



Reception– Curriculum Overview 2025 - 2026

Further information about the curriculum content for the year can be found on our school website: [Chestnut Lane School's Whole School Curriculum Content](#)

Term	Autumn 1 4 th Sept - 23 rd Oct	Autumn 2 3 rd Nov - 19 th Dec	Spring 1 7 th Jan - 13 th Feb	Spring 2 23 rd Feb - 27 th Mar	Summer 1 13 th April- 22 nd May	Summer 2 2 nd June- 22 nd July
Whole School Topic	Over the Rainbow 3 weeks Treasure Hunters 4 weeks	Farm to Fork 6 weeks	To infinity and beyond 5 weeks 3 days	Lights, Camera, Action 5 weeks	Blue Planet 6 weeks	Jet Set...Go! 8 weeks
Special Days Judaism Sikhism Hinduism Christianity Islam Buddhism	Yom Kippur: 1 st – 2 nd October Harvest: 28 th Sept – 5 th Oct Sukkot: 6 th -13 th October Diwali: 20 th October	Guru Nanak's Birthday: 5 th November Hanukkah: 14 th – 22 nd December Christmas: 25 th December Remembrance Day: 11 th Nov Friendship Week: 10 th – 14 th Nov No Pens Day: 25 th Nov	Tu Bishvat: 1 st – 2 nd Feb Chinese New Year: 17 th Feb World Religion Day: 18 th Jan Children's Mental Health Week: 9 th – 15 th Feb Safer Internet Day: 10 th Feb International Mother Language Day: 21 st Feb	Ramadan: 17 th Feb - 18 th Mar Holi: 4 th March Mother's Day: 15 th March Eid-al-Fitr: 19 th March Easter Sunday: 5 th April World Book Day: 5 th March Science Week: 6 th – 15 th March	Buddha's Birthday: 24 th May Earth Day: 22 nd April National Numeracy Day: 20 th May	Father's Day: 21 st June Tanabata: 7 th July World Music Day: 21 st June
Trips / Workshops		Little City	Space Dome	Walk to the Postbox	Bekonscot	
Cooking		Fruit kebabs/vegetable kebabs	Alien cake/biscuit cooking			
Role Play Area	Airport Pirate Boat Castle	Shop Doctors surgery Santa's workshop	Space rocket Alien Planet	Traditional Tale Land Film set	Rainforest Under the sea	Sports centre/gym Ice cream shop
Week 1 What are we learning? <u>Core Books</u> Areas of learning PSED UW EAD CL	<u>All Are Welcome</u> - forming friendships - settling in - school rules - paper friends - all about me	<u>Luna Loves Gardening</u> - community garden, planting seeds - Autumn walk - Trying different fruit/veg - designing and describing a garden - looking after things/ environment - making flowers, natural art	<u>The Way Back Home</u> - retell story - act out story - space transport (link to rockets) - make poster about alien - make map for alien	Traditional Tales – <u>Jack and the Beanstalk</u> - make a warning/wanted poster about the giant - character descriptions - act out story, make own props - imagine what's at the top of the beanstalk - growing beans	Transport - Land - types of land transport, including electric vehicles - looking after the environment – recycling, reusing, big up MPT - describing and comparing types of land vehicle	<u>Would You Rather</u> Talk about the different scenario and discuss Create own scenario to pose to friends
Week 2 What are we learning?	Zones of Regulation - introduce Zones - talk about feelings - talk about strategies - scenario cards - playdough mat feelings - creating zone monsters - colouring pictures of mood monsters	People Who Help Us – Emergency Services - emergency vehicles and who work there - junk modelling emergency vehicles - role play, dressing up, making props - basic first aid	Rockets - videos of astronauts in space - design rocket - junk modelling - making rockets - acting out - moon landing - shape pictures	Traditional Tales – <u>Little Red Riding Hood</u> - sequencing the story, retelling the story - repeated refrains - character descriptions, comparing - act out story, make own props - healthy eating – what's in the basket - keeping yourself safe	Transport - Sea - learn about different sea creatures - old and new transport - floating and sinking - creating different sea animals (jelly -fish) - junk modelling -sea transport (boats)	Jobs What I want to be when I grow up How different types of jobs help us Showing respect to others/other countries Flags/countries/maps World cup starts: June 11th 2026

