



Welcome to Reception Spring 2 Newsletter 2025

Happy New Year! The children have returned to school rested and refreshed after a well needed break. Thank you for all your support throughout your child's first term at school. We are excited for the second half of the Spring Term, we can't believe we are now half way through the year.



A huge thank you!

We wanted to say thank you for all the support you are giving your child in helping them to become the very best versions of themselves. They are all AMAZING.



Priory Rise Curriculum Goals

As a school we have created our own curriculum within the EYFS, which details children working towards ambitious outcomes we intend for them to achieve. We have designed curriculum goal characters for each one. Details of the goals and the characters can be found in the attachment with this newsletter and on our website page. If you have any questions about these aspirations for your child, please get in touch with us.

Our Curriculum

Here you will be able to find out the details about what your child will be learning week by week. We have included the books and songs we will focus on. If you have any questions, please ask.

Week 1 – Maps

- ☺ Exploring a range of maps and their intended purposes.
- ☺ Understanding what a key is. Who might use one?
- ☺ Drawing a map of a familiar route and one from a well-known story.
- ☺ Phonics – Review Phase 3 /ai/ee/igh/oa/oo/ar/or/ur/oo/ow/oi/ear/. Tricky Words - all words taught so far.
- ☺ Writing rhyming words in a 3 and 4 word sentence.
- ☺ Reading *The Snail and the Whale*, *We're Going a Bear Hunt*, *What the Ladybird Heard*.
- ☺ Song of the week - [Head Shoulders Knees and Toes](#)



Week 2 - Rhyme

- ☺ Develop an understanding of rhyme.
- ☺ Matching rhyming words and continuing a rhyming string.
- ☺ Phonics –/er/air/. Words with double letters longer words. Tricky Words - all taught so far.
- ☺ Hearing and writing sounds in the correct sequence and applying Phase 2 and 3 knowledge.
- ☺ Writing rhyming words in a 3 and 4 word sentence.
- ☺ Reading – *Room on the Broom* by Julia Donaldson
- ☺ Songs of the week – [See the Little Bunnies Sleeping](#)



Week 3 - Science Week – Change and Adapt

- ☺ Understanding changes and adaptations within the world in which they live.
- ☺ Phonics – words with 2 or more digraphs and becoming confident to use these independently.
- ☺ Writing with growing confidence 3 and 4 word sentences to continue to develop an understanding of using spaces between words.
- ☺ Reading – Space Tortoise by Ross Montgomery
- ☺ Song of the week - [Miss Molly had a Dolly](#)

Week 4 - The Hungry Caterpillar

- ☺ Sequencing events from the story.
- ☺ Sorting food into healthy and less healthy choices.
- ☺ Retelling the story.
- ☺ Phonics – longer words, words ending in /ing/ and compound words.
- ☺ Reading - The Life Cycle of a Butterfly.
- ☺ Writing 2 stages in the life cycle of a butterfly. Using segmenting skills to hear and write, making phonetically plausible attempts.
- ☺ Song of the week - [Old Macdonald had a Farm](#)

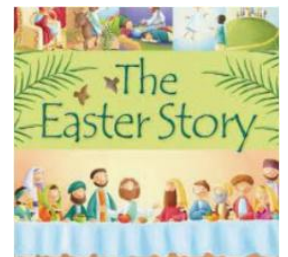
Week 5 - Ducks

- ☺ Understand transition from egg to duck and the various stages of growth.
- ☺ Explore how chicks hatch and describe the changes they go through until a grown duck.
- ☺ Observing the ducks growing in the incubator.
- ☺ Phonics – longer words, words with /s/ in the middle, words ending _s and words with /es/ at the end.
- ☺ Writing about 2 of the stages of the life cycle of a duck. Using digraphs in words. Reinforcing capital letters and full stops.
- ☺ Reading - Chicks information text and the Little Red Hen.
- ☺ Song of the week - [Goosey Goosey](#)



Week 6 - Easter

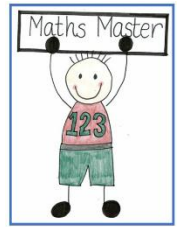
- ☺ Sequencing a story in pictures through discussion with a partner.
- ☺ Retell the story using pictures to support the sequence.
- ☺ Explaining how we celebrate festivals at home.
- ☺ Melting chocolate to make crispy nests by following a set of instructions.
- ☺ Phonics – Review and assess.
- ☺ Writing a set of instructions and using numbers to order the sequence.
- ☺ Reading - The Easter Story and Mr Men - The Easter Egg Hunt
- ☺ Song of the week – class Sing Off competition song



Numbers & Patterns

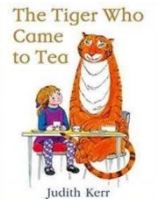
- ☺ Week 1 – Good working knowledge of numbers from 0-10, how to represent/record values/amounts and number bonds to 5.
- ☺ Week 2 – Good working knowledge of and name common 3D shapes, manipulate and rotate them to talk about and understand their properties. To recognise a repeating pattern, spot a mistake in a pattern so it repeats and generate patterns of own design
- ☺ Week 3 - Good working knowledge of numbers 0-10, comparing amounts, with focus on 'fewer than' using various representations, and addition.

