



Paxcroft Primary School
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Acting Headteacher: Mr Alex George
Assistant Headteacher: Miss Vanessa Beaven

	Reception Team Mrs Pepler Miss Head Miss Hoskins
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Curriculum Overview
Term 1 – September 2025
Classes- Owls

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome back to school for our first term! We are very excited to have the children starting school. We have spent the first week building positive relationships and exploring our new environment.

This term, our learning will be based around Dinosaurs. We teach all learning goals through dinosaur based activities, which have shown to be a key interest to many children in the class.

The curriculum is planned using the Early Years Foundation Stage Early Learning Goals. There are 7 areas of learning and descriptions of the main activities in each area are below:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

A large amount of this term will be focused on beginning to understand and use the school and classroom routines. Opportunities will be given for your child to communicate his or her feelings, ideas and experiences. This will mainly be done through the introduction of Circle Times and dealt with sensitively to encourage confidence in this area. Activities will be provided for the children to form relationships with their peers and the adults in the class.

Communication and Language

This is a huge part of the Early Years Curriculum; almost all activities require language and communication. The children will develop their listening skills through Story Time, Circle Time and by following instructions. We will be learning how to communicate effectively with others.

Literacy (Reading and Writing)

This term we will begin to introduce the children to the school's reading scheme, phonemes (the sounds that make up words) and key words. We use the phonic scheme of Sounds-Write to introduce the phonemes to your child. This scheme teaches the three essential skills of blending, segmenting and phoneme manipulation necessary for learning to read and spell and we teach this **daily**. At the end of each unit, your child will bring home letter cards for the sounds they have been learning along with activities for you to practice with them. Weekly, the children will be provided with opportunities for free and structured writing. The initial stage with



writing will be to develop the confidence to put marks on the paper which the children give meaning to - this is known as emergent writing. Please praise all attempts at emergent writing. We will also be teaching the correct formation of letters through our handwriting sessions, please encourage your child to form the letters in their name correctly.

We will also be doing a block of learning based on the book 'Lulu's Nana Visits by Anna McQuinn' where we will be thinking and talking confidently about responses to a book, asking questions and making connections with their own experiences. We will be exploring the text through collaborative play; role play and storytelling.

Mathematics

In class we will be looking at numbers all around us and becoming more familiar with number recognition and number formation. During many activities, including structured play, we will be counting everything and anything! We will start the term by exploring spatial reasoning construction and 3D shapes. We will then move on to explore the composition of the numbers 1 to 3. We will be encouraging the children to subitise numbers to 3; recognising amounts of objects without counting. We will also be connecting quantities and numbers to finger patterns and explore different ways of representing numbers on our fingers.

Understanding the World

We will begin to familiarise ourselves with our new surroundings and get to know our new school. We will be going out and about on 'welly walks', especially in the lead up to Autumn and Harvest Time. Please can your child have a pair of NAMED wellies that can be kept in school. We will talk about the change in the season and explore the changes first hand by collecting autumn objects and displaying them in the classroom. The children will begin to learn how to use the large interactive whiteboard and play games and draw pictures on an iPad.

Expressive Arts and Design

The children will have an opportunity to use a range of materials to create 2D and 3D pictures and models throughout the year. They will have access daily to the creative area where they can use their imagination to turn junk materials into meaningful models; these will be brought home at the end of the day for your child to share with you. Please talk to your child about their model, what did they use to create it, how did they fix it together, etc.

Physical Development

This term we are practising following instructions and becoming more aware of our own and others' space. Your child will have the chance to practise fine motor skills including holding and using a pencil/felt-tip/crayon correctly, threading activities, tracing and cutting.

It would be really helpful if you could encourage your child to be more independent with taking off and putting on their coat and jumpers/cardigans. Please make sure your child's clothes are NAMED.

The children will receive a healthy snack and milk during the morning but please make sure your child brings a named bottle of WATER every day.



Home Learning

It is still essential that once you have started receiving books, phonemes and key words that the children are completing home learning tasks in order to consolidate their learning. As well as the Sounds-Write phoneme cards we will be sending home a 2 weekly fine motor skills activity to help build up the muscles to prepare for writing. This term, we are also sending out some optional home learning challenges for the children to further their engagement with our topic. Children can pick one or two activities and there will be an opportunity to bring in and share towards the end of the term.

Daily	Two Weekly (Alternate)
Regular reading both independently and with an adult/older sibling.	Sounds-Write Homework Fine motor skills home work

Reading

In reception, children will bring home a Sounds-Write specific reading book to read daily at home. The children will only be moved to the next book once they are 90% fluent in reading their Sounds-Write books. Please record that a child has read to somebody at home in their Reading Record. Adults in school will assess and monitor children's progress on internal records, logging against Sounds-Write criteria, so will no longer be recording this in the Reading Records, which will primarily be for home adults to use. Sounds-Write books will usually be changed early in the week and children will also be bringing home a library book weekly to encourage reading for pleasure.

Expectations and responsibilities

PE Kit

PE sessions will be held on the days stated below; however, there will be occasions where we will need to be flexible so please ensure your child has their PE kit available in school every day.

In their PE bag they should have 1 PE top in their house colour, 1 pair of joggers and/or shorts, a pair of black daps or trainers and a black hoodie or Paxcroft hoodie (if they wish).

Owls – Tuesday afternoon

The children will receive a healthy snack and milk during the morning but please make sure your child brings a named bottle of WATER every day.

Planning time

Each week, the teachers in our phase have planning and preparation time, which they complete out of class. This will be on the following days, with the following cover arrangements:

Mrs Pepler – Wednesdays from 12.15pm and Thursdays from 2.15pm.

This will be covered by Miss Hoskins.

As one of our learner's values, we encourage the children's independence in communicating messages; however, any important messages can be communicated via email to the office admin@paxcroft.wilts.sch.uk or please feel free to pop in and see us; we hold an open door policy and are more than happy to arrange a convenient time to meet.

Kind regards,
Mrs Pepler

