



Heron Cross Primary School

Reception Overview & Progression

2025 - 2026

	AUTUMN 1	AUTUMN 2	SPRING 1	SPRING 2	SUMMER 1	SUMMER 2
THEME	Welcome to Reception!		Amazing Adventures!		Reception Cares	Traditional Tales
TOPICS COVERED WITHIN THEME	Welcome to school All about me Diwali Halloween	Bonfire Night Celebrating cultures Christmas	Space Around the world Transport Maps	Fantasy Habitats Eater	Caring for our environment Plants Animals Morals	Magical worlds Narrative Growing Morals and ethics
Key texts	<i>The Colour Monster Goes to School</i>	<i>The Quiet Little Firework</i>	<i>Whatever Next</i>	<i>How to Spot a Dinosaur</i>	<i>How to grow a sunflower</i>	<i>The Gingerbread Man</i>
	<i>Incredible You</i>	<i>The Leaf Thief</i>	<i>Lost and Found</i>	<i>The Gruffalo</i>	<i>The Tortoise and the Hare</i>	<i>Jack and the Beanstalk</i>
	<i>Super Duper You</i>	<i>The Snow Thief</i>	<i>Billy The Pirate</i>	<i>We're Going on an Egg Hunt</i>	<i>Clean up</i>	<i>Goldilocks and the Three Bears</i>
	Binny's Diwali	The Christmas Story				
NURSERY RHYME FOCUS	Recap Nursery rhymes from Nursery Spring/ Summer term	Variations of songs from Nursery plan; - Twinkle, twinkle chocolate bar - Incy, wincy spider climbed up a tree - Baa, baa, blue sheep 5 little monkeys swinging from a tree	Counting songs: 1,2, buckle my shoe - Ten green bottles - Ten in the bed 10 fat sausages - This old man - One potato, two potato - Hickory, dickory, dock	Complex language: - Mary, Mary quite contrary. - Goosey, Goosey Gander - The big ship sails - Dr Foster went to Gloucester - The hokey cokey - I know an old lady who	Songs from other cultures/ other meaning: - Ring, a ring, of roses relates to the plague. - Oranges and lemons- bells of churches around London - London bridge is falling down - The animals went in two by two- - religious/ Noah's Ark	Thematic links: - When Goldilocks went to the house of the bears. - The Gingerbread man song - He'll be climbing up the beanstalk when he comes Songs from other cultures/



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				swallowed a fly • Here we go round the mulberry bush • Old Mother Hubbard • Hot cross buns- links to Easter		other meaning: • Frere Jacques- French origin also known as brother john- sung in a round. • Are you sleeping, Are you sleeping- Haitii Nursery rhyme. • Two tigers- Tiwan
ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES		Santa's Grotto at Peak wildlife Nativity		Twycross Zoo Owl Experience	Trentham Gardens Look after a pet tortoise	Teddy Bears Picnic



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COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE	Understand how to listen carefully and why listening is important		Understand how to listen carefully and why listening is important		Understand how to listen carefully and why listening is important (<i>linking listening with learning</i>)	Listen attentively and respond to what they hear with relevant questions, comments and actions when being read to and during whole class discussions and small group interactions.
	Learn new vocabulary and begin to use it through the day (<i>using various props to promote e.g. objects, pictures and photographs</i>)		Use new vocabulary independently in different contexts		Use new vocabulary independently (& <i>repeatedly</i>) in different contexts	Participate in small group, class and one-to-one discussions, offering their own ideas, using recently introduced vocabulary.
	Ask questions to find out more and to check they understand what has been said to them		Use talk to help work out problems and organise thinking and activities, and to explain how things work and why they might happen			Make comments about what they have heard and ask questions to clarify their understanding.
	Articulate their ideas and thoughts in well-formed sentences		Connect one idea or action to another using a range of connectives			Express their ideas and feelings about their experiences using full sentences, including use of past, present and future tenses and making use of conjunctions, with modelling and support from their teacher.
	Describe events in some detail		Talk about recent events significant to them in detail			
	Develop social phrases		<i>Use social phrases independently within daily school routine</i>		<i>Use social phrases independently when speaking with teachers and peers.</i>	Hold conversation when engaged in back-and-forth exchanges with their teacher and peers.
	Listen carefully to rhymes and songs, paying attention to how they sound		Learn rhymes, poems and songs (<i>with children knowing by heart using call & response</i>)		<i>Demonstrate a secure knowledge of a variety of rhymes, poems & songs, knowing by heart</i>	Offer explanations for why things might happen, making use of recently introduced vocabulary from stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems when appropriate.
	Engage in story times Listen to and talk about stories to build familiarity and understanding		Retell the story, once they have developed a deep familiarity with the text, some as exact repetition and some in their own words			
	Engage in non-fiction books (<i>containing photographs and pictures that will extend their knowledge of the world and illustrate a current topic</i>)		Listen to and talk about selected non-fiction to develop a deep familiarity with new knowledge and vocabulary			



