

# CURRICULUM LETTER

Reception - Autumn 1



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TRUST

## Exwick Heights Primary School

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Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Parents / Carers of Exwick Heights Reception pupils,

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This half term, we will be exploring the theme: 'Being Me in My World'. Through a range of adult-led and child-initiated activities, we will explore what it means to belong and think about the ways in which we are similar and different. We will develop the skills needed to recognise and manage our own feelings, and develop our understanding of how we can work with others to make school a good place to be. We will learn about what being responsible means, with a focus on kindness and using gentle hands. We will begin to understand our rights as children to learn and play.

**Supporting learning at home:** Talk to your child about the feelings they experience and what makes them feel a certain way. Notice and comment on things your child does that show kindness; encourage them to help by giving them a 'job' e.g. tidying away toys, feeding the pet, laying the table, etc..



**Communication and Language:** we will be developing our love of books through various stories, non-fiction and poetry linked to our themes. We will immerse ourselves in key texts, including: 'When a Dragon Goes to School', 'Small's Big Dream', 'Tidy' and 'The Little Red Hen', through which we will be learning new vocabulary. We will also enjoy a wide range of other recommended stories during daily story times.

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



### Physical Development

**Gymnastics:** we will develop confidence in fundamental movement, experience jumping, sliding, rolling, moving over and under apparatus; and develop coordination and gross motor skills.

**Dance:** we will recognise that actions can be performed to music and will enjoy copying, repeating and performing some basic actions to music.

**Supporting learning at home:** please plan time to share active and/or outdoor play with your child. This might include: jumping, walking, dancing, swimming, climbing, skipping, games such as hide and seek, throwing and catching, scooting, riding a trike/bike and other outdoor activities. All of these will enable your child to enhance and develop their fundamental movement skills.



REACH THE HEIGHTS



In **Literacy**, we will begin our phonics and early reading sessions. Specifically, we will be learning within Phase 2 of the Little Wandle programme - this will cover the letter-sounds (or GPCs) for: *s a t p i n m d g o c k c k e u r h b f l*, as well as the tricky words *is, I* and *the*. Initially, we will read wordless books to establish reading behaviours, book talk and to grow our vocabulary. Writing activities will focus on the correct formation of the letters introduced during phonics. **Supporting learning at home:** *please support your child by sharing their Little Wandle book with them for at least 15 minutes every day. Your child should bring in their Reading Record (with a minimum of three entries) every Friday as part of our Read to Succeed ticket reward. Please also support them to practise writing their name and ensure they form their letters correctly (using the name card provided in July as a model).*

In **Mathematics**, we will be matching and sorting objects, creating sorting rules and comparing amounts. We will investigate different sizes, masses and capacities and will explore, copy, continue and create simple patterns. Our number work will focus on 1 2 3! We will find and represent 1, 2 and 3 in different ways, think about the different ways in which 1, 2 and 3 can be made up and explore 1 more and 1 less.

**Supporting learning at home:** *Please continue to take every opportunity to practise counting at home. Enjoy water play in the bath or at the sink to compare containers that hold different amounts and enjoy continuing and making patterns from toys or everyday objects around the house. After half term, Doodle Maths will be set weekly to support key learning in Mathematics.*



This half term, as part of **Understanding the World**, we will begin by familiarising ourselves with the school environment and community. Following this, we will explore the natural world, describing what we see, hear and feel whilst outside during the autumn months. And finally, we will learn about Harvest time, including how and why this special time is celebrated. **Supporting learning at home:** *Talk to your child about your school days; perhaps grandparents could share their experiences too, with a focus on comparing school days past and present. Enjoy some autumn walks and making collections of autumnal 'treasures'.*

In **Expressive Arts and Design**, we will have varied opportunities to explore mark making and patterns, using a variety of resources, including wax crayons, felt tips, chalk and pencils. We will have a go at observational drawing and create our own self portraits.



In music, we will be using our voices and our bodies to make a variety of sounds. We will explore the sounds of different instruments and will have a go at identifying sounds in the environment. We will also be doing lots and lots of singing!

**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](mailto:admin@exwickheights.devon.sch.uk) address.

We can't wait to begin our Reception journey together and look forward to working with you! 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](mailto: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.

Yours sincerely,  
Miss N. Wood and Miss L. Bradbury  
Picasso

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