ensure these are kept together and brought into school **every day**. These books will also be used as your child's Guided Reading book, furthermore important that they are in school every day. Alongside their Phonics book, your child will also be issued a sharing book; a book you can share together at home.

The reading record will predominately be used by parents as a way to record of your child's reading. Please record the titles of the books your child has read and we will endeavour to not issue them the same one again. If you have time, you could also make a note of how they got on with the reading. Occasionally, we may make comments too.



Parent Consultation Meetings

We have 2 evenings scheduled...

Tuesday 17th November

Wednesday 18th November



More details to follow nearer the time. Please note these consultation meetings will be virtual using Microsoft Teams.

Phonics Workshop

To support each child with reading and phonic acquisition, we are hosting a Phonics workshop. This will take place at **5pm on Monday 5th October** in the main hall. This workshop will inform you all about how we deliver our Phonics programme - Little Wandle, and how your child will be taught to read and write, giving tips for how you can support them at home. This evening is for parents only, please do not bring your child along.

Reception Baseline Assessment

The Reception Baseline assessment became statutory in schools from September 2021. This is an interactive 1:1 assessment which is designed to measure your child's starting point. We will be carrying out this assessment over the coming weeks and will send out the report - generated by the assessment - to you once finished. See the Information for Parents Booklet on the link below.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/reception-baseline-assessment-information-for-parents

Values

Each month we focus on a different value across the school. There are 33 school values in total that rotate on a 3-year cycle, please see the school website for more information. **Respect** is the value for September and **Appreciation** is the value for October.



Attendance

At Priory Rise, we know that good attendance and punctuality are essential to helping children achieve their full potential. Regular attendance supports learning, friendships, confidence and a sense of belonging within the school community. Every day at school counts! There are 190 days in a school year, and even a small drop in attendance can mean children miss out on valuable learning opportunities, important information, vital experiences and time with their friends. Punctuality is equally important. Arriving on time ensures children do not miss valuable learning opportunities, registration or important information at the start of the day. Even a few minutes late each day can result in significant lost learning over the course of a year. We encourage families to prioritise attendance wherever possible. Thank you for your support.



Tapestry

We are very pleased with how Tapestry seems to be working so far. Hopefully, you have all been able to access your child's learning journey having successfully activated your account. If you have not been able to do this, please speak to your child's class teacher for some help. Thank you to all the parents who have commented on and liked different aspects and to some for their amazing posts of what your child does at home – we have loved seeing these. Please continue to check Tapestry regularly and 'like' or 'comment' where possible.



Here is a quick reminder of the Tapestry code of conduct we chatted to you about at your 1:1 visit.

Code of Conduct

- ☺ The online learning journey is used to solely record your child's learning and achievements.
- ☺ It is not to be used as a general communication tool between home and school.
- ☺ If you have any concerns about your child or their Learning Journey please speak to your child's key person/class teacher.
- ☺ The contents should not be shared on any social media websites.
- ☺ Photos should not be screen shot and reposted elsewhere.
- ☺ Rights to be able to post in learning journeys will be removed if these guidelines are not adhered to.
- ☺ Comments posted must be positive.

Routines

- ☺ Each class will visit the library for a regular session every week. Your child will be able to borrow a book, bring it home and return it the following week. Non return of books will incur a charge so please ensure you look after it and bring to school on the day your child visits the library. These are: Fireflies and Beetles, Monday. Honeybees Tuesday
- ☺ Music in the music room with Mrs. Bosdet on Wednesday mornings.
- ☺ PE Sessions with Mr Elkington/Miss Bond and Miss Leaney on Thursday and Friday mornings – children come to school dressed in PE kit.

- ☺ All PPA (teacher time for planning, preparation and assessment) sessions will be covered by our amazing HLTA Miss Smith. Mrs Reynolds will take PPA on Tuesday mornings and alternating Monday afternoons. Miss Leaney will have her PPA Wednesday mornings, Mrs Woods will be Wednesday afternoon and Mrs Fox Friday mornings.

Our Book Reviews this half term



Miss Leaney recommends 'The Gecko and the Echo' by Rachel Bright

Goldy the gecko has a BIG personality and dreams of one thing, and one thing only - to be a STAR. On the sunny island paradise this gecko calls home, it's always The Goldy Show from first light to midnight. Feeling underappreciated Goldy sets off to find a new audience for his stardom. But the road to fame can be a lonely, winding path, and easy to be dazzled by the limelight and lose sight of the world around you.

Mrs Benham-Smith recommends 'I Want My Hat Back' by Jon Klassen

The bear's hat is gone, and he wants it back. Patiently and politely, he asks the animals he comes across, one by one, whether they have seen it. Each animal says no, some more elaborately than others. But just as the bear begins to despond, a deer comes by and asks a simple question that sparks the bear's memory. This story includes humour, morals and an ending to discuss!



Mrs Woods recommends 'The Bad Seed' by Jory John

This is a book about a bad seed. He has a bad temper, bad manners, and a bad attitude. He's been bad since he can remember! This seed never listens. But what happens when one mischievous little seed changes his mind about himself, and decides that he wants to be—happy? The Bad Seed: a funny yet touching tale that reminds us of the remarkably transformative power of will, acceptance, and just being you. Bad Seed proves that positive change is possible for each and every one of us.

Mrs Reynolds recommends 'The Kissing Hand' by Audrey Penn

This book warms my heart. It is about a family 'secret' that is used by Mrs Raccoon to help her son Chester ease his fears of starting school. Chester learns that the 'secret', the kissing hand, gives him reassurance of his Mummy's love any time his world feels a little scary. This book is perfect if your child is finding the transition to starting school a little tricky, and allows them to realise other people may feel this too. The illustrations are absolutely beautiful too!



Mrs Fox recommends 'Basil Dreams Big' by Lu Fraser and Sarah Warburton

I really love the message of the story because it reminds us that we should never give up, even when something feels difficult or we don't succeed straight away. With patience, courage and determination, we can keep trying and eventually achieve things we once thought we couldn't. The story also shows the importance of believing in your friends. Having someone who believes in you and encourages you can give you the confidence to keep going, especially when you have lost belief in yourself.

And finally....

Thank you for your patience, kindness and continued support so far! We cannot wait to make memories this year alongside all the fabulous learning of the curriculum that we have planned. Please do speak to your class teacher if you have any questions or queries, alternatively, you can email reception@pr5d.com

*thank
you*