

# Pirates, Mad about Minibeasts/ Animals from Afar

**Reception Mckee  
Summer Term 2026**

## Key Areas of Learning

As communicators, we will be sharing our work with others developing our listening and turn taking skills. We will be supported to respond to what we have heard by asking relevant questions. We will be encouraged to undertake various tasks around the classroom whilst we talk with others, remembering our rules for speaking and listening. We have an exciting range of books to read and learn from this half term based around our theme of 'Pirates'. Some texts link our outside learning centred around Minibeasts and Animals from Afar.

As physically active people, we will hold a pencil or pen using a tripod grip when writing and form many letters correctly ensuring they are of similar size and formed on the line. We will continue to find safe and varied ways to travel, for example: moving around, over or through. We will also think about how to make healthy choices and how our body can be impacted by movement.

As socially active humans, we will be supported to use the inside and outside learning environment safely and independently, ensuring that we show respect to other children and adults in these areas. We will be developing our team spirit this term by partaking in group games and thinking about how we work together when we play games using the parachute.

### Literacy

As readers, we will continue to take part in Read Write Inc programme, we will continue to apply our phonics knowledge to read words and to identify and blend known 'best friends' (digraphs and trigraphs) to read more complex words. We will learn to recognise and read a range of red words with greater confidence and speed. We will continue to develop our reading and comprehension skills, The skills we develop through this will then be used within our own child-initiated writing where we are encouraged to use our own imagination in writing. It is expected that we will be writing sentences supported and independently that can be read by ourselves and others. As writers, we will use the sounds we know to segment and spell words accurately, or in a way that is phonetically plausible, and we will spell red words correctly when working in a guided group or independently. We will be challenged to write for different purposes during our independently led activities.

### Mathematics

As mathematicians, we will be exploring numbers beyond 10, counting up to and back from 20 and calculating what 1 more and 1 less than a given number up to 20 is. We will enjoy investigating ways of making different values using lots of different and exciting mathematical objects. As we get to explore the bigger numbers, we will also solve problems using weight, height, length and time. We can test out our skills in the outdoor area by using the water to talk about capacity, the sand for weight, and we can use non-standard units to measure how far we can throw a Wellington boot in the garden. This term we will see lots of consolidation and embedding of skills needed to enable them to automatically recall number bonds to 5 and 10. The children will use vocabulary such as greater, less, heavier, lighter, longer, shorter or the same. We will look again at patterns within numbers including odds, evens and doubles. We will continue to learn about the names of different shapes and use these to create simple repeating patterns.

### Understanding the World

We will continue to deepen our understanding of others religions, cultures and languages and compare them to our own.

We will learn about different animals and their life cycles and we will compare the different stages within them. We will develop an understanding of having 'green fingers! We will be planting a variety of seeds and hopefully even some vegetables. Through this we hope this will give the children a deeper understanding of how we can nurture the place that is special to us. We will also be taking part in 'bug' hunts We will be encouraged to observe, discuss and record what we can see in our immediate environment and how this may differ from where we live or places, we have been. We will consider different environments such as the ocean and what animals live there.

### Expressive Arts and Design

We will be recognising what changes take place in each season and represent those changes using music and movement. We will also be experimenting with sound, identifying its pitch and tempo, and we will be learning some new songs and dances as a class. Through the development of the role play and small world areas we will be able to make up our own stories and narratives as well as retell well known texts. We will be able to make our own props to support with acting out stories as well as using our imagination to use things that are available to us in an interesting way.

### Physical Development

In Physical Education, we will be developing our ball control and team working skills, so we can cooperatively play a ball game as a small group. We will also be developing skills which will help with improving our accuracy whilst throwing, catching and striking a ball. We will always be given a variety of opportunities to write, and mark make within our environment this will help to practice their fine motor skills. In the outside area we will use spades for digging, paint brushes, chalk and spray bottles

