

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

Tuesday 24th February 2026

Reception- Year R- Spring 2- Curriculum Map

Dear Parents and Carers,

This term, we will be exploring the magical world of Growth and Change! Children will be exploring how they and the world around them grow and develop over time. We will be learning about the world around us and how people live and change, as well as observing plants, animals and the natural world. Through stories, hands-on activities, and creative learning, children will discover the life cycles of plants and animals, notice changes in the seasons, and reflect on their own growth and achievements. This topic encourages curiosity, creativity, and an understanding of the world in a practical and engaging way.

Here are the books we will be looking at throughout the term:



Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

This term, the children will be exploring the Healthy Me theme in Jigsaw. They will learn about everybody's body and how to keep it healthy through exercise, including fun activities like We Like to Move It, Move It. Children will also talk about making healthy choices, the importance of sleep, and how these help them grow and feel good. In addition, they will focus on making friends, learning ways to play kindly, share, and solve problems with others. These lessons help children understand themselves, care for their bodies, and develop positive relationships with friends.

Communication and Language

We will be developing our communication and language skills through a range of engaging activities. The children will be encouraged to participate in small group discussions and use recently introduced vocabulary from stories, rhymes, poems, and non-fiction texts. Children will practise explaining why things happen, using words like 'because' and other connectives such as 'and'. They will be supported to express their ideas and feelings in full sentences, using past and present tense more independently. Children will also have opportunities to retell stories through role-play, helping them sequence events and share their understanding with others. These activities support confidence, reasoning, and the ability to communicate clearly.

Physical Development

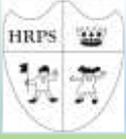
Children will be continuing to develop their fine motor and creative skills through a range of practical activities. They will be encouraged to use a pencil with the correct grip to form clear, recognisable letters. By using simple tools such as hole punches and split pins to change and join different materials.

St Michaels Avenue, Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire, LU5 5DH

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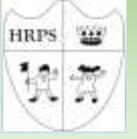
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Literacy

To develop our writing skills we will be learning to recognise and use capital letters and compare them to lower-case letters in their writing. Children will practise forming letters correctly, and begin to use capital letters at the start of sentences and for names.

Phonics

We will be reviewing Phase 3 sounds to help strengthen their confidence in blending and reading words. We will be revisiting the following sounds: ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, oo, ar, or, ur, ow, oi, ear, air, er. Children will practise recognising these sounds, blending them to read words, and using them in their writing. During reading activities, children will be learning to read and understand:

- Words with double letters (e.g. ll, ss)
- Longer words
- Words ending in -ing
- Compound words (two words joined together)
- Words with 's' in the middle
- Words ending in 's' and 'es'

These skills will support both reading fluency and understanding. We will be revising all tricky words taught so far, with a focus on:

- Reading tricky words automatically
- Secure spelling of tricky words in writing

Mathematics

This term in Reception, children will be exploring length, height, and time, learning how to compare objects and sequence daily events. They will continue building numbers 9 and 10, consolidating their understanding of counting, ordering, and representing these numbers in different ways. In addition, children will be learning about 3D shapes, identifying and describing shapes such as cubes, spheres, cylinders, and pyramids in their environment. Activities are designed to be hands-on and practical, helping children use maths in real-life situations. At home, you can support your child by measuring objects, spotting shapes around the house, and talking about what comes before or after in everyday routines. These experiences help children develop confidence and enjoyment in using numbers and shapes.

Understanding the World

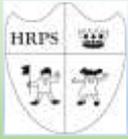
Children will explore how they have changed over time and talk about the lives of people in their families and their roles in society. Through stories and books, they will learn about the past and compare it to life today. In People, Culture & Communities, children will learn about Fair Trade, Easter, and different religious and cultural communities, noticing similarities and differences in people's lives. In The Natural World, children will investigate plants, insects, and animals, labelling parts of plants, learning about life cycles, and discovering how to care for the environment. They will also explore changes in the natural world, including seasons and different states of matter.

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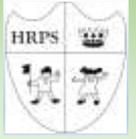
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Expressive Arts and Design

The children will be exploring creating with materials through a range of hands-on activities. They will make observational drawings of plants and flowers, take inspiration from Van Gogh's Sunflowers, and create self-portraits using natural outdoor materials. Children will practise drawing people and objects, including a person with at least eight features, and learn to select the best techniques to join or adapt models. They will also talk with others about their creations and explain what they like about them. In being imaginative, children will enjoy role play, adapting objects for different purposes, and will watch and perform dances, including performances inspired by stories such as The Ugly Bug Ball. These activities encourage creativity, confidence, and self-expression.

Please continue to support your child's reading at home, practicing writing their names correctly and reading their tricky words. Once they are able to read the words they will be given new ones.

World Book Day	Thursday 5 th March 2026
Parent Consultation Evening	Monday 23 rd March – 3.45pm to 6.15pm (Appointments will be posted on Class Dojo)
Parent Consultation Evening	Thursday 26 th March – 4pm to 7pm (Appointments will be posted on Class Dojo)

Thank you for your continued support. Should you have any questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch either on the door or via Class Dojo.

Mrs Baldwin and Mrs March

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