- ☺ Week 4 – To develop a deeper understanding of the composition of numbers beyond 10. To develop an understanding of how quantities can be changed by adding more. To learn to re-count all the items to see how many there is altogether and when ready count on.
- ☺ Week 5 – Develop an understanding of combining numbers to find totals. To continue to develop a deeper understanding of the composition of numbers beyond 10. To develop an understanding of how quantities can be changed by adding more. To learn to re-count all the items to see how many there is altogether and when ready count on.
- ☺ Week 6 - To continue to develop a deeper understanding of the composition of numbers beyond 10. To develop an understanding of how quantities can be changed by adding more. To learn to re-count all the items to see how many there is altogether and when ready count on.



Art – Tigers

- ☺ Using the story 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea by Judith Kerr' as a stimulus.
- ☺ Developing an understanding of a range of brush strokes, collage to create affects and their noticing skills.
- ☺ Producing a tiger showstopper.



PSHE through our whole school programme - Jigsaw

- ☺ Our theme this half term across the school is 'Healthy Me'.
- ☺ Meditation, looking after own wellbeing and calming strategies.
- ☺ Understanding what it means to be kind and use gentle hands.
- ☺ Showing kindness to others.
- ☺ Understanding that sometimes it is ok to feel angry and say how I can deal with this.



Music

- ☺ Introduce themselves, say and sing their name confidently.
- ☺ Tap and play a steady pulse.
- ☺ Sing simple tunes by call and response.
- ☺ Play the rhythm of their name.
- ☺ To recall names of instruments.
- ☺ To play the rhythm of the words and the pulse with increasing accuracy.
- ☺ To be able to play long and short sounds.



PE – Ball skills

- ☺ Confidently and safely use a range of large and small apparatus indoors and outside, alone and in a group.
- ☺ Develop overall body-strength, balance, co-ordination and agility.
- ☺ Moving in different ways to music.
- ☺ Managing a large open space outside.



Ducklings

We are 'eggsited' to announce we will be hosting hatching ducklings. The children will have the opportunity to observe the hatching process, feed and care for them, teach them to swim and even handle the ducklings, if they wish. They will arrive at school on 27th February, staying for 2 weeks. We are quackers about this!

Uniform

Please ensure all your child's uniform is clearly labelled and uniform in being worn as outlined in our school uniform policy, including appropriate school shoes, PE kit is included in this too. In addition, please can we ask that children are not sent in with lace up shoes until they are able to tie them independently. Any unclaimed and unnamed uniform will be left in the lost property cupboard which can be accessed via the main office. Thank you for your support with this.

Parent/Teacher Consultations

We are delighted to be welcoming parents into school to share updates on your child's development. Appointments will be available to book via Arbor, so keep a look out for this. Each child will have a ten-minute slot for you to select, these dates are...

Tuesday 4th March 3.30-7pm

Thursday 6th March 3.30-5.30pm

We look forward to seeing you then.

Purple Mash

To support our Computing curriculum across the school we use the brilliant Purple Mash. There is an Early Years section of this called Mini Mash. Your child will bring home their login details for this on a little card – look out for this. You will be able to login at home and complete the activities in Mini Mash. We will pin to the Mini Mash classroom any specific activities that link to our topic for the week.

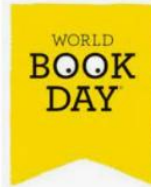


Ideas for Home

Lots of you asked us for ways you can support your child at home. Please check out the attached booklets for Early Reading and Numbers & Patterns for ideas, websites, songs and Apps that you could try at home. Please remember the most important thing is reading with your child. Our favourite Apps are Teach Your Monster to Read and White Rose 1 Minute Maths. Below are some book reviews, favourites from our teachers that you might enjoy reading at home.

World Book Day

Thursday 6th March is World Book Day which we will celebrate across the school. This year we are saying that children can dress up as a book character if they should choose, or wear school uniform as usual – it is up to you! If your child would like to share a favourite book it could be brought into school or shared via Tapestry.



Science Week

The week beginning 6th March we will be focusing on National Science across the school.



The theme this year is 'change and adapt'.

