



Reception Curriculum Overview 2026 – 2027

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 3 rd Sept – 23 rd Oct	Autumn 2 2 nd Nov - 18 th Dec	Spring 1 5 th Jan - 12 th Feb	Spring 2 22 nd Feb – 25 th Mar	Summer 1 13 th April- 28 th May	Summer 2 8 th June- 21 st July
Whole School Topic	The way I feel 3 weeks Marvellous Me 4 weeks	Hocus Pocus 7 weeks	Show Time! 6 weeks	Changing Planet 5 weeks – Less one day	Toytastic 7 weeks	Quick Cats 7 weeks
Core Books Art Core Books	All Are Welcome The Lion Inside Miffy and the Artists Bedtime with Art	Oi Frog Busy Little Fingers	Jack and the Beanstalk Little Red Riding Hood Billy and the Beast Miffy and the Artists Bedtime with Art	Luna Loves Gardening Luna loves Art	The Way Back Home Miffy and the Artists Bedtime with Art	Would You Rather... Monkey Puzzle Jabari Jumps Mildred the Gallery Cat
Trips / Events / Workshops	Whole school Harvest event	Little City (13 th Nov)		Postbox Walk: Easter cards	Bekonscot (Toy Workshop)	
Special Days Judaism Sikhism Hinduism Christianity Islam Buddhism	Yom Kippur: 20 th -21 st September Sukkot: 25 th Sept -2 nd October Harvest: 5 th Oct Recycling, Fairtrade and Zero Emissions Week: 21 st – 25 th September National Poetry Day: 1 st October 'Make a Mark' - The Big Draw Festival: 5 th – 9 th October	Diwali: 8 th November Guru Nanak's Birthday: 24 th November Hanukkah: 4 th – 12 th December Christmas: 25 th December Remembrance Day: 11 th Nov Friendship Week: 16 th – 20 th Nov Road Safety Week: 16 th – 20 th Nov	Tu B'Shvat: 22 nd – 23 rd Jan Chinese New Year: 6 th Feb World Religion Day: 17 th Jan Energy Saving Week: 18 th – 22 nd January Children's Mental Health Week: 1 st – 7 th Feb Safer Internet Day: 9 th Feb International Mother Language Day: 21 st Feb	Ramadan 7 th Feb -8 th Mar (tbc) Eid al-Fitr: 9 th / 10 th Mar (tbc) Mother's Day: 7 th March Holi: 22 nd March Easter Sunday: 28 th March World Book Day: 4 th March Science Week: 5 th – 14 th March	Eid al-Adha: 16 th / 17 th May (tbc) Buddha's Birthday: 13 th May World Art Day: 20 th April Outdoor Classroom Day: 20 th May No Pens Day: 19 th May National Numeracy Day: 19 th May	Father's Day: 20 th June Tanabata: 7 th July World Music Day: 21 st June
Week 1 What are we learning? Core Books Areas of learning PSED UW EAD CL	Baseline Assessments All Are Welcome - forming friendships - settling in - school rules - paper friends - all about me	Oi Frog - rhyming pairs - find matching pairs - make own rhyming pairs - link to other Oi stories	Traditional Tales Jack and the Beanstalk - make a warning/wanted poster about the giant - character descriptions - act out story, make own prop	Luna Loves Gardening - spring walk - Trying different fruit/veg - designing and describing a garden - looking after things/ environment– sustainability	The Way Back Home - retell story - act out story - make poster about alien - make map for alien - Junk modelling- rockets	Would You Rather... Talk about the different scenario and discuss Create own scenario to pose to friends
Week 2 What are we learning?	Baseline Assessments Zones of Regulation - introduce Zones - talk about feelings - talk about strategies creating zone monsters	The Magic Porridge Pot sequencing the story, retelling the story Make own magic pot potions Writing lists of own magic potions - Diwali Remembrance day	Traditional Tales Little Red Riding Hood - sequencing the story, retelling the story - character descriptions, comparing - act out story, make own props keeping yourself safe	World Book Week - celebrating books, authors and illustrators - resources for chn to create their own books	Transport - Land - types of land transport, including electric vehicles - looking after the environment – recycling, reusing, sustainability - describing and comparing types of land vehicle	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
Week 3 What are we learning?	The Lion Inside - talk about feelings, bravery, having a go - labelling the mouse and lion - stick characters, masks, acting out the story	Friendship Week Talk about what makes a good friend, sharing, creating own friendship recipes Friendship bracelets, cards- making a good friend	Billy and the Beast - describe characters from story - retelling story - sequencing story	Science week - writing a fact file about dinosaurs - describing and comparing dinosaurs - small world-dinosaur swamp, - - exploring sounds	Transport - Sea - learn about different sea creatures - floating and sinking - creating different sea animals	People Who Help Us – Community - jobs that help others in the community - role play, dressing up, making props

