

Weekly Learning Letter

Friday 9th January 2026

This week in Reception:

Happy New Year!

We hope you all had a restful and relaxing break with a good dose of festive fun!

On behalf of the whole Reception Team, we would like to thank you for all your kind and generous cards, well wishes and gifts that we received before the break. They are so appreciated by the team!

The children have had a great first week back, although it takes us all a bit of time to get going after the holidays, they have come in with smiles and were keen to see each other again!

This week the children have been sharing and writing their Holiday News – it is lovely to hear what they have been doing.

They also have been thinking about and sharing their New Year's resolutions! They had great ideas of things they want to try or that they wish to practise and get better at!

Reminders:

Labelling belongings and Cold Weather

A gentle reminder to please label all your child's belongings with their **name**. If your child has lost something, please check the lost property shed.

Please ensure your child is wearing or has enough layers in their bag for this **cold weather**. If you have not already, please also provide your child with spare clothes in a bag at school, so they can change if their clothes get wet.

Our own supply of spare clothes that we lend the children, is running very low! We would be grateful for any socks, pants, leggings, tracksuit bottoms, t shirts etc that your child or children no longer need – thank you!

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Bookbags and Reading

Please continue to bring your child's bookbag into school on a **Monday**.

We conduct **phonics assessments** every half term in Reception to understand how your child is getting on with the pace of phonics and reading. Due to the changes in children's progress, we regularly shuffle the children's reading groups. This may result in your child bringing home a book that they have previously. Please still help them to practise their reading skills using this book, they may have since learned more sounds that they can recognise or their fluency may have improved.

Thank you for your understanding.

Phonics

This week in Phonics the children have been revisiting and practised recognising and reading all the sounds and tricky words they have learned in the Autumn term.

They have learned the trigraph **'igh'** and the digraphs **'ai'** **'ee'** **'oa'**.

For each new sound there is a catchphrase!



ai
tail in the rain



ee
sheep in a jeep



igh
a light in the night



oa
soap that goat

Maths

This week the children have been practising 1 more/1 less within 5.

There are many practical ways to help your child practise this at home:

- When helping to lay the table, give them more/less plates, cups or cutlery than they need and see if they understand they need 1 more or 1 less.
- Give them a handful of objects (cars, lego pieces, fruit) ask them to put them in a line – Can they find 1 more than the amount? Can they find 1 less?

The children have liked the following song, which you could play at home!

[Number Neighbors Song](#) | [Missing Numbers](#) | [One More, One Less](#)

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Important Dates

- Friday 23rd January – Reception Stay and Play 8.50-9.45am

Please note that at the end of the Stay and Play **you must exit the school via the gate on Elsinore Road**. If you walk through any gates that are closed and locked, please ensure that the gates are then closed and locked behind you.

When exiting the gate please do not let anyone in through the gate from outside, they would need to buzz through to the office first - this is a safeguarding measure. Thank you for your understanding.

Home learning ideas:

Help your child get back into a reading routine when they have their book Thursday to Monday.

- Ask your child which time of day they would like to read (before breakfast/after bathtime)
- Choose a cosy space to read, add a cushion and a blanket.
- If they get bored of reading to you, ask them to pretend being the teacher and teach you a new sound or tricky word.
- Set a timer for 10 minutes, a short reading session is all you need!

