



# Reception Class

## Autumn Newsletter 2025-2026



The children have made a good start to their school life at St Augustine's and are adjusting well to their new learning environment. This is a very exciting time for both you and your child as they start their learning journey through school. We aim to work closely with you to support your child and we hope that you will enjoy seeing how quickly the children learn new skills in our play-based environment.

The children are getting to know our Early Years team Miss Blackford and Mrs Parsons. The children have also likely been coming home talking about Mrs Rainbow, our class puppet! She is well loved and teaching the children all the new things they may need to know about being in school. This week you will have received an emailed link to access Tapestry, your child's online learning diary. This provides a valuable link between home and school, allowing us to share your child's learning in school with you and for you to add comments and observations of learning from home, to help us to build a picture of your child's progress and identify their next steps. Please let Miss Blackford know if you are having any problems/difficulties accessing this.

Amazon wish lists - Thank you also for all the generous donations so far. Each class now has its own wish list. Please click the link below, which will take you to the wish list. The items will be delivered directly to our school and added to the class book corner. Thank you in advance for your kind generosity. Year R - <https://amzn.eu/3MkfSwB>  
Thank-you for your anticipated support over the coming year, Miss Blackford.

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development



In Reception we are following the Jigsaw scheme, the topic for this term is 'Being Me in My World'. The children have already helped create our class rules, to help us to be safe and happy learners, and we will work to embed these this term. We will focus on how to be a good friend and show friendly behaviour to others, share and take turns and how to manage our feelings e.g. what to do when we feel upset or frustrated. The children will be given responsibility for small tasks to help out in class, to help develop their confidence and independence. They will be encouraged to develop their independence further such as, take off and put on their jumpers, cardigans and coats. We have also introduced children to the 'Zones of Regulation' as a way to express their feelings. We are encouraging them to use the Regulation Stations around school to help them when needed.

### Communication and Language



We are learning how to be good listeners, a key skill for effective communication, by looking at the person talking, ensuring we sit quietly and wait our turn to respond. To develop these skills further, we will encourage the children to ask questions and explain their ideas. We will slowly increase the length of time we expect them to concentrate, improve their attentiveness to stories. We will continue to develop their vocabulary through stories, songs, role-play, and daily conversations. We also focus on supporting children's understanding by encouraging them to ask and answer questions, describe events, and share their thoughts and ideas. This strong foundation in language helps prepare them for early reading and writing, while also boosting their confidence and social interactions.

### Physical Development

The children will take part in a range of activities to develop their gross and fine motor skills. Outdoors, they build strength, coordination, and balance by climbing, running, jumping, and using bikes and scooters. Indoors, they take part in movement sessions, dance, and PE to further enhance body control and spatial awareness. Fine motor skills are nurtured through activities like cutting, threading, painting, and using tools such as tweezers and pencils. These experiences support children's ability to hold a pencil correctly, form letters, and become more independent in tasks like dressing and using cutlery. To further support children in developing the correct pencil grip for writing, they will have access to a 'Funky Fingers' area in the classroom featuring activities designed to strengthen finger and wrist muscles. Children will also have access to 'finger gym' activities first thing in the morning or get them ready for a day of learning. All children will be taught correct letter formation, alongside learning the sounds of letters for reading. PE days will be **Thursday** with Miss Blackford and **Wednesday** with a professional coach from Signature Sport. Please ensure PE kits are worn to school on these days. Tape must be worn to cover pierced ears or earrings removed at home on PE days.



### Religious Education

Creation and Covenant will be our first topic of the year. We will learn that God's wonderful world is precious and how important it is for us to look after it. We will spend time outside in our school grounds looking at God's creation around us. We will also learn that we are a precious part of God's creation and that we are loved by God. The children are learning about the importance of prayer in our daily lives and they will be supported to contribute to class prayers.



## Literacy



The children have started their journey to become readers and writers by learning phonetic sounds linked to each letter of the alphabet. Each week, the children will bring home their Sounds Book containing the focus sounds we are learning in school. Please practise these, along with the wordless book and the 'book to share'. Gradually, they will bring home word boxes, related to their phonics knowledge beginning with oral blending and moving on to blending using new sounds. The children will eventually move to a reading book, as appropriate. In class, we will practise writing each new sound as we learn them. This term, our learning will be linked to the stories What Makes Me a Me, We're Going on a Bear Hunt, The Gruffalo and The Room on the Broom. In Term 2 learning will be linked to Autumn and the texts Owl Babies, The Jolly Postman and Stickman. For writing we will be exploring mark-making, drawing, and giving meaning to the marks we create. We encourage children to express their ideas confidently and take pride in their writing.

## Maths



We teach maths through class inputs, adult led groups and reinforcing the objective and learning in our provision. This term, the children have been developing a strong foundation in number through lots of hands-on, practical activities. We focused on subitising within 3, counting with accuracy, and understanding that numbers are made up of smaller parts. The children explored how numbers like 3 and 4 are composed and enjoyed identifying amounts by subitising objects and sounds. We also introduced comparison, using language like more than and fewer than when looking at sets of objects. In term 2, we will continue to build on counting and number recognition, especially focusing on the special features of 5—such as using one hand or spotting the die pattern. We'll compare sets by matching and introduce the idea of whole and part when exploring the composition of numbers up to 5.



## Understanding the World

We will be learning about the world around us and looking for signs of Autumn as the season changes. The children will be learning through a range of activities, both indoor and outdoor, so **please ensure your child has their wellies and waterproofs in school**. We will also find out about our bodies and our senses and link this with how we explore the world. We will be learning about the local environment using our class text of The Jolly Postman, concluding this with a trip to the post box to post our letters. In term 2 we will be looking at "Light and Dark", including space and festivals of light. We will be using our text "Owl Babies" to have discussions about animals that are nocturnal.

## Expressive Arts and Design



We have been learning lots of new songs, we will continue to do this throughout the term. The children have also been using our instruments to explore different rhythms. We will be supporting the children to develop their skills, e.g. painting, and how to use tools, such as scissors, correctly. We will be using our puppets small world resources to encourage the children to tell stories through role play. The children have already shown a great love for construction and we will continue to support and extend their learning in this area using junk modelling as well as our loose parts construction materials.

## How to support your child's learning at home:

In Reception, as the term progresses, we ask that you do the following:

- Practise recognising and writing the new sounds, as they are learnt, and your child's name - practising letter formation in sand, shaving foam, or with a paintbrush and water outside can make it more fun and engaging.
- As they are sent home, practise sounds and words **every day** (and the reading book and word boxes when your child is ready) and log this in the Reading Record
- Practise recognising numbers to at least 5 (10/20 if confident), developing an understanding of the value of each number using everyday objects at home (e.g. How many apples in the pack) and saying the numbers in order.
- Practise counting collections of objects, ensuring that your child touches one object for every number they say.
- Use language like more than, fewer than, and the same when comparing groups of items.

## Other ways you can help:

- Teach your child how to go to the toilet independently and put on and fasten their coat- **it's part of the curriculum!**
- Teach your child how to sort out clothes that are inside out, e.g. sleeves on a cardigan/jumper/coat.
- Ensure you have access to your Tapestry account, when this becomes available, and upload home observations to Tapestry so that we can share your child's home learning.
- Encourage your child to make choices and solve simple problems independently. Sharing stories about emotions and friendships can also help children understand and discuss their feelings.

