



Reception Newsletter – Autumn 1

Welcome

Welcome to Corby Primary Academy! We are delighted to welcome you and your child as they begin their very first year of school in Reception. Starting school is a wonderful milestone, filled with excitement, discovery and new friendships, and we feel privileged to be part of this special journey. Our caring and dedicated team is looking forward to getting to know your child, helping them settle in, grow in confidence and develop a love of learning in a happy, safe and nurturing environment. We can't wait to meet you all and begin this exciting adventure together. Here's a little taste of what we will be exploring this half term...

Phonics and Reading

Phonics

In phonics, we will be starting to learn our first few sounds.

Week 1 s a t p

Week 2 i n m d

Week 3 g o c k

Week 4 c k e u r

Week 5 h b f l

We will learn the tricky words I, the, and is.

The children will start to bring a reading book home a few weeks into the term, once they have begun to establish some phonic skills. It is likely that the first few books will not contain any words and are designed for the children to create their own stories from the pictures.

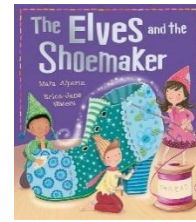
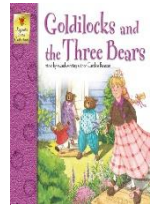
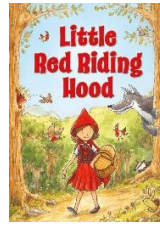
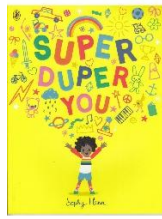
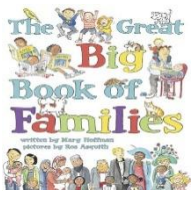
Literacy

In Literacy, we will develop the children's speaking and listening skills through storytelling, role play, puppets and imaginative play. As the term progresses, the children will begin to identify and write the first sounds in words, as well as practise writing their names. We will also share lots of familiar stories and encourage children to talk about and choose their favourite books.

Some of the texts we will enjoy this term include *Super Duper Me!*, which celebrates what makes us unique, and *The Big Book of Families*, which explores the many different families and communities around us. We will also read traditional tales such as *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* and *The Elves and the Shoemaker*, alongside other well-loved stories.

During the first few weeks, we will carry out a range of observations and assessments to help us get to know each child and understand their starting points. This information helps us plan learning that meets their individual needs and ensures we can provide the best possible start to their Reception journey.





Maths

In Mastering Number, we will be exploring numbers to 5, to build on their understanding from nursery and home. This includes subitising (saying how many objects are in a group without needing to count them) and developing our number sense.



We will also be exploring measures and patterns throughout the half term.

Communication and Language

This term, we will develop the children's listening and attention skills through a range of fun activities, including play, songs, stories and rhymes. They will learn the importance of listening carefully and following simple instructions, helping them to become confident and independent learners. Children will be introduced to lots of new vocabulary through their learning and everyday experiences in school, and will have plenty of opportunities to share their ideas, ask questions and develop their confidence when speaking with others.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The first few weeks, we will introduce the rules and routines of the class and school which will be ongoing throughout the term. We will be encouraging the children to make new friends and promote positive behaviours such as sharing and turn taking. We will also be exploring the Zones of Regulation, which is a whole school tool to help the children to discuss and understand their emotions.



Physical Development

We will develop the children's gross and fine motor skills through a range of exciting activities, including movement, drama and outdoor play. Children will also be introduced to our writing programme, **Kinetic Letters**, which uses fun animal-inspired movements and body shapes to build core strength, improve posture and develop the physical skills needed for successful writing.



Alongside this, we will support children in becoming more independent by encouraging them to manage their own personal needs, such as toileting, handwashing and looking after their belongings, helping them to feel confident and settled in their new school environment.

Understanding the World

Our theme for the half term is 'Magical Me'. This is a topic that helps children begin to find out more about themselves, their families and their friends. We will provide the children with opportunities to share experiences, talk about important people in their lives, and notice things they have in common as well as what makes them unique. The children will start to build an understanding of their own identity and the relationships that connect them to others.



