



Houghton Regis Primary School

'Growing minds, shaping futures and inspiring lifelong learning'



Headteacher: Mrs R Parmar
Assistant Headteachers: Ms D Faure-Alexis & Mr D de Gouviea-Smith

Monday 1st June 2026

Nursery Curriculum Letter

Dear Parents and Carers,

This term we are going to have lots of fun reading and exploring books around the topic of **"Explore and Discover"**. Through exciting stories, hands-on activities and imaginative play, the children will learn about the world around them, different animals, places, colours and new experiences. We will encourage curiosity, creativity and confidence as the children investigate, ask questions and share their ideas with others. We are looking forward to a term full of adventure, discovery and lots of learning through play!

The books we will be reading are:

Week 1 – Splish, splash, splosh

Week 2 – Naughty Red Bus

Week 3 – Noah's Ark

Week 4 – Light house keeper's lunch

Week 5 – What the ladybird heard at the seaside

Week 6 – Sheep in a jeep/ Mr Gumpy's motorcar

Week 7 – Maisy goes by plane

Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

Through our "Explore and Discover" topic, the children will develop many important skills within Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED). The children will be encouraged to build confidence by trying new activities, exploring unfamiliar experiences and sharing their own ideas and interests with others. They will learn how to take turns, work together and build positive friendships through group games, role play and collaborative activities. As we explore different stories and characters, the children will also begin to talk about feelings and emotions, learning how to express themselves and understand how others may feel. The topic will support children in becoming more independent by encouraging them to make choices, solve simple problems and take pride in their achievements. Through exploration and discovery, the children will develop resilience, curiosity and a positive attitude towards learning.

Communication and Language

Through our "Explore and Discover" topic, the children will develop their Communication and Language skills through stories, discussions, imaginative play and hands-on experiences. The children will be encouraged to listen carefully during story times, follow simple instructions and respond to questions about what they have seen, heard and explored.

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As we investigate new topics, the children will learn and use a wide range of new vocabulary linked to animals, places, colours, nature and discovery. They will have many opportunities to talk about their own ideas, experiences and interests, helping to build their confidence when speaking in front of others. Through role play, small group activities and shared conversations, the children will practise taking turns in conversations, asking questions and expressing their thoughts and feelings clearly. We will support the children in becoming confident communicators who enjoy listening, talking and sharing their ideas with others.

Physical Development

Through our "Explore and Discover" topic, the children will develop their Physical Development skills through a variety of exciting indoor and outdoor activities. The children will strengthen their gross motor skills by climbing, balancing, running, jumping and moving in different ways during obstacle courses, outdoor adventures and movement games linked to our stories and themes. They will also develop their fine motor skills through activities such as painting, mark making, threading, cutting, play dough and using small tools and equipment. These experiences will help to strengthen hand muscles and improve coordination and control. As the children explore and investigate the world around them, they will learn how to move safely and confidently in different spaces, as well as begin to understand the importance of healthy habits, self-care and independence in everyday routines.

Literacy

Through our "Explore and Discover" topic, the children will develop their Literacy skills through a wide range of exciting stories, songs, rhymes and mark-making opportunities. The children will enjoy listening to and talking about different books linked to exploration, adventure, animals and discovering the world around them. They will begin to develop an understanding that print carries meaning and will learn how to handle books carefully, turn pages and join in with repeated words and phrases from familiar stories. The children will also be encouraged to talk about characters, events and their favourite parts of the books we share together. Through drawing, painting, tracing and mark-making activities, the children will begin to give meaning to the marks they make and develop early writing skills. They will also explore sounds, rhymes and rhythm through songs and phonics activities, helping to build the foundations for early reading and writing.

Phonics

In phonics, we will continue learning and revisiting our grapheme cards, helping the children recognise letter shapes, say the matching sounds, and begin using them in their early reading and writing activities. We also play lots of games to support learning what words begin with certain initial sounds.

Mathematics

Through our "Explore and Discover" topic, the children will develop their Mathematics skills through practical, hands-on activities and play-based learning experiences. The children will explore counting, numbers and quantity through stories, songs, games and investigations linked to our topic. They will learn to compare objects by size, shape, colour and quantity, as well as begin to use mathematical language such as more, less, big, small, heavy and light. The children will also explore patterns, sorting and matching through creative activities and small world play. As they investigate and discover new things, the children will begin to develop problem-solving skills by predicting, measuring, building and exploring shape and space. Through everyday

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routines and playful experiences, the children will gain confidence using early mathematical concepts in meaningful and enjoyable ways.

Expressive Arts and Design

Through our "Explore and Discover" topic, the children will develop their Expressive Arts and Design skills by exploring a wide range of creative materials, imaginative play opportunities and music and movement activities. The children will be encouraged to express their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through art, role play, storytelling, dance and music. They will experiment with colours, textures, shapes and different media to create pictures, models and crafts inspired by the stories, animals, places and experiences we explore throughout the term. The children will also enjoy singing songs, learning rhymes and using instruments to create sounds and rhythms. Through small world play, construction activities and role play, the children will use their imagination to recreate familiar experiences and invent their own adventures. These experiences will help to build creativity, confidence and self-expression while encouraging the children to explore and discover the world around them in meaningful and enjoyable ways.

Thank you for your continued support. Should you have any questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Mrs McBrearty & Miss Sullivan

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