

## Welcome Back

Welcome back to a new term in Early Years. We hope you all had a restful break and are ready for an exciting Spring term of learning. The children have returned enthusiastically, quickly re-establishing routines and reconnecting with their friends. We are looking forward to exploring the natural world together and encouraging curiosity through stories, discussion, art and hands-on experiences as well as continuously developing and practicing our foundational knowledge and skills. Miss Turffrey, Mrs Osborne, Mrs Bhatt, Mrs Day and Mrs Alexander.

### Curriculum

Following the EYFS Framework, our curriculum continues to be carefully planned to support each child as a unique learner, building on their interests and developmental stage. This term our learning will be shaped around the enquiry question: "Where do animals and people live, and how do they survive?"

Through this, children will explore:

Hibernation and seasonal change.  
Hot and cold habitats.  
Homes around the world and how people live.

### How can you help?

Children will take two library books home each Friday please read and discuss the story with your child. After asking questions about the story, ask your child what they saw, what happened, and what could happen next. Reception children will also start taking home reading books matched to their knowledge in phonics.

Encourage their mark making skills, forming lines and circles, or if they are ready letters from their name and simple words in reception.

Encourage them to notice colours, shapes, features and things that match. Talking about amounts, sizes and comparing.

Talk with your child about what they see around them. Go for walks, collect acorns, conkers and leaves. Ask them how things feel and wonder what can they hear? Chat and encourage them to talk as much as possible.

### Communication and Language

3–4 years

- Listening to stories about animals and habitats
- Learning new vocabulary
- Following simple instructions

4–5 years

- Speaking in full sentences
- Asking questions and sharing ideas
- Extending topic vocabulary

### Physical Development

3-4 years

- Practising climbing, running, balancing and riding trikes.
- Beginning to use tools like scissors, paintbrushes and mark-making equipment.
- Learning about self-care, e.g. washing hands, putting on coats.

4-5 years

- Strengthening gross motor skills through climbing, balancing and games.
- Developing fine motor skills through mark-making, threading, and early handwriting.
- Form letters correctly with support.

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

3–4 years

- Building confidence
- Taking turns and cooperating
- Talking about feelings

4–5 years

- Developing independence
- Working collaboratively
- Understanding different ways of living

### Literacy

3-4 years

- Enjoying and joining in with familiar rhymes and stories.
- Talking about pictures in books.
- **Phase One Phonics:** Tuning into sounds around them, exploring rhythm and rhyme, identifying initial sounds, and listening games.
- Beginning to learn initial sounds

4-5 years

- Talking about characters, settings and events.
- Little Wandle Reception Spring sounds focus on expanding from Phase 2 to Phase 3 phonics, introducing new graphemes (like ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, ar, or, ur, ow, oi, ear, air, er) and longer words, double letters (ff, ll, ss, zz, qu), and consonant digraphs (ch, sh, th, ng)
- Practising writing their names and simple words

### Mathematics

**3–4 years;** Counting objects carefully, saying one number name for each item. Beginning to recognise numbers up to 5 (and beyond for some children). Understanding simple ideas such as *more*, *less*, and *the same*. Exploring shapes by naming and talking about circles, squares, triangles, and rectangles. Talking about patterns they see and joining in with simple repeating patterns

**4–5 years;** Counting accurately to 10 and beyond, including counting out a set number of objects. Exploring simple addition and subtraction through play (e.g. "How many are left?"). Comparing numbers and amounts using language such as *more than*, *fewer*, and *equal*. Identifying and describing 2D and 3D shapes and talking about their properties. Recognising and continuing repeating patterns, and beginning to create their own.



EYFS 2026  
Spring Term 1

### Understanding the World

3–4 years

- Talking about animals and their habitats
- Noticing seasonal changes and winter behaviour
- Exploring similarities and differences between homes

4–5 years

- Understanding why animals hibernate or migrate
- Learning about hot and cold climates
- Talking about countries, cultures and homes

### Expressive Arts and Design

3-4 years

- Exploring colours, textures and materials.
- Singing songs and moving to music.
- Using imagination in role play.

