

Shiphay Learning Academy



Curriculum Information for Parents

Autumn 2026

Early Years Foundation Stage

Welcome to the Autumn Term 2026! We are very much looking forward to an exciting new term. We are very pleased to welcome our new children and families, and we look forward to forming positive relationships with you and the children over the coming year. We are excited at the prospect of seeing the children enthused by their learning and play and building new and lasting friendships. We hope you find the following information useful in supporting your child with their learning.

We hope you will find the following information useful in supporting your children with their learning. In the Foundation Stage this term, our themes will be 'Me and My World', 'My Heroes', and 'Standing Ovation'. There will be an emphasis on developing children's self-confidence and self-awareness and supporting them to develop positive relationships whilst becoming familiar with the routines and expectations of Nursery and Reception.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL and EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT (PSED)

Self-Regulation: The children will be encouraged to share and take turns in play-based scenarios and will be praised for their achievements. Through class stories, we will learn to describe our feelings and to talk about the feelings of others.

Building Relationships: We will be supporting the children to form positive relationships with peers and adults and to seek out others to share their experiences with. Within their play, we will encourage children to extend and elaborate play ideas within a group.

Managing Self: We will continue to explore what makes us special and unique and what being part of a class means. Throughout the term, there will be an emphasis on developing the children's self-confidence and independence skills. Our aim is for children to feel secure in the Reception and Nursery environments and become familiar with routines, expectations and boundaries.

You can help your child by:

- Playing turn-taking games, modelling how to wait your turn and how to manage feelings when you are not the winner.
- Reading stories and discussing how the characters are feeling and why this might be.
- Engaging in 'to and fro' conversations and modelling that it is ok to have a different viewpoint.

COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE

Listening, Attention and Understanding: Through songs, stories and rhymes, children will develop their listening skills. They will be encouraged to join in with repeated refrains and anticipate key events and phrases in rhymes and stories. Turn-taking games will support listening to the ideas of others.

Speaking: There will be a focus on widening and enriching the children's vocabulary, developing their use of questions and speaking in sentences.

You can help your child by:

- Encouraging them to describe what they observe in the environment when out and about.
- Asking questions about the text when sharing books together.
- Modelling being a listener by listening to children and taking account of what they say in your responses.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT



Gross Motor Skills: As well as following a developmental PE program to support physical development (Jasmine PE curriculum), we will encourage children to be active in their play.

Action songs, Yoga and Dance will be part of our daily routine. In the outdoor area, children will be learning to negotiate space successfully when playing racing and chasing games with other children, adjusting speed or changing direction to avoid obstacles.

Fine motor skills: these essential skills will be developed using a range of tools and play equipment. Children will be supported to develop their pencil grip and begin to form letter shapes.

You can help by:

- Try to take a walk with your child for at least an hour once a week outside of the urban environment (a beach, country park, Dartmoor, etc.) Not only is this great exercise, but a multitude of other experiences can also be had along the way, from learning about local history to native wildlife and habitats.
- A key focus at home should be on using a knife and fork, which will help with other fine motor activities
- Continue to make sure your child gets the chance to run, skip, dance, jump and be active every day

LITERACY

Comprehension: Throughout the term, we will explore a range of rich and diverse texts as a stimulus for learning. The children will be working on their story sequencing skills by joining in with familiar phrases, making up actions and retelling parts of the stories.



Word reading: The children will be learning letters and sounds supported by the Bug Club Phonics programme. Segmenting and blending the sounds in words will also be an element of daily phonics sessions.

Writing: The children will be exploring a range of mark-making techniques to develop their fine and gross motor skills. They will join in with shared writing activities and individual practice of letter formation and name writing.

You can help your child by:

- *Sharing a story together each day.*
- *Emphasising the initial sounds in words and pointing out the letters in their name.*

MATHEMATICS

Number: We are going to introduce the children to number through number songs and action rhymes. We will also help them to gain confidence in counting, understanding cardinality and recognising numbers to 5, so that they can select a small number of objects from a group when asked, for example, 'please give me one', 'please give me two'. We aim for the children to use some number names and number language spontaneously, use some number names accurately in thematic based play and represent numbers using fingers, marks on paper or pictures.

Numerical patterns: The children will practise counting on and back to 10 and beyond in a range of ways. They will compare groups of objects and use the language of 'more than/less than' to describe amounts. They will have daily opportunities to explore numerical patterns as part of their continuous provision, using resources such as Numicon to support them.

You can help your child by:

- *Actively engaging them in and modelling the counting of everyday objects, eg when out shopping, count three tins of beans into the trolley; allowing them to help with such activities and correcting their misconceptions as they arise.*

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

Past and Present: The children will be finding out about the people in our school and local community, the jobs they do and how our school has changed over time.

The Natural World: We will initially explore some of the things that make each of us unique, paint our own self-portraits, and talk about some of the similarities and differences in relation to our friends or family. We will make full use of the outside environment to talk about some of the things observed, such as plants, animals and natural objects associated with the Autumn.



People, Culture and Communities: We will learn about our school community, our place in it and about the school's Core Values which will provide the foundation for the way we conduct ourselves in all school activities. The children will explore the different festivals celebrated by cultural communities, such as Diwali and Christmas.

You can help your child by:

- *Spending time outside in the natural environment, letting them explore and investigate. Take part in nature treasure hunts or keep a weather diary and talk about the changes.*

EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN



Creating with Materials: During this term, the children will be experimenting with colour mixing, thinking about the colours we see in Autumn. Natural art will also be a focus during our 'Autumn' theme; using a range of natural objects, the children will create art work to reflect their outdoor experiences.

Being Imaginative and Expressive: This term, the children will be supported in their roleplay games and encouraged to use or make props to support their play. We will also focus on making music and explore pitch, tone and melodic shape when singing and using instruments. Expressing ourselves through dance will give the children opportunities to learn new movements and move to the beat of music. The children will explore performance art and have the opportunity to take part in a Christmas production.

You can help your child by:

- *Engaging in imaginative role-play games with them.*
- *Singing together and exploring rhyming songs.*