Expressive Arts and Design

In art this term we will be making marvellous marks through drawing. We will be exploring mark making through different drawing materials. We will begin to draw from observation using faces and self-portraits as a stimulus. In music we will be exploring making sounds using instruments and our bodies, as well as listening for sounds in nature and the environment.



Helping your child learn at home

Please continue to support your child to be independent, especially in putting on and taking off their coats and shoes. Please also continue to work on toileting skills, especially wiping and remembering to wash their hands without needing a prompt or reminder.

When your child receives their school reading book, please read regularly with them, and remember to enjoy lots of bedtime stories!

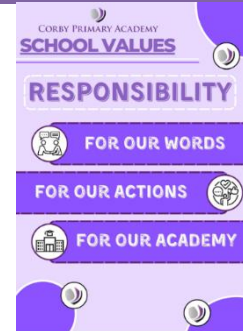
Please support your child with recognising numerals 1-5 and talking about maths in the environment, such as door numbers, groups of objects and patterns they may see.



Enrichment

Our first Reception topic is **Marvellous Me**, where the children will be learning about themselves, their families and what makes them unique. To help bring this topic to life, we would be grateful if you could **send in a photograph of your child's family members**. The children will have the opportunity to share and discuss their photos with the class, helping them to develop their communication skills and learn more about each other. Thank you for your support.

In addition to this, we will be taking part in some **yoga sessions**, led by an external instructor. Yoga supports the children's physical development by improving balance, coordination, and core strength in a fun and engaging way. It also encourages calmness and focus, helping children learn strategies for relaxation and emotional regulation.



Rewards

The children will receive 'Dojo Points' as reward for good behaviour, work and attitude.



Class information

Busy Buttercups Class Teacher: Mrs Meehan (Mon - Thursday) and Mrs Turner (Friday)

lmeehan@corbyprimaryacademy.org

Sunflowers Class Teacher: Mrs Esler

resler@corbyprimaryacademy.org

Supported by: Mrs Reeves, Miss Bernard, Mrs Irvine & Mrs Dennett

To keep books and letters in good condition, we ask that all children bring a book bag to school every day so that we can update their books and send home any letters or resources. Please do not allow your child to bring any toys from home so that they do not get lost.

Please remember to name your child's school jumper or cardigan.

Don't forget to send your child with a named drink for the classroom each day. (Nothing fizzy or milk based please)

Please remember if you are making your child a packed lunch, we ask you not to put anything in that contains nuts as we are a no nut school.

Dates for the diary!



CPC Key Dates 2026-2027

Autumn 1



Tuesday 1st September - INSET Day

Wednesday 2nd September - INSET Day

Monday 7th September- Reception children start (part-time)

Tuesday 8th September – International Literacy Day

Monday 14th September – CPA Election Week

Monday 14th September - Reception children start (full-time)

Monday 14th September – Y6 PiXL Week

Tuesday 15th September – Y4 PGL Residential Parents Meeting - 5pm

Tuesday 22nd September - Reception Parents' Phonics Session - 2.30pm

Friday 25th September - European Languages Day

Friday 25th September - Y3/Y4 Bikeability training (one day)

Monday 28th September – Y5 PiXL Week

Wednesday 30th September - School Photos (individual & siblings)

Thursday 1st October - Book & Biscuit session - 2.40pm - Nursery & Reception

M/B Thursday 1st October – Black History Month

Thursday 1st October – Harvest Festival

Monday 5th October – Y4 PiXL Week

Monday 5th October – NSPCC Speak Out. Stay Safe workshops

Friday 9th October - World Mental Health Day – wear green/yellow

Monday 12th October – Y3 PiXL Week

Tuesday 13th October - Parents' Evening - 3.30pm - 6pm

Wednesday 14th October - Parents' Evening - 3.30pm - 6pm

Thursday 22nd October – Halloween Disco (Reception and KS1 – 3:15-4:15pm/KS2 – 4:30-5:30pm)

Friday 23rd October - school closes to pupils for Half Term

