

Reception Curriculum Overview 2026-27

Area of Learning	Autumn: <i>Who am I and where do I belong?</i>	Spring: <i>Where can journeys take us?</i>	Summer: <i>How do living things grow and change?</i>
Characteristics of Effective Learning	Playing and Exploring, Active Learning, Creative and Critical Thinking We want our children to become team workers, effective participators, independent enquirers, self- managers, creative thinkers, reflective learners.		
Big Questions	Who am I? Who are my friends? What makes my family special? Where is our school?	Where can journeys take us? What is a habitat? How is Taunton connected to the wider world?	How do plants, animals and people change? How do living things grow?
Spirituality Golden Thread	Me: What makes me unique?	Others: How can I show compassion?	World & Beyond: How can we care for God's world?
Vocabulary Focus	Belong, friend, celebrate, community, map, season, light, past	Journey, habitat, country, direction, compare, magnet, worship	Grow, life cycle, healthy, environment, change, observe

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Core Texts	Ruby's Worry, Meesha Makes Friends, All Are Welcome, The Gingerbread Man, The Jolly Postman	Handa's Surprise, Jonty Gentoo, We're Going on a Bear Hunt, The Great Race, Where the Wild Things Are	Jack and the Beanstalk, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Superworm, Oliver's Vegetables
Experiences	School tour, local walk around Taunton, visitor to school, Diwali celebration, Nativity	Pizza Express visit, map-making, train journey study, habitat exploration, Easter experience	Planting beans, shopping trip, cooking, mini-beast hunt, beach exploration
PSED	Building relationships, classroom routines, belonging, managing feelings, friendship	Resilience, independence, responsibility, keeping safe in the community	Transition, confidence, wellbeing, healthy choices, celebrating achievements
Communication & Language	Listening and attention, vocabulary development, talking about self and experiences	Asking questions, explaining ideas, presenting to others	Reasoning, discussing observations, reflecting and explaining
Physical Development	Fine motor foundations, Dough Disco, gross motor control, independence	Balance, coordination, cutting, handwriting foundations	Fluent letter formation, precision, sports skills, healthy lifestyles

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Literacy	Phase 1 and 2 phonics, mark making, story retelling, book behaviours	Phase 3 phonics, sentence building, story mapping, fiction/non-fiction	Reading fluently, writing sentences, independent application of phonics
Mathematics	Numbers to 5, sorting, matching, pattern, shape	Numbers to 10, composition, number bonds, doubling, positional language	Deep understanding of number, comparison, measures, patterns and reasoning
Understanding the World	Geography: School and Taunton History: My past and family Science: Light, dark, materials, seasons RE: Celebrations and belonging, special things Computing: Online safety and technology	Geography: Journeys, maps, England and the wider world History: Changes over time and historical stories Science: Weather, habitats, magnets, materials RE: Communities and beliefs, special stories and celebrations Computing: Programming and technology	Geography: Comparing places and environments History: Growing and change over time Science: Plants, animals, life cycles, seasonal change RE: Caring for creation, Why is God important? Computing: Using technology purposefully
Expressive Arts & Design	Exploring materials, colour, music, role play and storytelling	Design, construction, printing, singing and performance	Observational drawing, sculpture, creative projects, performance and evaluation

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Diversity and Inclusion	Diverse families, different cultures and faiths, anti-racist texts, inclusive role models is embedded in everything we do over the year.		
