



Autumn term 1st half 2026

Reception class newsletter



Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to Reception! I will be sending a newsletter each half term to let you know what we will be learning about. Please keep an eye on Tapestry and your emails too as I love to share what we are getting up to! In Class R, we follow the seasons as the basis for our learning, as well as the children's current interests. We will be following the 'Wanderlust Child Nature Study' for much of our themed work over the year. This begins with AUTUMN and lots of lovely themes within this: Owls, Apples, Leaves, Sticks and Spiders to begin with. Some areas of our 'Continuous Provision' in class and outside will be enhanced to engage the children further in our themes. Other areas will be available on a continuous basis to develop key foundation skills, such as fine motor, early reading and writing, sharing, making friends, language skills...

In **Literacy**, we will be focusing on rhyme, rhythm and early phonic skills this half term, along with encouraging the children to mark make lines, circles and some letter shapes. I will be running a Phonics Workshop to explain more about this. The children will begin Phase 2 phonics and will bring home a Phonics practise book to support this. Reading books with words will be sent home when we feel children are ready to begin blending and segmenting. Children receive a daily phonics session of 20 minutes. They will also have other whole class times, where we will share texts / have discussions, as well as group times and adult-led tasks. Our planned texts are: *Owl Babies*, *The Gingerbread Man* and *You Choose*, which we explore further using Drawing Club and our imaginations!

In **Maths**, we will be developing the key skill of subitising this half term (recognising numbers of things without counting) as well as introducing the Number Blocks 1 to 5 and really getting to grips with the numerals 1-5.

All children will be completing an official Baseline Assessment task on the computer (more info will be given about this) which focuses on Literacy and Maths skills. Miss Crowther and I will be assessing the children ourselves, to gauge their current levels in relation to the EYFS curriculum and next steps.

We will be using the 7 areas of the EYFS curriculum to plan and deliver learning: Communication and Language, Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Physical Development, Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts.

P.E will be on Wednesdays and Fridays this term. You are welcome to leave P.E kits in school until the October holidays if you wish. **Earrings should be covered or taken out please and long hair tied back.**

Outdoor learning – children will have daily access to outdoors (where it is safe to do so). We will be taking the class on Nature Walks in our local area too to enhance their understanding of the current season and explore / have fun. Our Chair of Governors, Mrs Thompson, accompanies us on these walks but we also welcome parents / carers if you wish! We will let you know when our first walk is. We will also be having Forest School sessions in the school grounds with myself.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Boon and the EYFS team

Please remember you can send your Wow moments to: newstarters@coateslane.lancs.sch.uk - or use Tapestry to send photos and key moments if you wish.

Key dates this half term:

Monday 7th September 2026 - Reception Baseline Assessments taking place this week.

Friday 11th September - our first time in assembly! Fridays are 'achievement' assemblies and parents will be invited if your child has won an award.

Monday 14th September - Open Evening at school 5.30-7.30pm (for prospective parents).

We will be starting Phase 2 phonics this week. Look out for children's Phonics practise books being sent home in their book bag.

Wednesday 16th September - Mrs Boon out at a Reception teacher meeting a.m and PPA time p.m

Thursday 17th September - lunch with your child at school - please book. 12.00-12.30

Thursday 17th September - 3.15-3.45pm after school - Reception 'Welcome' session in class - to discuss how your child is settling in

Tuesday 22nd September - Stay and Play session in Reception class / outdoors. 9-11am

Tuesday 29th September - hand hygiene session - how to avoid germs (visitor)

Wednesday 30th September - Mrs Boon on a course all day

Tuesday 6th October - Open Day in school for prospective parents

Friday 16th October - Stay and Play session in Reception class / outdoors. 2-3.25pm

Tuesday 20th October - finish for the half term holidays, usual finish time 3.25pm. School reopens on Monday 2nd November 2026.

Please also see the key dates sent out by Mr Toddington, in case I have missed anything! I will be emailing about the Stay and Play sessions shortly.

Mrs Boon