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PERSONAL, SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT	See themselves as a valuable individual		See themselves as a valuable individual			Give focused attention to what the teacher says, responding appropriately even when engaged in activity, and show an ability to follow instructions involving several ideas or actions. Work and play cooperatively and take turns with others. Form positive attachments to adults and friendships with peers. Explain the reasons for rules, know right from wrong and try to behave accordingly.
	Build constructive and respectful relationships		Think about the perspectives of others		Think about the perspectives of others; <i>children can independently explain to others how they thought about a problem or an emotion and how they dealt with it</i>	
	Express their feelings and consider the feelings of others		Identify and moderate their own feelings socially and emotionally		Identify and moderate their own feelings socially and emotionally <i>using a range of strategies independently.</i>	Show an understanding of their own feelings and those of others, and begin to regulate their behaviour accordingly. Show sensitivity to their own and to others' needs.
	Show resilience and perseverance in the face of challenge		Show resilience and perseverance in the face of challenge, <i>developing problem-solving skills and recognising how mistakes are an important part of learning.</i>		Show resilience and perseverance in the face of challenge, <i>with children independently setting their own goals and talking about how to achieve them.</i>	Set and work towards simple goals, being able to wait for what they want and control their immediate impulses when appropriate. Be confident to try new activities and show independence, resilience and perseverance in the face of challenge.
	Manage their own needs (personal hygiene)					Manage their own basic hygiene and personal needs, including dressing, going to the toilet and understanding the importance of healthy food choices
	Talk about exercise, healthy eating and the importance of sleep		Know and talk about the different factors that support their overall health and wellbeing			



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PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT	Revise and refine the fundamental movement skills they have already acquired: Rolling Crawling Walking Jumping Running Hopping Skipping Climbing		Progress towards a more fluent style of moving, with developing control and grace.			Demonstrate strength, balance and coordination when playing. Move energetically, such as running, jumping, dancing, hopping, skipping and climbing
	Develop the overall body strength, co-ordination, balance and agility needed to engage successfully with future physical education sessions and other physical disciplines including dance, gymnastics, sport and swimming		Develop the overall body strength, co-ordination, balance and agility needed to engage successfully with future physical education sessions and other physical disciplines including dance, gymnastics, sport and swimming			
	Use their core muscle strength to achieve a good posture when sitting at a table or sitting on the floor.		Use their core muscle strength to achieve a good posture when sitting at a table or sitting on the floor.			
	Combine different movements with ease and fluency including movements that require quick changes of speed and direction		Combine a range of different movements with ease and fluency, encouraging precision and accuracy when beginning and ending movements.			
	Develop overall body-strength, balance, co-ordination and agility		Demonstrate overall body-strength, balance, co-ordination and agility in a range of sporting activities physical education sessions			
	Further develop and refine a range of ball skills including: throwing, catching, kicking, passing, batting, and aiming.		Develop confidence, competence, precision and accuracy when engaging in activities that involve a ball			Use a range of small tools, including scissors, paintbrushes and cutlery. Negotiate space and obstacles safely, with consideration for themselves and others.
	Develop their small motor skills so that they can use a range of tools competently, safely and confidently (Suggested tools: pencils for drawing and writing, paintbrushes, scissors, knives, forks and spoons)		Use a range of tools competently, safely and confidently			
	Begin to explore a range of large and small apparatus indoors and outside.		Confidently and safely use a range of large and small apparatus indoors and outside, alone and in a group			
	Further develop the skills they need to manage the school day successfully: • lining up and queuing mealtimes		Can independently demonstrate patience, turn-taking and self-control when lining up waiting and can explain some of the rules of lining up and queuing			