Week 4 What are we learning?	"I am Super" create own self on a super hero body, own super powers, Superhero masks, acting out, describe what makes them unique and different	- making fruit kebabs - writing instructions on what they did to make kebabs - describing and comparing the fruit they taste	Billy and the... - create own character - write own version of story - act out own story - illustrate their story, create front cover	Clip from Andy Dinsoaur Adventures describing and comparing dinosaurs creating dinosaurs using shapes, masks	Transport - Sky - paper aeroplane experiments - make hot air balloons - Old and new transport	Monkey Puzzle - Habitats- animals - Describing big cats - Creating different jungle animals - Showing respect to others
Week 5 What are we learning?	"Superheroes don't get scared" Describe and design own Superhero Design hero mask, design cape, talk about feelings	<i>Experiments</i> Creating different experiments using, colours and different scents.	Nursery rhymes - Singing nursery rhymes, clapping to the beat - dancing to the songs - illustrating pictures	<i>Walk to post box Easter</i> - Easter themed activities - spring themed activities (baby animals)	Exploring toys - my favourite toy - linking to coel	<i>Transition week Jabari Jumps</i> - being brave to try new things, have a go Transition – Meeting new year 1 class/teachers
Week 6 What are we learning?	Supertato Wanted poster for the evil pea, character descriptions Vegetable printing Healthy eating	Winter – The Snowman - snow tuff tray - design hat, gloves, scarf - snowflake cutting skills	Let's Celebrate Chinese New Year - year of the goat - exploring different celebrations		Bekonscot - school trip - toy workshop - what I enjoyed	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?	Kindness is my Superpower Description of own super powers Talking about friends	Winter – Christmas - Santa role play - writing letter Santa - make map for Santa			Circus – video clip - describe circus, what different acts use - design own circus	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 . Poems from 'Poetry Basket' and nursery rhymes are read and sung each week.					
Maths Mastering Number Programme Number & Subitising Counting, ordinality and cardinality Composition Comparison Shape, Space, Measure	Subitising within 3 Focus on counting skills Explore how all numbers are made of 1s Focus on composition of 3 and 4 Subitise objects and sounds Comparison of sets	Focus on counting skills Focus on the 'five-ness of 5' Comparison of sets Use the language of comparison 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	Subitise within 5 Match numerals to quantities within 5 Counting and ordinality 1 more/1 less Focus on 5, 6, 7, Compare sets Make unequal sets equal Height Length Shapes	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 Odd and even numbers	Counting – larger sets Subitising Composition – '5 and a bit' Composition - of 10 Comparison – linked to ordinality Height Length	Subitise to 5 Introduce the rekenrek Automatic recall of bonds to 5 Composition of numbers to 10 Comparison – review
PE/PD Muddy Puddles	- PE rules and safety in the hall - instruction games - introduction of ball skills - fine motor and gross motor activities throughout each day Intro to Muddy Puddles - Sticks and stones rhyme - Safety rules - Muddy Promise - Outdoor classroom and cabin – craft to decorate	- Ball skills - fine motor and gross motor activities throughout each day - Growing seeds, planting 'garden' - Autumn walk - Minibeast hunt - Observing plants, flowers, trees	- Gym (balancing, poses, moving around in different ways, low and high apparatus) - fine motor and gross motor activities throughout each day - letter formation - Signs of Spring - bulbs - planting seeds	- Gym (Jumping on, off, moving around low and high apparatus) - fine motor and gross motor activities throughout each day - letter formation	- Multi Skills (FTF) - fine motor and gross motor activities throughout each day - letter formation - Sun shadows - Colour scavenger hunt - planting and observing sunflowers	- Sports Morning - Multi Skills (FTF) - Dance (specialist teacher) - fine motor and gross motor activities throughout each day - letter formation