

CURRICULUM LETTER

Reception - Autumn 2



Ted Wragg
TRUST

Exwick Heights Primary School

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Tuesday 11th November 2025

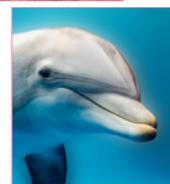
Dear Parents/Carers of Exwick Heights Primary School Reception pupils,

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term, we will be exploring the theme: '**Celebrating Difference**'. Through a range of adult-led and child-initiated activities, we will think about something we are good at and recognise that everyone is good at different things; we will understand that we have similarities but being different is what makes us special/unique. We will also talk about how to make new friends and learn how to stand up for ourselves when someone does or says something unkind.

Supporting learning at home: when talking about things that your child is good at, also talk to them about what you and other members of the family are good at and why, so that your child gets a wider sense of different achievements.

Reinforce the learning that we can say, "Please don't do that, I don't like it," to someone if they do or say something that they don't like.



In **Communication, Language and Literacy**, we will continue to develop our early reading and phonics skills. Specifically, we will be learning:

- the grapheme/phoneme correspondences (- these are how the letters and sounds match): *ff ll ss j / v w x y / z zz qu ch / sh th ng nk* – and know that 2 letters can make 1 sound (- we call this a digraph)
- to read words with: *s /s/* added at the end (*hats sits*), *s /z/* (*his*), and *s /z/* added at the end (*bags*)
- to read the tricky words: *put, pull, full, as / and, has, his, her / go, no, to, into / she, push, he, of / we, me, be.*

We will continue to practise reading daily in our phonics lessons, as well as during designated reading practice sessions, when we will read decodable texts. We will further develop a love of reading through daily story times and learning activities linked to the following key texts: 'Mr Norton's New Hat' by Huw Lewis Jones, 'A Christmas Story' by Brian Wildsmith, and 'How does Santa go down the chimney?' by Mac Barnett.

During writing activities, we will focus on applying our developing phonic knowledge when writing words and on practising correct letter formation, including our names.

Supporting learning at home: please continue to take every opportunity to share books and read with your child, as it makes a huge and positive difference to their learning and development.



REACH THE HEIGHTS

Mathematics

We will begin this term by learning to identify, name and compare circles and triangles; we will explore shapes in the environment and describe position. Following this, will further develop our mastery of numbers with a particular focus on 4 and 5. Specifically, we will practise subitising (- instantly recognising small quantities); representing the numbers 4 and 5; finding 1 more/less than a given number; and learn that all numbers are made up of smaller numbers. Finally, we will return to shape when we will be learning to identify, name and combine shapes with 4 sides.

Supporting learning at home: support your child to notice shapes in the environment. Sing number rhymes together e.g. 1,2,3,4,5 once I caught a fish alive; Five Little Speckled frogs, 1,2, Buckle my shoe - perhaps include props to enable your child to act the rhymes out. Doodle Maths will be set weekly to support key learning in Mathematics.

Physical Development

As part of daily continuous and enhanced provision, children will have a broad range of opportunities, indoors and out, to develop their fine and gross motor skills.

During adult led sessions, we will focus on **body management**. Specifically, we will explore balance and managing our own bodies; we will stretch, reach, extend in a variety of ways and positions, as well as control our bodies to perform specific movements. When learning about **speed agility travel** – we will learn to travel with some control and coordination; change direction at speed through both choice and instructions; perform actions demonstrating changes in speed; as well as stop, start, pause, prepare for and anticipate movement in a variety of situations.

Supporting learning at home: please plan time to share active and/or outdoor play with your child. This might include: messy play, jumping, walking, dancing, swimming, climbing, skipping, games such as hide and seek, throwing and catching, scooting, riding a trike/bike and other outdoor activities.



This half term, our themes will provide the springboard for learning in **'Understanding the World'**. We will begin by learning about how to take care of ourselves, as well as 'people who help us'. Next, we will explore why Christmas is special for Christians (- this will link to our Nativity performance) and recognise that people have different beliefs. Finally this term, we will look at toys past and present.

Expressive Arts and Design

A variety of creative activities will provide opportunities to engage with the arts, enabling exploration and play with a wide range of media and materials. In **design and technology**, we will focus on modelling with reclaimed materials, using different tools. Specifically, we will develop our scissor skills whilst cutting different materials and explore different ways to temporarily join materials together. We will also learn how to plan and select the correct resources needed to make a model. In **music**, we will learn about traditional music in different parts of the world; we will also be learning a variety of songs, which we will sing together for our Nativity performance.

Home Learning: All 'core' home learning and reading records will be checked on a Friday, with time scheduled in the day to share and celebrate any 'Curiosity' tasks completed. If you would like to email anything to share in this session, please use the admin@exwickheights.devon.sch.uk address.

Christmas here we come! We will be in touch soon with more information about the festivities planned for the Christmas season.

If you have any questions about your child's learning, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher directly or email admin@exwickheights.devon.sch.uk; your query will be passed to them. If you have any concerns or want to bring something to our attention, please do contact Miss Bradbury.

Miss N. Wood and Miss L. Bradbury
Picasso

Mrs S. Benham and Mrs L. Johnson
O'Keeffe

