

Cherry Class - Class Curriculum Map for Spring 1 – January 2026

Prime areas of learning	
Subject	Main Learning Focus
Personal Social and Emotional Development (PSED)	This half term, the children will further develop their personal and social skills, including building friendships, sharing, taking turns, following rules, dressing/undressing, and setting personal goals. During PSED sessions, we'll also explore and share our hopes and dreams. We will continue with the MyHappyMind programme, starting the "Appreciate" unit. This module introduces the children to the concept of being thankful. Not only for objects but also for people and parts of themselves.
Physical Development	Physical Education will be taught in a weekly session every Thursday, either indoors or outdoors, led by a PE Coach. In this half terms dance unit, children will develop their expressive movement through the topic of 'everyday life'. Children explore space and how to use space safely. They explore travelling movements, shapes and balances. Children choose their own actions in response to a stimulus. They are given the opportunity to copy, repeat and remember actions. children will also participate daily in a short "Busy Fingers" session to develop their fine motor skills, such as using scissors, pencils, and handling small objects. The children also take part in a daily "dough disco" session which also exercises their fine motor skills and hand/ wrist muscles to support writing / mark making.
Communication and Language (CL)	Children will actively engage with stories, rhymes, and songs to enhance their listening, comprehension, and participation skills. They will be encouraged to interact and collaborate with their peers, developing social and communication skills while building confidence in group settings. Through discussions, they will share their knowledge and ideas on topics such as people who help us, superheroes, and important roles in our community. These activities aim to foster curiosity, empathy, and a deeper understanding of the world around them.
Specific Areas	
Literacy	<p>Reception will continue with the <i>Supersonic Phonic Friends</i> phonics programme, focusing on reviewing and mastering the correct formation of letters. They will also work on writing sentences using finger spaces, capital letters, and full stops. The children will explore a variety of writing styles across the curriculum, including lists, stories, labels, simple sentences, speech bubbles, letters, and postcards. A strong emphasis will be placed on fostering a love for reading, with regular opportunities for shared and independent reading. Reading books, along with reading records, will be sent home weekly to support this.</p> <p>Nursery will be working on distinguishing between different sounds by identifying their unique qualities, such as pitch, tone, and rhythm. This helps them develop auditory discrimination skills, enabling them to differentiate between similar sounds in their environment. They will also practice recognizing and remembering patterns of sounds, which strengthens their auditory memory and sequencing abilities.</p> <p>This half term, Reception Literacy focus books are <i>The Snail and the Whale</i> and <i>Martha Maps it out</i>, which will inspire creativity and enrich learning experiences. Nursery's are <i>We're Going on a Bear Hunt</i>, <i>Elmer</i>, and <i>Dear Zoo</i>.</p>
Mathematics	<p>Reception children will continue to enhance their number recognition and ability to order numbers from 0 to 10 and beyond. They will also develop spatial awareness and use spatial language related to position and direction, both through physical movement and by representing these concepts with symbols.</p> <p>Additionally, they will begin to understand the position of numbers up to 10 and their relationships with one another, using this knowledge to make estimations and solve problems.</p> <p>Nursery will be exploring and identifying patterns by engaging in both physical actions and verbal observations. They will be encouraged to use specific language related to patterns, such as "same," "different," "next," "repeat," and "sequence," to articulate their understanding. By making comparisons, they will recognise similarities and differences within patterns and describe how patterns repeat or change. This process strengthens their problem-solving, critical thinking, and mathematical reasoning skills.</p>
Understanding of the World (UW)	<p>This half term, our theme is <i>All Around the World</i>. The children will explore and deepen their understanding of people and places around the world. We will look at similarities and differences between where we live and other towns and villages in the UK, as well as in other places around the globe.</p> <p>Additionally, a week will be dedicated to learning about the vibrant traditions and celebrations of Chinese New Year, providing a rich cultural learning experience.</p>
Expressive Arts and Design (EAD)	The children will be given various opportunities to develop their creative skills. An assortment of different media will be readily available. Children will explore colour mixing and mark making with a range of different media and tools. On the art table there will be a new focus each week ranging from junk modelling emergency vehicles, collages, and Chinese new year decorations. Music and songs are embedded into our learning and children will have access to different instruments in our music areas. As well as children having adult led music sessions on Tuesday afternoons.
Outdoor Learning	<p>In Early Years, outdoor learning is an integral part of our daily routine. Children engage in a variety of outdoor activities, from practicing Maths and Phonics to exploring during Independent Learning time. Our outdoor independent learning opportunities are thoughtfully planned to align with the specific needs and developmental goals of the class, ensuring meaningful and engaging experiences.</p> <p>Outdoor PSHE lessons take place once each half term in our dedicated outdoor learning space by the field, offering a unique environment to foster personal, social, and emotional development.</p>