



Reception Newsletter

Autumn Term 1 2026/27



Welcome to Reception! We hope that you all have a wonderful, well-earned Summer break! We will be sending topic newsletters each half term to keep you up to date with our learning and give you ideas for how you can support your child at home. Please remember, these are just suggestions.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The Reception Team:	
Rainbow	Olivia and Diana
Sunshine	Stacey and Nekay

Our topic this half term is **All About Me.**

We will be focusing on getting to know each other and exploring what makes us special. We will talk about our likes and dislikes, what celebrations and festivals we celebrate, and our families. During the afternoons of **weeks beginning the 21st September and 28th September**, we would like to invite parents into class to share information about their cultural background, heritage, and traditions. This could include bringing in traditional clothing, decorations or sharing songs and books you may have. Please talk to your child's teacher if you would like to take part.

We will also be learning about the roles within our community. If any parents are in community-based jobs, such as emergency services, librarians, shop workers, hospitality workers, etc please can you let the class teacher know as we would love to invite you into class to share your role with the children during the weeks commencing the **5th October and the 12th October.**

<u>Key Words</u>	<u>Books to read at home</u>
- Celebration - Birthday - Facial Features - Past - Now - Memories - Festival - Similar / Different	- Zaza's Baby Brother - It's OK to be different - Be You - Super Duper You - All Kinds of People - The Same But Different Too - Families Families Families - Sharing A Shell
<u>Ideas to try at home</u>	
- Have a look at a family photo album (or make one if you don't have one already). Talk about the different members of your family. - Use a mirror to draw self-portraits.	



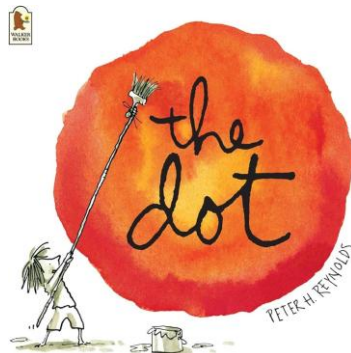
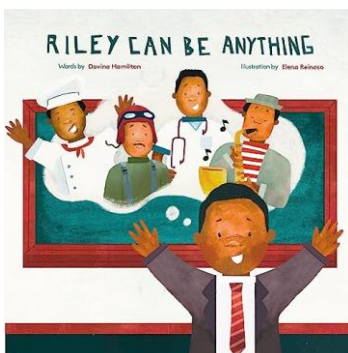
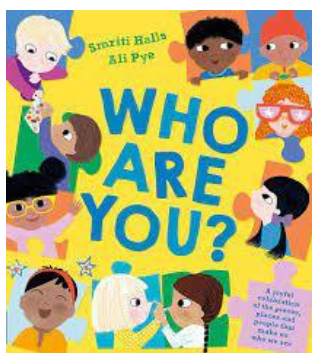
- Design and write a card for a family member's upcoming birthday (or a different celebration / festival).



Literacy - This half term, we will be reading a variety of texts, including *Zaza's Baby Brother*, *Who Are You? Riley Can Be Anything* and *The Dot*.

Our activities will include writing gift tag labels, designing invitations and playing party games.

There will be a particular focus on writing our names. To support your child, give them plenty of opportunities to find and recognise their name at home, as well as practise writing their names (*with one capital letter followed by lowercase letters*).



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Phonics – In phonics, the children will be learning the SATPIN sounds. Whilst it is important that children learn to recognise these sounds, our main focus for the half term will be ensuring the children are able to blend sounds together.

When word reading, we will teach the children to say each sound individually and then blend those sounds together to say the word. To help children with this, we use a strategy in school called 'Duck Hands'. Encourage them to use this at home.

Please attend our Phonics Workshop on Tuesday 22nd September if you would like to learn more about how we teach phonics.

Duck Hands



Can you use your duck hands
and eat your sounds?
What do you think the word is?
Don't forget to use your eagle
eye first as this can help you
spot those tricky digraphs and
trigraphs!

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Reading – One of the most effective ways you can support your child with their academic progress and development, is through reading together regularly. Your child will receive a book from school which they should look after, and bring into school each day.

Children should be reading at home with an adult every day.





We will start off the term sending home 'sharing books' for you to read with your child at home. Once children start learning phonics, they will begin reading banded books which are phonetically levelled. Your child should be reading these books to you every day, starting with recognising the sounds on the front inside page.

Please sign your child's reading record each day to show they are reading regularly and so they can earn rewards in school. Please note, there is a £5 charge for lost books.

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Maths - This half term we will be matching and sorting objects, exploring patterns, and mastering numbers 1 – 3 (including how each of those numbers are composed).

You can support your child at home by:

- Matching games such as snap
- Go on a leaf hunt and then sort those leaves into groups. Can you sort them by colour? Shape? Size?
- Place one, two or three objects in a bag. Ask your child to feel how many there are. Can they count without looking?

We hope you can join us at our parents' workshop on Wednesday 22nd October to learn more about Maths at Bessemer.

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Physical Development - Children in Reception are always on the move, both indoors and outdoors. Please make sure they wear comfortable shoes that they can run around and climb in every day. We will not be starting P.E until Spring Term.

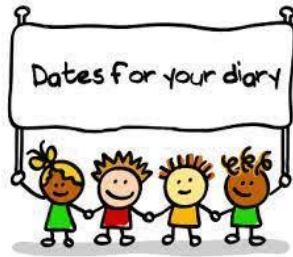
As we spend a lot of time outdoors in our lovely playground, please ensure your child brings a coat to school. We also visit the nature garden every week, please provide your child with a pair of wellie boots. We recommend you leave these in a bag on their pegs so they can use them whenever needed.

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Other information

- Please ensure all your child's belongings are labelled (especially jumpers! An unlabelled jumper can sometimes be impossible to find!)
- Please ensure your child brings a coat and wellies.
- Each child will be given a reading folder with your child's current reading book and their yellow reading diary. These should be brought into school every day.

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Tuesday 22rd September- Phonics and reading workshop at 9:15 in the hall.

Wednesday 21st October- Maths workshop at 9:15 in the hall

WB Monday 21st and 28th September- Parent talks about traditions

WB Monday 5th and 12th October Parent talks about their roles within the
community

Thursday 12th November- Celebration Day