

Subject	What is my child learning about at school?
English Literature	<p>Your child will learn about character flaws in stories and how to resolve them. They will innovate their own story independently using extended sentences, connectives, adjectives and similes. To support this learning we will be focussing on the story 'The Fish Who Could Wish' by John Bush. During this final half term of Reception, the children will begin to write with increased independence in preparation for Year 1.</p> <p>Your child will also learn about and write their own non-fiction text. They will create a non-chronological report on a chosen sea creature. As part of this they will be challenged to include a heading, subheadings, facts and creative sentence starters such as: Did you know, Can you believe and Excitingly.</p>
Reading - Sounds-Write (Phonics)	<p>Your child is learning an increasing number of the 44 sound spellings that make up the words of the English language. They are continuing to practise their blending and segmenting skills and applying them to 5 sound words (CCVCC, CVCCC and CCCVC) in their reading and writing. For example, twist and drink. Excitingly, your child will begin to learn a wider range of two letters one sound spellings.</p> <p>The sounds we are learning this term are:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">a i m s t n o p b c g h d e f v k l u j w q r x y z, ff, ll, ss, zz, sh, ch, th, ck, wh, ng, qu, ai, ee, oo</p> <p>As the term draws to a close it is vital that all children are sounding out on their own (in line with the sounds they hear). This spelling is not expected to be correct just phonetically plausible.</p>
Writing – Nelson Handwriting	<p>Your child is continuing to master the 'Perfect Pencil Grip' and to form their sounds correctly. All writing will be completed on tramlines. Your child will be writing in their own handwriting book to perfect their formation and use of tramlines. Pupils are writing individual words using their phonic knowledge and continuing to develop their skills for writing extended perfect sentences using capital letters, finger spaces, full stops and connectives such as 'who' and 'but'.</p>
Mathematics –	<p>Your child will learn about coins and their values. They will order coins based on value, add up to 4 coins to make a total up to 50p and solve problems in a role play shop using money.</p> <p>The children will revisit addition and subtraction to ensure they are confident using a range of methods including: fingers, putting the biggest number in your head and counting on or back, a number line and physical resources e.g. cubes, pasta.</p> <p>All children will finesse their number formation and develop a deeper understanding of the numbers to 20 in relation to each other ahead of Year 1.</p>
Knowledge (Science, History, Geography, Technology and RE)	<p>This half term, our topic will be learning about life cycles or both plants and animals. The children will have a very special arrival in a couple of weeks' time to bring this learning to life ... more information to follow!</p> <p>The children will be spending time with our school gardener on a weekly basis to understand the parts of a plant and what they need to survive.</p> <p>Finally, the children will look at how to stay healthy, they will discuss differing food groups and sort fruits and vegetables into categories,</p>
Character	<p>Your child is learning about humility, empathy and perspective and gratitude. Pupils are reading stories about these character virtues and putting them into practise in the classroom and around the wider school. Your child will be taking part in discussions and activities linked to these virtues.</p> <p>The children will begin a process of transition towards the end of the half term which will include meeting their Year 1 teacher, spending time in a Year 1 setting, practising working with increased independence and lots of circle time discussions to discuss what we are excited about and what we are nervous about.</p>

P.E.	Your child will focus on developing their fine motor skills and reaction time. They will do this by taking part in outdoor cricket lessons with their PE teachers.
Music	Your child sings with their class every day. They are continuing to learn a wide variety of new songs linked to our topic. As well as classic nursery rhymes. For example, See saw, Monday's child and Jack be nimble.

Subject	How can I support my child's learning at home?
Reading	It is important to read with your child every day. This will support their phonic knowledge and build a broad and rich vocabulary, which will support their reading comprehension. Try to close the book after they have finished reading and ask them to tell you the sounds in simple words contained in the text. For example, "Can you tell me the sounds in fish?" Your child should be able to begin to say "f-i-sh." This questioning will support application of sounds to their writing as well. It is also important that your child is comprehending what they are reading. Try asking them questions about the book after they have read it. For example, what was the name of the main character?
Writing	It is essential that your child masters writing all of the sounds on tramlines, using correctly formed letters. Encourage your child to practise their Perfect Pencil Grip and write at home using a pencil and tramline paper. Please use the formation chart that you have been given in homework this week to support your child with their letter formation. For example, your child could practise writing thank you cards, a list of items needed for a family outing or instructions for making a meal. If you would like to have tramline paper to write on at home please ask your class teacher.
Mathematics	Your child is practising to read and write numbers. Encourage your child to write their numbers using a pencil and paper. We write our numbers like this: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 Please use every opportunity to count with your child and challenge them to find one/two more or less than numbers to 20 and practise adding and subtracting within 20 e.g. $11+8=$ and $16-9=$
Knowledge (Science, History, Geography, Technology and RE)	Please use every opportunity to talk to your child about growing, that should include plants and animals. You could plant a seed and monitor its growth. Keeping a plant diary and drawing the seeds progress is a fulfilling way to support the learning in school. You could also spend time talking about different foods. E.g. fish can be healthy but if you fry it then it is less so. Burgers are great in moderation but eating a McDonalds everyday would not be good for your body.
Character	You can support your child's understanding of gratitude by talking about what they are thankful for in their life, you could even make thank you cards together for someone special. Please support your child's understanding of empathy by discussing how others might be feeling and thinking in different moments. Please continue to develop discussions about humility by discussing what it means to be humble and why it is important not to show off to others about what they have.
Music	Please support your child's learning by singing with them and listening to a variety of music and nursery rhymes at home.
P.E.	Please ensure your child eats a healthy, balanced diet and arrives at school having eaten a nutritious breakfast. Ensure they have the opportunity to take part in different physical activities such as catching and throwing balls or climbing at the park. You can further support your child's understanding of their own body by talking about changes that they notice after exercising, for example, feeling hot, sweaty, thirsty or 'out of breath'.