



EAST SHEEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

RECEPTION CURRICULUM BULLETIN

SUMMER TERM 2026

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back after the Easter break! We hope you had a wonderful time and that your children are feeling refreshed and excited for the summer term ahead. We are looking forward to a fun-filled and engaging term with your little ones. This term, we have some exciting new topics that will spark curiosity and creativity in the classroom.

Topic Titles: 'Fairy tales', 'Life Cycles' and 'The Blue Planet'

Our learning journey will take us through the magical world of Fairytales, where the children will explore beloved characters, settings, and storylines. We will be reading a variety of fairytales and using these stories to inspire imaginative play, art projects, and literacy activities. Next, we will be diving into Lifecycles, exploring how living things grow and change over time. From plants to animals, the children will have hands-on experiences observing and understanding the life stages of different creatures and plants. We will be planting seeds, observing caterpillars, and learning about the wonderful process of metamorphosis!

In the second part of the summer term, we will embark on an exploration of The Blue Planet. This topic will introduce the children to the wonders of our oceans, marine life, and the importance of protecting our planet. Through interactive activities, discussions, and creative projects, the children will gain a deeper understanding of the natural world around them.

Communication and Language

To reflect our local environment and our topic teaching, we have plans to introduce a number of new role-play areas into our setting. We will be discussing our ideas with the children for Jack and the Beanstalk, Goldilocks and the Three Bears and a garden centre. For the second half of the term these will change to become an ice-cream shop, a pirate ship and a mermaid cove. These will encourage the children to use language to communicate their imagined stories in these stimulating settings, as well as providing contexts for the children to write their own fairy tale story.

Literacy

The children will be introduced to lots of topic-related books including 'Jack and the Beanstalk', and 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' as well as non-fiction books about plants and the life cycles of different animals. They will have opportunities to make labels, signs and lists, write simple stories and look at the features of fiction and non-fiction texts.

In the second half of the term, our literacy work will extend our learning, looking at the texts, 'Commotion in the Ocean', 'The Odd Fish' and 'Snail and the Whale' to name a few.

The children will continue to have phonics four times a week. During these sessions, the children will learn new sounds and consolidate prior learning, practise correct letter formation and develop their blending and spelling skills. We will also continue to learn a new high frequency word each week, which will be incorporated in the weekly homework sent out each Friday.

Mystery reader will continue every Thursday. Parent reader volunteers will still be needed each Monday and Wednesday 3pm – 3:15pm.

Mathematics

In our mathematics work this term the children will be involved in practical activities that will develop the following concepts:

- Building numbers beyond 10
- Counting patterns beyond 10
- Spatial reasoning
- Adding and taking away two numbers
- Doubling and halving
- Sharing and grouping
- Even and odd numbers

Understanding the World

We will be investigating and exploring a range of fruits and plants and will be finding out about the food we eat and where it comes from. The children will examine different seeds and will plant and observe a variety of seeds in our outdoor garden. We will also be finding out about the wildlife that inhabits our growing environment and the life cycles of different species, including minibeasts, humans and other animals.

During the second half of the term, we will raise interest in the natural world that lives in our seas and oceans, looking where different species live. We will also be learning about the impact that people have on the environment and the things that we can do to take care of it.

Expressive Arts and Design

The children will be developing their observational skills and will produce careful line drawings of different fruit and flowers. They will also use watercolour paints to make detailed paintings of flowers and plants. During musical activities, the children will be playing percussion instruments as well as being given opportunities to respond to other music.

During our second topic, we also plan to make our own musical instruments using junk modelling, as well as experimenting with different media to create pictures and props for our role play areas.

Physical development

The children will be developing ball skills, focusing on dribbling, bouncing, throwing and catching and team games. The children will continue to develop their fine motor skills using malleable materials, small construction toys and lacing and tracing activities. They will also access a range of activities that enable them to continue to develop their coordination and gross motor control. In May, children will take part in cycling training, where they will learn or develop skills to successfully ride a push or pedal bike. After that, they will be able to continue to develop the skills learnt in our outdoor areas with the bikes

that we have. If you have small bikes with pedals that you would like to donate to us, please let us know.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will be continuing our Jigsaw Scheme. In the first half term the children will learn about relationships in the family and what it means to be a good friend. During the second half of the term, the children will consider how they are changing and begin work to prepare them for the transition into Year 1.

'Show and tell' sessions will continue this term every Tuesday afternoon. You could help your child to prepare for this by rehearsing what they would like to say or show.

Other Useful information

Please continue to send in WOW cards telling us about the children's achievements at home. If you need more WOW cards, let us know and we can get some more; there is no limit to the amazing things your children can achieve.

Finally, we are hoping for some sunny weather this term and anticipate that the children will be spending lots of time outside. If the weather is forecast to be sunny, they should have appropriate sun protection, so please make sure that your child has sunscreen applied before school, as we are not allowed to apply it in school. They should also bring a sun hat and they must have a water bottle with a sports lid in school every day.

We have an exciting term ahead and are excited to see the children's imaginations and knowledge grow over the next few months. Thank you for your continued support, and please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Warm regards,

The Reception Team