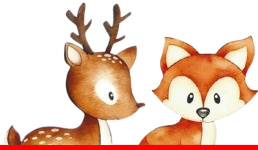




Reception Newsletter



Friday 16th January 2026



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I am delighted to welcome everyone back after the Christmas break.

The children have returned with great enthusiasm and are already showing great development across all areas of learning. It's wonderful to see their excitement and curiosity shining through!

Thank you for your continued support—it truly makes a difference. This term, I encourage you to help extend your child's learning at home, especially by nurturing their enthusiasm for reading and writing.

Listening to your child read each evening and talking about their stories is a great way to build confidence and enjoyment.

Best wishes
Mr Boxall

Meet Barney - Your Child's New Reading Buddy!

We're thrilled to introduce Barney's Bones, a playful way to boost your child's reading skills at home!

Your child now gets to care for their very own "Barney" (using the dog template we sent home) and help him stay happy and well-fed.

Here's how it works:

1. Each time your child receives a set of "bones," cut them out and keep them safe.
2. To feed Barney, your child must read the word or phoneme on the bone instantly - no sounding out!
3. If they get it right, Barney gets his treat!
4. You can tick the back of each bone when they succeed and jot a quick note in their reading record once a week.

Our Reception Team will check progress weekly and send new bones home as your child masters each set.

Want to take it further? Try writing the words, using fridge magnets, or even foam letters in the bath for extra fun!

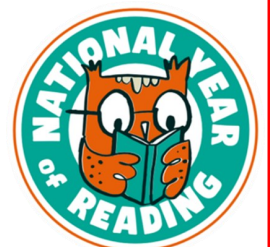
If some bones feel tricky, start with just 2 or 3 and add more as your child grows in confidence.



Go All In For Reading!

2026 is the National Year of Reading – let's make it magical! With the theme 'Go All In', we're encouraging everyone to dive into stories, books, comics, and audiobooks.

Reading is one of the most important skills your child will ever learn. Children who read daily are up to 4 times more likely to read above the expected level for their age (National Literacy Trust). You can help by listening to your child read every night and popping a quick note in their reading record to share those special moments. Mr Boxall checks records daily. Together, let's make reading an adventure!



Dive into Discovery!

We've started the term with excitement and curiosity! Inspired by the poem "When Daddy Fell into the Pond", children explored what lives in a pond, learned new vocabulary, and wrote captions to retell the story—supporting communication, language, and literacy.

Our creativity continued as we made foil fish, wrapped in wool and decorated with bold patterns, and used playdough to design our own ponds. These activities strengthened fine motor skills, encouraged expressive arts and design, and linked to maths as we counted buttons for lily pads.

Learning moved outdoors as we worked together to build a large pond from blocks. This hands-on challenge promoted gross motor development, teamwork, and personal, social and emotional skills. Across all these experiences, children combined language, creativity, physical development, and problem-solving in fun, meaningful ways.



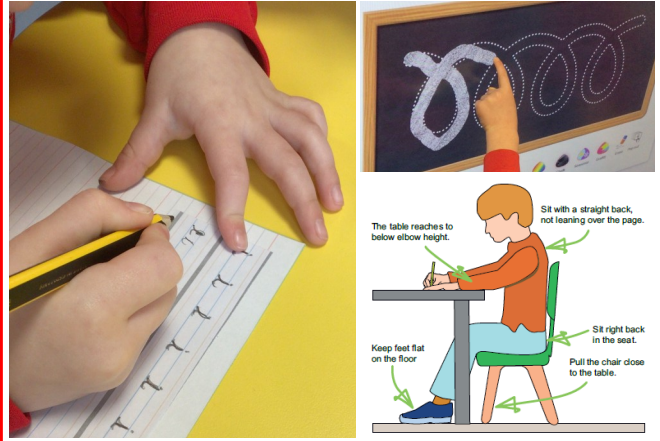
Making Room for Independence!

To keep things running smoothly in school, please note the following:

- **Water Bottles:** Children should only bring a small sports cap bottle to school. Large bottles such as Stanley cups are too big for our spaces and often spill, which makes things tricky for the children.
- **Book Bags:** Kindly remove any keyrings or bulky accessories from book bags. These make it hard for the bags to fit into drawers and for children to manage independently in the cloakroom.
- **Extra Items:** Please do not send additional toys or clothing to school. These are best kept for home so we can focus on learning and independence.

Pencil Power!

This term we're working on letter formation, with an emphasis on pencil grip and sitting position. These skills are essential for developing control and confidence in writing. The children are enthusiastic and making great progress!



Dates for your diary

Thursday 22nd January

Reception Davenport Learning Assembly

Monday 23rd February

Parents Evening

Monday 2nd March

Parents Evening

Monday 23rd March

Open Evening