Week 3 What are we learning?	The Lion Inside - talk about feelings, bravery, having a go - why was the mouse brave? when are you brave? - labelling the mouse and lion - stick characters, masks, acting out the story - Diwali	People Who Help Us – Community - jobs that help others in the community - write a fact about someone who helps us - role play, dressing up, making props - helping people, how can you help others?	Whatever Next - what would you take to the moon? - speech bubbles for characters - write letter to the owl/ bear - role play, act out story, props - pictures of astronauts on moon	walk to the postbox - share what they've learnt about traditional tales? own character?? - post easter cards?	Transport - Sky - paper aeroplane experiments - make hot air balloons - Old and new transport Bekonscot trip?	Little People, Big Dreams books: Marcus Rashford, Mary Earps - Football - Create own medal/ kit/ - Understanding about rules and why we have rules
Week 4 What are we learning?	10 Little Pirates - rhyming, Phase 1 phonics - draw page from book and recall - counting activities - pirate friends, friendly pirates	Let's Celebrate - talk about what they celebrate at home and how they celebrate - choose a few festivals to focus on, e.g. Diwali, Bonfire night, Hanukkah - listening to each other, showing respect	Aliens & Planets - planet song design own alien and label - other alien stories, e.g. aliens love underpants - learn facts about the planets, remember the order	Billy and the Beast - describe characters from story - retelling story - sequencing story - woodland animals	Animals: Monkey Puzzle - animals and their young - Matching animals/young - Creating different jungle animals - Small world- animals - Showing respect to others	Little People, Big Dreams books: Rafael Nadal, Emma Raducanu, Serena Williams - Tennis - Create own medal/ kit Junk modelling – - Understanding about rules and why we have rules
Week 5 What are we learning?	Pirates - create own pirate character, describe and label - small world ship - making maps - junk modelling – ships, hats, eye patch - paper plate mask - sharing treasure fairly - pirates ARE kind	Winter – The Snowman - describe their journey - roll a snowman - snow tuff tray Explore melting ice - design hat, gloves, scarf - snowflake cutting skills - design own snowman	Oi Frog - rhyming pairs - find matching pairs - make own rhyming pairs - link to other Oi stories	Billy and the... - create own character - write own version of story - own character description - act out own story - design own character/ junk modelling - illustrate their story, create front cover - Easter	Animals: Do You Love Exploring? - comparing habitats - Creating different animals habitats - Small world- animals/ habitats - MPT creating homes for Minibeasts, etc	Jabari Jumps - being brave to try new things, have a go Transition – Meeting new year 1 class/teachers
Week 6 What are we learning?	Kings and Queens – Paddington at the Palace - make crowns, jewellery, junk modelling castles - make union jack flag - writing about Paddington's trip to the Palace - making things fair and keeping ourselves and others safe	Winter – Christmas - Christmas performance - Christmas decorations - Christmas cards - Santa role play - writing letter Santa - make map for Santa Winter shapes Winter patterns			Animals - animal fact files - describing, comparing, explaining different animals	The Koala Who Could - trying new things in Year 1 - showing resilience /Little Miss proud, talking about feelings, nerves, etc
Week 7 What are we learning?	I Want A Friend (Little Princess) - friendships, having more than one friend - write about one of their friends, what makes them a good friend	-			-	Celebration Morning Reflecting on Reception Transition into year 1 Showing resilience /Little Miss proud
Phonics & Reading	See our parent guide explaining the Chestnut Lane Phonics programme and our school flyer for a summary of our approach to Reading in Reception . Poetry Basket and Nursery Rhymes throughout each week.					

<p>Maths Mastering Number Programme</p> <p>Number & Subitising Counting, ordinality and cardinality Composition Comparison Shape, Space and Measure</p>	<p>Subitising within 3 Focus on counting skills (1-1 counting) Explore how all numbers are made of 1s Focus on composition of 3 and 4 Subitise objects and sounds Comparison of sets - 'just by looking' Use the language of comparison: <i>more than</i> and <i>fewer than</i></p>	<p>Focus on counting skills Focus on the 'five-ness of 5' using one hand and the die pattern for 5 Comparison of sets - by matching Use the language of comparison: <i>more than</i>, <i>fewer than</i>, <i>an equal number</i> Explore the concept of 'whole' and 'part' Focus on the composition of 3, 4 and 5 Practise object counting skills Match numerals to quantities within 10 Verbal counting beyond 20</p>	<p>Subitise within 5 focusing on die patterns Match numerals to quantities within 5 Counting – focus on ordinality and the 'staircase' pattern See that each number is one more than the previous number Focus on 5 Focus on 6 and 7 as '5 and a bit' Compare sets and use language of comparison: <i>more than</i>, <i>fewer than</i>, <i>an equal number to</i> Make unequal sets equal Height Length Shapes</p>	<p>Focus on the 'staircase' pattern and ordering numbers Focus on ordering of numbers to 8 Use language of <i>less than</i> Focus on 7 Doubles – explore how some numbers can be made with 2 equal parts Sorting numbers according to attributes - odd and even numbers</p>	<p>Counting – larger sets Subitising – to 6, including in structured arrangements Composition – '5 and a bit' Composition - of 10 Comparison – linked to ordinality Height Length</p>	<p>Subitise to 5 Introduce the rekenrek Automatic recall of bonds to 5 Composition of numbers to 10 Comparison – review</p> <p>Review learning and address any gaps</p>
<p>Physical development (PE and Fine Motor skills) frequently throughout each week. Muddy Puddles weekly.</p>						