



Autumn 2026 1st Half Term – Reception

Hello and welcome to Snowdrop class. We are looking forward to sharing your child's learning journey in their reception year at Hilltop First School. For the first few weeks, we will be focusing on getting the children settled, teaching them the rules and routines and forming positive relationships with them as we get to know them and ensuring that they feel safe, happy and confident to come into school each day.

This term, we will be looking at Traditional Tales. The children will enjoy 'The Ugly Duckling', 'Goldilocks and The Three Bears,' 'The Three Little Pigs' and 'The Billy Goats Gruff' as well as a number of other stories. We will also look at the story 'Pumkin Soup' which will lead us into learning about the seasons, looking specifically at Autumn. They will be encouraged to join in with key phrases, role play as if they are different characters and get creative.

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

To support PSED, we use familiar traditional tales to safely explore sharing, classroom rules, and understanding our feelings. We will support the children to develop new friendships. We will learn how to be a good friend by encouraging turn taking, expressing our feelings and how to invite each other into their play, as well as how to comfort a friend who is upset.

Communication & Language

Our focus is on building confidence in speaking, active listening, and back-and-forth conversations. Through our traditional tales, we are learning to re-tell stories, use repeated phrases as well as new vocabulary, and ask and answer questions during our shared play. We will learn to retell a story using props such as character masks and small world resources.

Physical Development

This term, we are focusing on building both gross and fine motor skills. The children are developing spatial awareness, balance, and coordination through outdoor play, climbing, and action songs. Indoors, we are strengthening hand muscles for writing by using playdough, scissors, and tweezers, while also encouraging independence in putting on coats and managing shoes.

Literacy

We will be starting our Phonics lessons using 'Letterland' where we will be learning 2 new sounds per week. The children will come home with a wordless book each week. Please ensure you 'read' with your child at least four times a week as this encourages storytelling and vocabulary.

Maths

We will be focussing on counting skills, subitising within 3, exploring how all numbers are made of 1's as well as looking at the composition of 3 and 4. We will subitise objects and sounds and use the language of comparison: 'more than and fewer than' when comparing sets, as well as small, medium, large.

Understanding the World

Using the Traditional Tales as starting points, the children will be learning about kindness and diversity (The Ugly Duckling), respect and boundaries (Goldilocks) different types of bridges (The Billy Goats Gruff), different types of homes & materials used to build. (The 3 little Pigs).

Expressive Arts

The children will be learning how to use a range of tools and materials. This term, we will look at attaching materials together using different types of glue and begin to use scissors thinking about the positioning of our thumb. We will explore painting and sponge printing.

Reminders for this half term

- ★ Please ensure your child has **all** school uniform **clearly labelled with their name**.
- ★ The children should be bringing a clearly named school water bottle to school daily.
- ★ Please ensure the children come into school wearing their **PE kits** on **Fridays**. They do not need to bring in their school uniforms on this day as they will not be getting changed.

Mrs van Laar ☺