



Celebrating Our Phonics and Literacy Journey

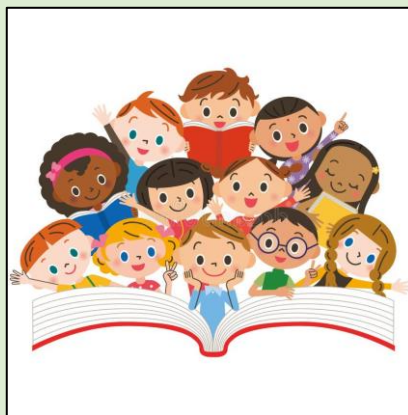
As we come to the end of another wonderful year in Reception, we would like to take the opportunity to celebrate the fantastic achievements of all our children in phonics, reading and writing. We are incredibly proud of the hard work, effort and enthusiasm they have shown throughout the year. The children have worked diligently in their daily phonics lessons, practised their reading regularly at home and applied their phonics knowledge in lots of different ways. Their confidence and enjoyment of reading has been a joy to see, and they have truly amazed us with the progress they have made.

This progress has also been reflected in their writing. The children have worked extremely hard to develop their handwriting, form their letters correctly and use their phonics and Fred Fingers to sound out and spell words independently. We have been particularly impressed by how much confidence they have gained as writers, with many children now choosing to write independently during their play and learning.

This week, we have been reflecting on our favourite parts of Reception and writing sentences to share with the new children who will be joining us next year. It has been amazing to see so many children taking the initiative to write independently, carefully thinking about finger spaces, capital letters and punctuation. Looking back through the children's writing books and yellow home learning journals has also been a wonderful reminder of just how far they have come since September.

A huge thank you to all our parents and families for supporting your child's learning at home. Your continued encouragement with reading and writing has made a tremendous difference. Over the six-week summer holiday, a little regular practice will help children retain and build upon the skills they have worked so hard to develop. Simple activities such as sharing stories together, reading signs and labels when out and about, writing shopping lists, sending postcards, keeping a holiday diary, practising letter formation or playing word and sound games can all help keep their phonics, reading and writing skills ticking over ready for Year 1.

We are incredibly proud of each and every child. They have all made amazing progress from their own starting points, and we know they will continue to shine as they move into Year 1. Well done, Reception—we couldn't be prouder of you!



Phonics

Outdoor Learning Adventures in Reception

Outdoor learning has been a huge part of our Reception year, and it has been wonderful to see how enthusiastically the children have embraced the many opportunities available to them. From exploring nature in the bungalow garden to creating, mixing and experimenting in the mud kitchen, the children have shown curiosity, creativity and a real love of learning outdoors. Their imaginative play has flourished through small world and storytelling activities, where magical fairy lands, dinosaur worlds, pirate adventures and under-the-sea kingdoms have come to life. We have loved watching friendships grow as children have collaborated, shared ideas and built exciting stories together through their play.

The outdoor area has also provided endless opportunities for creativity. The children have produced beautiful chalk artwork, explored shadows and light, painted rocks, designed and created on a large scale, and allowed their imaginations to run wild. They have become explorers, scientists and engineers, investigating at the potion station, solving problems through STEM challenges, and constructing incredible creations including houses, tents, lighthouses, pirate ships, motorbikes and many other wonderful vehicles. Through lifting, carrying, building and balancing, the children have developed their core strength, gross motor skills and coordination, while sporting activities such as basketball, foot tennis, obstacle courses and team games have encouraged teamwork, resilience and good sportsmanship.

Outdoor learning has also provided opportunities for quieter moments. Our calm area and outdoor reading spaces have been a lovely place for children to relax, share stories with friends and enjoy peaceful play. Music and performance have regularly filled our stage area, with children confidently singing, dancing and putting on wonderful shows for one another. We have also enjoyed spending time in our forest area, building dens, creating nature art, making fairy homes and wands, and exploring the natural world around us. To top it all off, the fantastic lunchtime provision available across the school has provided even more opportunities for adventure, creativity and play.

It has been truly wonderful to watch the children grow in confidence outdoors and show us talents, interests and qualities that might not always be seen indoors. Outdoor learning plays such an important role in supporting children's development, wellbeing, communication, physical skills and imagination. We hope the children take their love of outdoor learning with them into Year 1 and continue to explore, discover, create and thrive. We have loved every moment of their outdoor adventures this year and are incredibly proud of all they have achieved.



Important diary dates and information

Summer reading Challenge

The North Tyneside Summer Reading Challenge launches in libraries on **Saturday 11 July 2026**. This year's music-inspired theme, "Read to the Beat," invites children aged 4 to 11 to read six books over three library visits to earn rewards. The theme encourages the children to make connections between stories and songs and how both can ignite imagination and creativity!

See the website link below to sign up! We'd love to see some certificates and medals in September and hear about the books the children read.

[Summer Reading Challenge](#)



17.7.26- School closes for summer Holidays

1.9.26- Teacher training day

2.9.26- First day of Year 1 😊

Year 1 Transition Booklet

Next week, we'll be sending home a **Year 1 Transition Booklet** for the children to enjoy over the summer holidays. It's a lovely way for them to get to know a little more about Year 1 and feel excited about their next adventure! We'd love you to spend some time looking through it together and chatting about what Year 1 will be like. If your child has any questions or worries, these conversations can really help to build their confidence and make the move to Year 1 feel a little less daunting. We know they're going to be amazing!

Reminders:

- **Reading folders-** Following last week's newsletter, we will be gathering in the reading folders and phonics books on Monday 13th July. Thank you for your support throughout the year; we are so proud of the children and the progress they have made.
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- **Cool Milk.** Please remember that your child/ children are not eligible for free school milk after their 5th birthday. If you would like your child to continue having milk at school, you must contact Cool Milk directly at least two weeks before their birthday.



Have a lovely weekend.

The Reception Team 😊