Reading

Don't forget to get your child's reading book changed weekly. Children can put their reading books with their red books in the box outside the classroom daily. The class teacher will change it during the day. Please note the titles of the books your child has read in their red book so we can ensure they get a different one. Reading with your child for 10-20 mins as often as possible, ideally daily, has such a big impact on their reading and writing skills and development, as well as their vocabulary. Children who read often tend to be the most successful. Bedtime stories can be a great way to interest your child in reading.

Wednesday Assembly and Rising Stars

The Reception children will continue to attend assembly on a Wednesday afternoon. We have been very impressed with how the children sit and pay attention. Most Wednesday assemblies will include Rising Stars.

Each week 2 pupils from every class are awarded a certificate for outstanding learning or behaviour. The assemblies will have a focus on our monthly school value, festivals from around the world and current affairs. School Values: March – Tolerance, April – Patience, May – Generosity.

Keeping in touch

If there are any issues for discussion - please see your child's teacher at drop off or pick up or send us an email on Reception@pr5d.com. Please note that when we are teaching the email address may not be checked until the end of the day. If you have a matter that needs addressing before the end of the day, it would be best to contact us through the office.

Priory Rise Facebook

Did you know Priory Rise School is on Facebook? There is a page that you can request to join to keep up with the latest events and news of what is happening at Priory Rise. There are some wonderful photos of children participating in events in and out of school. To join – search for the Priory Rise School then click follow. Children who do not have photo permissions will not be included in photos on this social media

Our Book Reviews this half term

Mrs Woods recommends Double Dave by Sue Hendra

Dave wakes up to find someone else sleeping in his bed! It is orange just like Dave. It is big just like Dave. But it isn't Dave! Who could it be? From the bestselling creators of Barry the Fish with Fingers and How to Babysit a Grandad, comes another hilarious tale that is guaranteed to make young connoisseurs of toilet humour very happy.



Mrs Benham-Smith recommends The Whale Who Wanted More by Rachel Bright

A stunning undersea tale of friendship, community and discovery.

Under glittering waves of a vast ocean blue, a beautiful world is hidden from view. And there, in the cool and the quiet of the deep, a great, gentle giant was stirring from sleep.

Humphrey the whale is on a quest: to find the one perfect object that will make him feel complete. He roams far and wide, gathering endless undersea treasure as he goes. Yet, no matter how many goodies he accumulates, Humphrey still doesn't feel content. Could it be friendship, not possessions, that will really make Humphrey's heart sing?



A sparkling rhyming tale that encourages sharing and kindness, this heartwarming story of friendship is perfect for reading aloud.

Miss Leaney recommends Bears Love Squares by Caryl Hart

Triangles are tremendous, circles are sensational, but Bear loves squares ... Squares are nice and even. Their corners are just so. Squares are always just the same, any way they go. Can Raccoon convince his friend Bear that other shapes can be fun too? He's got his work cut out because "triangles are too pointy" and "circles are too circley" and Bear loves SQUARES! A wonderfully colourful celebration of shapes, friendship and the power of seeing things from a different perspective. I hope you enjoy!



Miss Miss Giles recommends Oi Frog! by Kes Gray

Oi Frog! Cat is determined to teach Frog exactly where everyone is supposed to sit. It's not about being comfortable (Lion sat on an iron can attest to that!) it's about doing what's right. Frog is less convinced. And what sits on frogs?



I love reading this story to Fireflies it is a fun rhyming book which draws you in with Cat's unwavering conviction of the rightful place each animal should sit and Frog always questioning. The rhymes are perfect and easy for children to follow, but it's the illustrations that will make you belly laugh. This is a book you will want to read over and over again.

Routines

- ☺ Each class will visit the library for a regular session every week. Your child will be able to borrow a book, bring it home and return it the following week. Non return of books will incur a charge so please ensure you look after it.
- ☺ Library days: Beetles – Mondays, Honeybees – Mondays and Fireflies – Tuesdays.
- ☺ Music in the music room with Mrs. Horwood on Wednesday mornings.
- ☺ PE Sessions with Mr Elkington and Mr Smyth on Thursday and Friday mornings – children come to school dressed in PE kit.
- ☺ All PPA (teacher time for planning, preparation and assessment) sessions will be covered by our amazing HLTA Miss Smith. Miss Leaney will take PPA on Thursday, Mrs. Woods will take PPA on Wednesday and alternating Monday mornings and Miss Giles on Friday mornings.

Staffing

- ☺ Beetles: Mrs Woods (Reception & Nursery leader) & Mrs Wright (teaching assistant)
- ☺ Fireflies: Miss Giles (class teacher) & Ms Tyrrell (teaching assistant)
- ☺ Honeybees: Miss Leaney (class teacher) & Mrs Lawrence (teaching assistant)
- ☺ Our HLTA Miss Smith will teach across all 3 classes.