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	Develop the foundations of a handwriting style which is fast, accurate and efficient.	Demonstrate a correct handwriting style which includes tripod pencil grip, correct letter formation, including directionality	Demonstrate a correct handwriting style in which correct letter formation is automatic, efficient and fluent	Hold a pencil effectively in preparation for fluent writing - using the tripod grip in almost all cases. Begin to show accuracy and care when drawing.
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LITERACY	Read individual letters by saying the sounds for them		Spell words by identifying the sounds and then writing the sound with letter/s			Say a sound for each letter in the alphabet and at least 10 digraphs.
	Read some letter groups that each represent one sound and say sounds for them		Read a few common exception words matched to the school’s phonic programme (<i>Monster Phonics</i>) <i>Read familiar letter groups and some longer words made up of letter-sound correspondences they know: ‘rabbit’, ‘himself’, ‘jumping’.</i>			Read words consistent with their phonic knowledge by sound-blending. Read aloud simple sentences and books that are consistent with their phonic knowledge, including some common exception words.
	Blend sounds into words, so that they can read short words made up of known letter- sound correspondences		Read simple phrases and sentences made up of words with known letter-sound correspondences and, where necessary, a few exception words			Demonstrate understanding of what has been read to them by retelling stories and narratives using their own words and recently introduced vocabulary.
	Begin to explore read books with some short words or simple phrases.		Re-read these books to build up their confidence in word reading, their fluency and their understanding and enjoyment			Anticipate (where appropriate) key events in stories. Use and understand recently introduced vocabulary during discussions about stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems and during role play.
	Use a range of resources to practise forming lower-case and capital letters correctly e.g. finger mark-making, sand, paint etc using a memorable phrase for the starting point and direction		Begin to form lower-case and capital letters correctly		Form lower-case and capital letters correctly, <i>using appropriate size and position on the line</i>	Write recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed.
	Form words or complete sentences orally, use a range of resources to support, e.g. sound cards, magnetic letters etc.		Write short sentences with words with known sound-letter correspondences using a capital letter and full stop		Re-read what they have written to check that it makes sense	Spell words by identifying sounds in them and representing the sounds with a letter or letters. Write simple phrases and sentences that can be read by others.
SCHOOL PHONICS SCHEME	Monster Phonics					



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MATHEMATICS	Count objects, actions and sounds		Demonstrate rapid recall of numbers, counting groups of numbers correctly showing 1:1 correspondence.			Subitise (recognise quantities without counting) up to 5. Verbally count beyond 20, recognising the pattern of the counting system. Have a deep understanding of number to 10, including the composition of each number. Compare quantities up to 10 in different contexts, recognising when one quantity is greater than, less than or the same as the other Quantity`.
	Link the number symbol (numeral) with its cardinal number value		Understand the 'one more than/one less than' relationship between consecutive numbers			
	Subitise using a range of objects into five frames and then ten frames to begin to familiarise with the tens structure of the number system		Subitise <i>confidently using a range of resources</i>			
	Count confidently to 10		Count confidently beyond ten			
	Recognise, Write and Compare numbers 0 - 5		Recognise, Write and Compare numbers 6 - 10		Can begin to recognise, write and compare numbers beyond 10	
	Explore the composition of numbers to 5		Explore the composition of numbers to 10		Can confidently use a range of resources to demonstrate composition of numbers, focusing on partitioning and recombining sets	
	Automatically recall number bonds for numbers 0-5 and some to 10		Automatically recall number bonds for numbers 6 - 10 and some to 20		Demonstrate secure knowledge of number bonds for numbers 0 - 10, explaining partitioning and combining numbers in different contexts, and seeing subitising patterns	Automatically recall (without reference to rhymes, counting or other aids) number bonds up to 5 (including subtraction facts) and some number bonds to 10, including double facts.
	Explore a range of 2D & 3D shapes and can independently name some simple shapes and their features e.g. sides, corners		Compose and decompose shapes so that children recognise a shape can have other shapes within it, just as numbers can.		Select, rotate and manipulate shapes to develop spatial reasoning skills	Explore and represent patterns within numbers up to 10, including evens and odds, double facts and how quantities can be distributed
	Explore simple patterns in number and shapes using a range of practical resources.		Continue, copy and create repeating patterns using shapes and numbers including odds evens			



