

Literacy

We'll be diving into books and stories this half term to help the children build a real love of reading. They'll enjoy listening to stories every day, joining in with repeated parts and beginning to talk about what's happening in the pictures and what might happen next.

We'll also begin our Little Wandle phonics lessons, where the children will start to learn some letter sounds and begin blending simple words in a really fun and practical way. **Please keep checking the school's newsletter for details about our phonics workshop.**

When it comes to writing, we'll be encouraging the children to explore making marks with meaning – from drawing themselves and their families to writing their names or labelling their work. Lots of our writing will be linked to what we've been reading or learning about in class, helping them feel excited to have a go and share their ideas.

How you can help at home:

Cuddle up with a book together every day if you can – children love hearing the same story again and again! Spot letters or signs when you're out and about and encourage your child to write their name or make little drawings or labels at home.

Welcome to Reception!

A very warm welcome to the start of your child's journey in Reception.

Each half term you will receive a letter designed to keep you informed about what your child will be learning this half term and how you can support them at home.



During the first few weeks, we will focus on helping the children settle into school life. We will spend time getting to know each child as an individual, playing alongside them, introducing the daily routines and helping them become familiar with the adults who will be supporting them. Once the children are feeling safe and secure, we will gradually introduce more formal learning such as daily phonics and maths sessions in a way that is playful, meaningful and developmentally appropriate.

We will also spend a lot of time learning outdoors, whatever the weather.

On sunny days, please make sure they are wearing a sunhat and have suncream applied before arriving. As the weather becomes cooler, they will need a named waterproof coat.

All children will also need a pair of named wellington boots which will stay in school for use throughout the term.

Our Year R Team

Mrs Hughes – Class Teacher (Monday to Friday, except Thursday)

Mrs Green – PPA Cover Teacher and teaching all day Thursday

Miss Young – Teaching Assistant (supporting throughout the week)

If you have any questions or would like to get in touch, please feel free to contact us via the class email:

yearr@croston-pri.lancs.sch.uk

Maths

Maths is everywhere in Reception – from counting fruit at snack time to spotting patterns on our socks! This half term, we'll be helping the children build a strong sense of number by exploring what numbers to five really mean. They'll use real objects, their fingers and even their bodies to show amounts, compare groups, and begin to recognise numerals.

We'll also be getting curious about patterns, shapes, and measures. The children will sort and match objects, build with blocks and describe what they notice using everyday language like longer, heavier or the same. These playful activities build the foundations for confident mathematical thinking later on.

How you can help at home:

Look for chances to count and compare in your daily routine – from laying out cutlery to noticing who has more grapes. Talk about shapes you see or patterns on clothes and encourage your child to spot similarities and differences in the world around them.



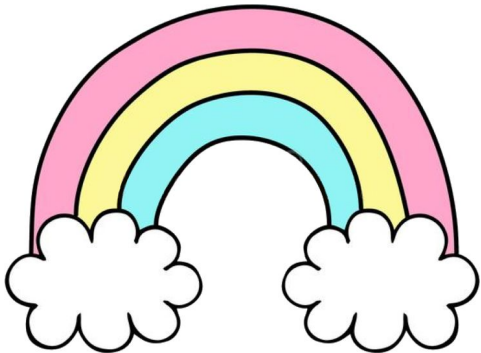
Understanding the World

This half term, we'll be helping the children explore who they are and where they belong. We'll talk about their families, homes and favourite things, helping them notice what makes us similar and what makes us special. Through stories, photos and circle time chats, the children will begin to talk about their past and how they've changed since they were babies.

We'll also start looking at the world around us – noticing signs of autumn, changes in the weather and using simple maps and photos to explore where we live. The children will begin to recognise familiar places in the village, like school, church or the park, and we'll start to use language like before, now, next to and far away.

How you can help at home:

Look through family photos and talk about how your child has grown. Notice changes in the seasons when you're out and about. You could also talk about places you visit – "We're walking past the post office" or "This shop is near our house" – to help build their sense of place.



Communication and Language

Settling into school brings lots of opportunities for talking, listening and learning how to share ideas. This half term, we'll be encouraging the children to join in with conversations, speak in full sentences, and use sentence starters like "I think..." or "My favourite is..." to build their confidence in group discussions.

We'll practise listening carefully during story time and carpet sessions, helping the children understand how and why it's important to listen to others. They'll also begin to ask questions, explain their thinking and use social phrases like "please can I..." or "I'm not sure" to help them communicate with friends and adults.

How you can help at home:

Chat with your child as much as possible – talk about your day, tell silly stories, or ask what they've been learning. Encourage them to explain their thinking and ask questions when they're not sure. Even simple moments like mealtimes or car journeys are great for building language.

Physical Development

The children will be on the move this half term – climbing, running, jumping and exploring how their bodies move in different ways. We'll be helping them build strength, balance and coordination as they use outdoor equipment, navigate obstacles and take part in games that encourage control and spatial awareness.

Indoors, we'll focus on building fine motor skills through activities like cutting, threading, drawing and using tools such as tweezers or paintbrushes. These little movements help to develop the muscles needed for writing, while also giving the children a chance to be creative and explore different textures and materials.

How you can help at home:

Give your child lots of opportunities to move – a trip to the park, dancing in the living room, or helping in the garden.

Activities like drawing, playing with playdough, or building with small blocks also help to strengthen their hand muscles and prepare them for writing.

Mrs Green will be leading our class PE sessions on Thursdays. We'll be starting in Week 2, so please make sure your child comes to school in their PE kit from Thursday 11th September.

Religious Education (R.E.)

Through stories, circle times and creative activities, the children will begin to explore what makes them unique and how they are loved and valued. Using the *Questful RE* approach from the Blackburn Diocese, we'll gently introduce the idea that each person is special to God.

We'll learn about what it means to belong – to our families, our class and our school community. The children will have opportunities to reflect on their own experiences and share what is important to them, helping to lay the foundations for spiritual development and respectful thinking.

How you can help at home:

Talk about what makes your child special and encourage them to notice kindness and care in the world around them. You might enjoy looking through family photos together or sharing stories from your own childhood to help build their sense of belonging.

Expressive Arts and Design

This half term, the children will be getting creative in all sorts of ways – from painting and drawing to building, printing and making music. They'll explore how to use different tools and materials, mix colours and create with a purpose, whether they're designing something at the art table or building in the construction area.

We'll also be encouraging the children to use their imaginations during role play and small world activities. Through storytelling, dressing up and acting things out, they'll develop their confidence, communication and creativity all at once.

How you can help at home:

Let your child get creative with things you have around the house – cardboard boxes, scrap paper, old buttons – anything goes! Encourage them to tell you about what they've made or role play everyday situations with their toys to spark their imagination.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The first half term is all about settling in and helping the children feel safe, happy and confident in their new environment. We'll spend lots of time getting to know each other, learning names, building friendships and understanding the routines of the day. Circle times, stories and play will help the children explore feelings and begin talking about what makes them special.

We'll also support the children as they start to recognise and manage emotions, take turns, share resources and solve small disagreements with help from an adult. All of these are key skills that help them feel secure and ready to learn.

How you can help at home:

Talk with your child about their day – what they enjoyed, who they played with and how they felt. Encourage them to share how they're feeling and model simple ways to deal with big emotions, like taking deep breaths or asking for help.

