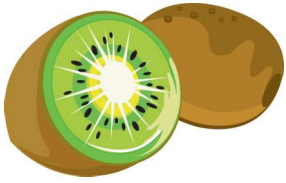


# Reception News



January 2026



## Happy New Year Reception!

Happy New Year and welcome back, we hope you had a fantastic Christmas break. What a fantastic first term you have all had at Great Heath Academy. We want to say a big well done to all of the children for their brilliant Christmas Nativity performances. You all put on a fantastic show - we hope you enjoyed it!

## Our Topics

Each week we base our literacy learning around a book. This half term's theme is 'Winter Wonderland', during which we will look at the following stories:

- One Snowy Night
- Gruffalo's Child
- Lost and Found

Our next topic is called 'Let's Explore' where we will spend some time learning about the environments that they share with others, including their homes, school and places in the local community.

## Phonics

We have been really busy learning the sounds in our Jolly Phonics lessons. At this point in the year we have covered all the sounds we need to help us to read and write. Each day we have a new focus to help us improve our phonics:

- **Monday:** We learn alternative ways of spelling sounds eg. using a 'y' for instead of 'ee' in words.
- **Tuesday:** We practice our handwriting and learn how to form capital letters for sounds.
- **Wednesday:** We revisit and learn some new tricky words (please continue practicing these at home).
- **Thursday and Friday:** We put everything we have learnt together to practice writing sentences.

It is really important to support your child at home by regularly practicing their reading book. Every time your child reads at home, and when it is written in their yellow reading record, they will receive a red paw print. Paw prints = prizes!

## PE

Please ensure that you send your child's PE kit to school before so that it is ready in school. Please also ensure that long hair is tied back and earrings are removed or covered. Mango Class will have their PE lessons on a Wednesday and Kiwi Class on a Friday.

## Tapestry and Dojo

Thank you to all of those who have signed up to Tapestry. This is a great tool that enables you to find out about your child's learning at school. If you are still not signed up to Tapestry, please contact your child's class teacher so that this can be arranged.

Don't forget that you can also send us photos and videos from home for us to share in class. We love to hear about your child's achievements and it is a valuable contribution to their learning journey.

We also use class Dojo as a way of communicating with you. It is important that you are signed up. Class teachers will post updates and messages on Class Dojo. If you are not yet signed up please arrange this with your class teacher.

## Library Books

The children have really been enjoying their weekly library visits. The children spend time looking through books and they get to choose one to take home. This book is for pleasure reading and can be shared around the home. We ask that library books are returned each week, this way, we can issue a new book to be taken home, as we cannot give out new books until they are returned.

Thank you for your continued support  
The Reception team