Castle Primary School

Aim High

Year R Curriculum Newsletter

Autumn Term 2026

Aim High

Welcome to Year R!

We are so excited to welcome your child to the Hedgehog and Squirrel classes. This term we will be getting to know each other, building new friendships and settling into school life. Our learning will be based around the theme:

Me, My Family and My World.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will be learning how to care for each other, share, take turns, build respectful relationships and learn the routines of school life. We will try new activities and join in with group times.



Communication and Language

We will be listening to a wide range of stories, songs and rhymes. We will be joining in with familiar stories, learning new vocabulary and using our talking and listening skills during play and in group times.



Physical Development

We will be using large apparatus and equipment to build strength, balance and coordination. We will also be developing our fine motor skills through activities such as dough disco, mark making, cutting and using tools.



Literacy – Reading

We will be shaning lots of stories and making links with our own experiences. We will be learning to sequence stories and begin to recognise single letter sounds. We will also learn to blend sounds together to make words.



Our Topic:

Me, My Family and My World



Literacy – Writing

We will be learning to write our first names. We will begin to form lower case letters using Kinetic Letters, identify initial sounds and write the initial sounds of words (e.g. c for cat, p for pin). We will also write the initial and end sounds of short words.



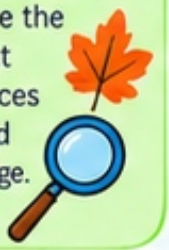
Mathematics

We will be sorting and matching objects, exploring colour, size and type. We will recognise and name numbers to 5, count forwards and backwards, begin to say one more and one less. We will also explore 2D shapes in the environment.



Understanding the World

We will be learning about our families, homes, our local environment and the changing seasons. We will explore the world around us, look at similarities and differences and begin to understand how things grow and change.



Expressive Arts and Design

We will be joining in with songs and rhymes, exploring simple percussion instruments and moving to music. We will use our imaginations in role play and create our own models and pictures using a variety of materials, paint, glue and natural resources.



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How you can help your child at home...

Small steps make a big difference!

Working together for your child's success

Characteristics of learning

These are the ways in which a child engages with other people and their environment. They underpin learning and development across all areas of the Early Years curriculum and help children to become effective and motivated learners. Our planned learning experiences this term aim to foster these characteristics.

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 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



How you can support your child at home...

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

- Practice their reading book for a few minutes every day.
- Share stories with your child every day.
- Play the tricky word bingo games.
- Learn the letter sound cards which come home each day. Please take a look at the Little Wandle Scheme for help saying the sounds correctly.
- Use the weekly summaries to help your child over-learn their learning in phonics.
- Find objects to go with each letter sound as they are learnt. Play games of eye spy.
- When your child has learnt the first 4 letter sounds (s, a, t, p), begin to make words with them (e.g. at, sat, pat, tap).
- Practice counting to 10 and counting out sets of up to 5 objects.
- Practise recognising and naming the numerals to 5 then 10.
- Look for 2D shapes in the environment: circle, square, triangle and rectangle.

Children learn best through play, talk and spending time together!



Key Dates for this term

Thursday 24th September 2026	Year R Reading Meeting for parents in the Main Hall – 5.00 p.m.
Monday 14th December 2026	Year R Nativity Performance – 2.00 p.m.
Friday 7th May 2027	Trip to Longdown Dairy Farm

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

We can't wait for an amazing term!

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