

Castle Primary School

Curriculum Letter

Year R



Spring Term 2026

Characteristics of learning

The Characteristics of learning are the ways in which a child engages with other people and their environment. The Characteristics, listed below, underpin learning and development across all areas of the Early Years curriculum and support the child to remain an effective and motivated learner. Our planned learning experiences this term aim to foster these characteristics ensuring that our children continue to develop as effective and motivated learners.

Playing and exploring – engagement

Finding out and exploring

Playing with what they know

Being willing to 'have a go'

Active learning – motivation

Being involved and concentrating

Keeping on trying

Enjoying achieving what they set out to do

Creating and thinking critically – thinking

Having their own ideas

Making links

Choosing ways to do things

What we will be learning in Year R



Happy New Year everyone! This term your children will continue their learning through the Early Years Curriculum following their own interests during Discovery Time and being taught skills directly through a variety of activities and group sessions. The outline below is a brief description of the learning that will be covered this term.

Once Upon a Time

During the first half term we will be focussing on two traditional tales: The Gingerbread Man and The Three Little Pigs. We will be listening to the stories and playing with them until we are confident to re-tell them. We will think about **Who** the characters are in these stories, **Where** the stories are set, **When** the stories happened and **What** happens in each of the stories. We will learn how to draw and label a story map to help us retell these traditional tales. We will be learning to re-tell the stories using expression and intonation to bring them to life.

Chinese New Year falls during this half term and we will be learning about this celebration and how people in the Chinese community mark this colourful festival.

