

CURRICULUM LETTER

Reception - Spring 1



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Exwick Heights Primary School

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Tuesday 6th January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers of Exwick Heights Primary School Reception pupils,
Happy New Year! We have a very busy half term ahead!

Our **Personal, Social and Emotional development** this half term will be focusing on the theme: 'Dreams and Goals'. Through our adult-led sessions, we will be learning to understand that perseverance helps when tackling challenges and trying to achieve a goal; to set a goal, work towards it and identify how we feel upon achieving our goals; and to use kind words to encourage others. We will also begin to understand the link between learning now, and jobs we might like to do when older.

Supporting your child at home: identify something that your child finds tricky to do and set the challenge of overcoming it e.g. fastening buttons or zips on clothes.



In **Communication, Language and Literacy**, we will continue to learn to read through early reading and phonics sessions. Specifically, we will be learning within Phase 3 of the Little Wandle programme. Each week, we will learn new GPCs ('Grapheme-Phoneme Correspondences' - how the letters and the sounds match), as well as new tricky words:

Week 1: GPCs – ai, ee, igh, oa (tricky words – is, as, the, I, put, pull, full)

Week 2: GPCs – oo, (moon) oo, (book) ar, or (tricky words – was, you, they)

Week 3: GPCs – ur, ow, oi, ear (tricky words – my, by, all)

Week 4: GPCs- air, er and double letters dd, mm, tt, bb, rr, gg, dd, pp, ff, tt (tricky words – are, sure, pure)

Week 5: longer words e.g. rabbit, chicken, carpet (tricky words – are, sure, pure, into, she, push, he, we, me, be, of)

We will further develop a love of reading through daily story times and learning activities linked to key texts. As our phonic knowledge develops, we will also spend more time on writing activities. Information about the phonics your child is learning will also be included in their weekly home learning; please encourage your child to practise this.

Supporting your child at home: please focus on reading at home. Each week, your child will bring home:

- a reading practice book. This will be at the correct phonic stage for your child. They should be able to read this fluently and independently.
- a sharing book. Your child will not be able to read this on their own. This book is for you both to read and enjoy together.



In **Mathematics**, we will begin by focusing on numbers 0-5, including finding a number of objects, recognising small quantities without counting, representing these numbers and their composition. We will then grow our knowledge further by focusing on numbers 6, 7 and 8. Also this term, we will begin to explore mass and capacity.

Supporting your child at home: play board games that use dice to support your child in recognising small quantities without counting (ref. the dots on the dice).



REACH THE HEIGHTS

In **Physical Development** sessions, we will begin by focusing on manipulation & coordination, learning to send and receive a variety of objects with different body parts; work with others to control objects in a space; and coordinate body parts in a variety of activities and in different ways.

We will then focus on cooperation and solving problems, learning to organise and match items, images, colours and symbols; work with a partner to listen, share ideas and question; and collect, distinguish and differentiate colours and create a shape as a team.



In **Understanding the World**, we will begin by learning about the season of winter and observe its effect on the natural world. We will then learn about homes, past and present; and finally, we will explore the Chinese New Year celebration.



In **Expressive Arts and Design**, we will be focusing on **art and design** using paint and mixed media. In particular, we will be learning to describe the texture and colours as we paint through finger painting; to respond to music through the medium of paint; use paint to express ideas and feelings; make collages using mixed media, including landscapes inspired by the work of Megan Coyle; and use loose parts to create a piece of transient art.

We will also be focusing on **music and movement**, through which we will learn how feelings and emotions can be expressed.

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.

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 M. Woolner and Miss L. Bradbury
Picasso

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