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Explore a range of practical resources for length, weight and capacity

Compare length, weight and capacity *in a variety of contexts*



equally.



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UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD	Talk about members of their immediate family and community		Talk about members of their immediate family and community			Talk about the lives of the people around them and their roles in society
	Name and describe people who are familiar to them					
	Comment on images of familiar situations in the past.		Compare and contrast characters from stories, including figures from the past			Know some similarities and differences between things in the past and now, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class. Understand the past through settings, characters and events encountered in books read in class and storytelling.
	Explore a range of maps and talk about why they are used		Draw information from a simple map		Use a simple map to independently identify familiar places within our local area	Describe their immediate environment using knowledge from observation, discussion, stories, non-fiction texts and maps.
	Understand that some places are special to members of their community		Can confidently name a variety of special places within our local area e.g. church, synagogue, mosque			Know some similarities and differences between different religious and cultural communities in this country, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class. Explain some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries, drawing on knowledge from stories, nonfiction texts and (when appropriate) maps. Know some similarities and differences between the natural world around them and contrasting environments, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class
	Recognise that people have different beliefs and celebrate special times in different ways		Can engage with religious and cultural communities and their practices e.g. Holi, Chinese New Year			
	Recognise some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries		Compare a range of countries from around the world and confidently talk about similarities differences			



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	Explore the natural world around them, describing what they see, hear and feel whilst outside	Understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them	<i>Confidently explain how we can care for the natural world around us, giving various examples</i>	
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	Recognise some environments that are different from the one in which they live	Identify contrasting environments within both children’s local and national region and talk about differences.		Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants. Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter.
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EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN	Explore, use and refine a variety of artistic effects to express their ideas and feelings					Safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function. Share their creations, explaining the process they have used.
	Return to and build on their previous learning, refining ideas and developing their ability to represent them					
	Create collaboratively, sharing ideas, resources and skills					
	Listen attentively, move to and talk about music, expressing their feelings and responses		<i>Listen to different kinds of music from across the globe, including traditional and folk music from Britain and talk about changes and patterns as a piece of music develops</i>			Sing a range of well-known nursery rhymes and song Perform songs, rhymes, poems and stories with others, and (when appropriate) try to move in time with music.
	Watch and talk about dance and performance art, expressing their feelings and responses					
	Sing in a group or on their own, increasingly matching the pitch and following the melody					
	Explore and engage in music making and dance, performing solo or in groups		<i>Can replicate choreographed dances and begin to choreograph their own dance moves.</i> <i>Can respond to changes in music through movement, pace etc</i> <i>Can tap rhythms to accompany words, keep a steady beat or make their own music with instruments and sound makers</i>			
	Develop storylines in their pretend play		<i>Can use a wide range of props for play, demonstrating imagination</i> <i>Can negotiate with peers, be patient and solve conflicts regarding roles in pretend play.</i>			Make use of props and materials when role playing characters in narratives and stories. Invent, adapt and recount narratives and stories with peers and their teacher.