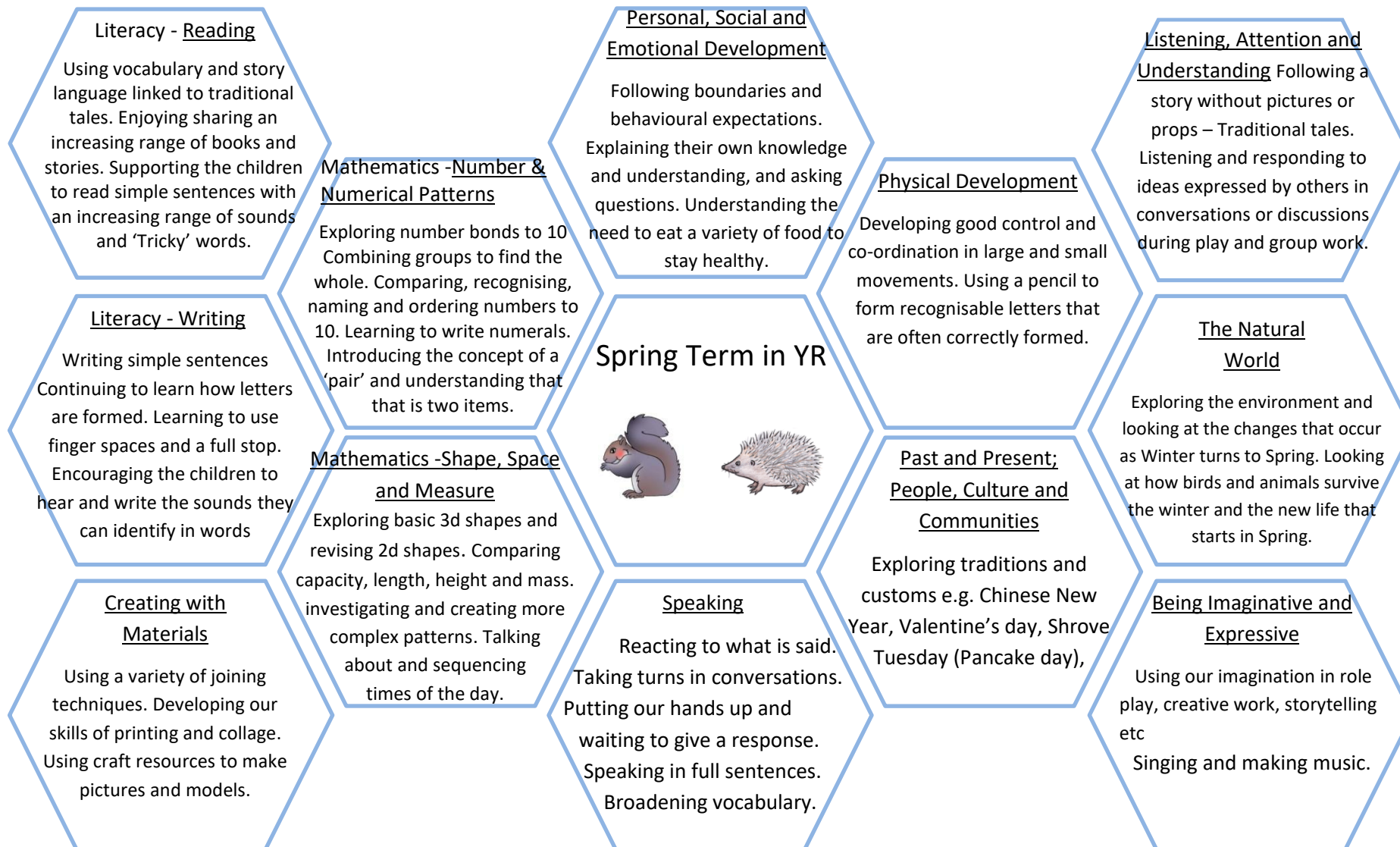
New Life

In the second half term we will be sharing the celebrations of Shrove Tuesday, Mother's Day and Easter. We will be learning about the changes that Spring brings and new life that emerges during this time. We will focus particularly on eggs.

We will be getting involved in World Book Day sharing lots of stories old and new and thinking about what our own favourite stories are.

We will also be focussing on the story of **Supertato** by Sue Hendra: talking about the characters; developing our understanding of **who, where, when, what**; and becoming more confident with our story retelling.

As we start to plant vegetable seeds ready to grow in our garden, we will learn about eating a wide range of foods and how vegetables and fruit are important for healthy bodies and minds.



How you can help your child at home...

Below are some suggested activities you may like to try at home with your child.

- Practise their reading book from Wednesday to Monday each week.
- Share books and stories with your child every day – use your local library
- Learn the letter sound cards which come home each day and keep going back over previous sounds.
- Play tricky word bingo games and find other ways to help them to learn their tricky words (stick words up around the house, use chalk to write words..).
- Begin to talk about the letter name (grapheme) as well as its sound (phoneme).
- Use the children's letter cards to make simple regular words that they can sound out themselves.
- Share your child's learning experiences at home/outside of school via tapestry so we can celebrate them. We love to hear what they are doing at home too.
- Support your child with letter and numeral formation using Kinetic Letters (see links below).
- Encourage your child to practise writing their own name using correctly formed letters (capital letter at the beginning and then all lower-case).
- Help your child to pick out numbers in their surroundings to support their recognition.
- Count forwards and backwards to 10 with your child.
- Encourage your child to find different ways to make the same whole using concrete resources (e.g. using 6 Lego blocks- making towers 6 and 0, 1 and 5, 2 and 4, 3 and 3..).
- Talk to your child about the days of the week, the date and the month we are in.



The children will be taught early gymnastic skills by a gym coach on Fridays. Therefore, the children will now need to come to school wearing their PE kits each Friday.

Useful websites:

Little Wandle

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

Kinetic Letters

https://lms.kineticletters.com/pluginfile.php/9025/mod_resource/content/1/Pencil%20pick-up%20and%20checks.pdf

https://lms.kineticletters.com/pluginfile.php/7380/mod_resource/content/3/HS6%20Helping%20your%20child%20-%20letter%20family%20groups.pdf

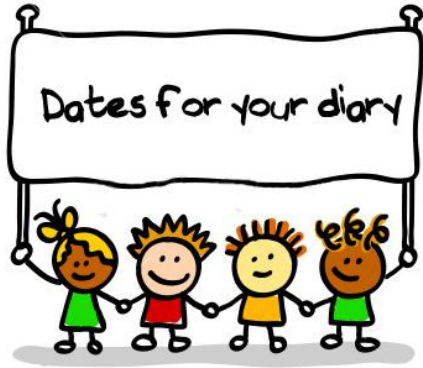
https://lms.kineticletters.com/pluginfile.php/7381/mod_resource/content/2/HS7%20Helping%20your%20child%20-%20Letter%20Trail%20wording.pdf

Numberblocks

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b08bzfnh/numberblocks>



Key Dates for this term



- Week beginning 9th February – Children’s Mental Health Week.
- Friday 13th February - Wear something red to school as we celebrate Chinese New Year.
- Week beginning 5th March – Book Week including World Book Day – *There will be more details to follow about this exciting week.*
- Friday 20th March - Red Nose Day for Comic Relief

Any other important dates for the term will be communicated to you via email, the school newsletter or Tapestry.