4-5 years

- Exploring different ways to use paint, collage and construction.
- Role-playing with materials and animals in small world
- Singing familiar songs and exploring musical instruments.

### PE sessions

Our PE lessons are on Monday and Tuesday mornings with an additional session run by Mr. D from the Non-Stop Action team. Please ensure Reception children have their kits for both days and Nursery children have comfortable clothes and trainers.

### Buddies

Our buddies from year 6 will join us for on Friday's to support us and have fun together

### Outdoor Learning

Lots of our learning takes place outside. Therefore, we ask that your child wears suitable clothing (weather dependent) including welly boots. We do go out all weathers and want your children to be able to learn and explore the outdoors as much as possible.

### Children's Belongings

Please ensure all items are clearly labelled to minimise the chance of things being lost. This includes hats and gloves in the winter. Please also send your child with a spare change of clothes incase of accidents.

### Save the Date!!!

On **Friday 27th February** join us for our class assembly at 9am where we will share our learning with you. An event not to be missed!

### Book Bags

Please bring them daily. Your child will regularly bring their drawings and paintings home and they help to carefully store their school library books.

### News from Home

Please use your tapestry account to send us photos or short video clips of special family events, days out, walks in the park, paintings and models. We will then share these with the class. It is a great opportunity to promote children's confidence when speaking to their peers and helps us to further understand your unique child. Please also check the memo section for home learning tasks.

### Early Years class email

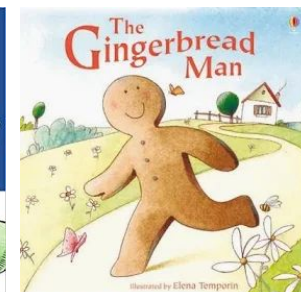
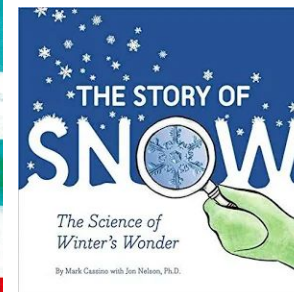
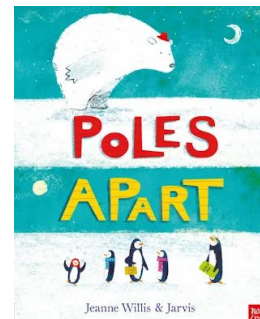
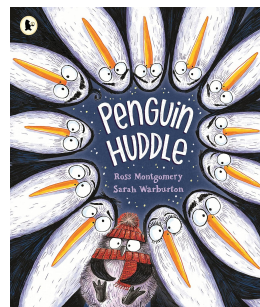
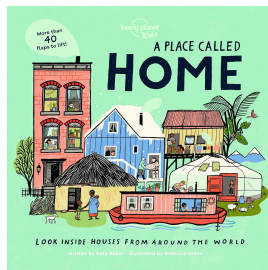
[EYFS@colneyheath.herts.sch.uk](mailto:EYFS@colneyheath.herts.sch.uk)

Do get in touch if you have any questions or feel you have important information you wish to share. Please use the email above to communicate with us. Please be aware that important information that is relevant for same-day things, e.g. dentist/doctor appointments / pick-up arrangements / details about equipment etc, should be notified to the office, as the class email address may not be checked during that working day. We will try to respond to emails as soon as possible, and within 48 hours during the working week.

### Reception Reading

Please ensure you are reading with your child and signing the diary when you have. This helps us know when your child needs a new book. Please try to read at least 3 times a week.

### Spring 1 Core Texts



### Keeping up to date

Please do check the class pages section on the school website for current information, including photos of the children's learning in action. Please also read the newsletter to get involved in school wide events, supporting your child and school together. Thank you for your support in advance of a wonderful year ahead.