Key Dates and Events:

7th January: Parent Coffee Morning with Nicky Black
12th January: Pre-prep hearing tests
3rd & 4th February: Reception Parents Evening
6th February: Parents workshare event
4th March: Trip to Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (Minibeast Workshop)
5th March: World Book Day
18th March: APS Cross Country
20th March: Grandparents and Special Friends Afternoon Tea
21st March: Easter Eggstravaganza

*Please note that all key dates are subject to change. Updates will be communicated via school mail or other means.

ABINGDON PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Reception

Spring Term 2025-2026
Curriculum Overview

EYFS Framework:

As part of a broad and balanced curriculum, these areas of learning are explored each week through a combination of adult-led group activities and child-initiated play during continuous provision. Wherever possible, children are encouraged to take the lead in their learning, with staff creatively enhancing opportunities to support and extend their development, all while working towards the Early Learning Goals. In Reception, we support the *Characteristics of Effective Learning* by encouraging children to play and explore, to be active learners, and to think creatively and critically. These skills and attitudes underpin all areas of the curriculum and help children become confident, motivated, and independent learners.

Prime Areas

Communication and Language

Listening, Attention and Understanding
This term, the children will listen to a variety of stories, rhymes, poems, and songs to build familiarity and understanding. They will ask questions, follow complex instructions, and switch attention between tasks. They will also explore non-fiction texts to learn new vocabulary and participate in discussions, recalling key ideas even in larger group activities like assemblies.

Speaking
This term, the children will use talk to describe events, solve problems, and explain their thinking. They will enjoy conversations and discussions, developing social phrases and using new vocabulary in context. Their speaking will also support imaginative play and collaborative activities.

Personal, Social, Emotional Development

Self-Regulation
During this term, children will develop their ability to manage emotions with adult support. They will begin negotiating and resolving minor conflicts and are encouraged to stay focused on adult-led tasks for short periods without constant reminders.

Managing Self
Children will gain greater independence in personal care, including dressing, toileting, and handwashing. They will be supported to make healthy choices about food and activity and to understand the importance of class rules.

Building Relationships
Friendships will be strengthened as children show care and concern for others. They will learn to cooperate in group play, start resolving disagreements with guidance, listen to others' ideas, and adapt their play to include peers.

Physical Development

Gross Motor Skills
This term, children will strengthen their core muscles to maintain good posture when sitting at tables or on the floor. They will combine movements with increasing ease and fluency, develop a range of ball skills such as throwing, catching, kicking, passing, batting, and aiming, and improve their balance on and off equipment, including jumping safely from raised surfaces.

Fine Motor Skills
Children will build the foundations for a fast, accurate, and efficient handwriting style while holding a pencil in a tripod grip. They will use scissors to cut more complex shapes, manipulate small objects, and develop dexterity through activities like threading small items. Daily Dough Disco and handwriting sessions will support the development of fine motor control and strengthen hand muscles.

Specific Areas

Literacy

Comprehension
Children will answer questions about texts read to them and begin to predict what might happen next in a story. They will use modelled vocabulary during role play, revisit familiar texts in the book area, request favourite stories and poems, retell or create their own stories using learnt vocabulary, and explore non-fiction texts, recalling key facts.

Word Reading
This term, children will develop their phonological awareness by completing rhyming strings, identifying sounds in words, and supplying words with the same initial sounds. They will learn to recognise all taught

Mathematics

Number
This term, children will explore small quantities in familiar and random arrangements, saying how many they can see. They will use 5- and 10-frames to understand the tens structure, linking number symbols to their cardinal values. Children will confidently discuss different ways numbers can be made to 5 and apply this knowledge to numbers up to 20, make connections with subtraction facts, and recall some double facts to 10.

Numerical Patterns
Children will explore the 'one more than/one less than' relationship between consecutive numbers, count beyond 10, and notice patterns within the counting structure. They will

Understanding the World

Past and Present
This term, children will compare and contrast characters from stories, including historical figures, and talk about significant events from the past, noticing how life was different from today.

People, Culture and Communities
Children will explore special places within their community and recognise that people have different beliefs, traditions, and ways of celebrating. They will notice similarities and differences between life in this country and other countries, and begin to make comparisons between their own local environment and other parts of the world.

Expressive Arts and Design

Creating with Materials
This term, children will sing both in groups and independently, showing growing confidence in matching pitch and following melodies. They will explore music and dance, performing individually and with others, and will play a range of percussion instruments to compose their own music. Through imaginative and role play, children will develop storylines, collect resources to enhance play, and act out or adapt familiar stories, taking on different characters and speaking in role.

Being Imaginative and Expressive
Children will describe and compare textures, name a

sounds, including some digraphs, and re-read phonetically decodable books to build confidence, fluency, and enjoyment in reading. Children will blend sounds to read short words and read simple sentences containing known sounds and 1–2 common exception words. **Writing** This term, children will practise forming lowercase and capital letters correctly and begin writing short sentences using known letter–sound correspondences, including capital letters and full stops. They will use finger spaces, read their sentences back to an adult, write CVC words and labels, and spell some high-frequency tricky words.	also recognise patterns within numbers. **Shape** Children will compare length, weight, and capacity, and continue, copy, and create repeating patterns. They will use mathematical language to describe and compare shapes and sizes.	**The Natural World** Children will describe what they see, hear, and feel outdoors and observe how changing seasons affect the environment. They will explore different environments, develop knowledge of living things, and describe features of plants and animals, recognising similarities and differences. They will also use some scientific language related to animals, such as camouflage, predator, and nocturnal.	wider range of colours, and learn to mix paints to create new shades. They will use a variety of tools and techniques to join, cut, and shape materials, including using split pins and scissors with increasing accuracy. Collaborative creativity will be encouraged as children plan their designs, share ideas, and combine materials to achieve their desired effects. They will also draw from observation, adding increasing detail to shape and colour.

Specialist Subjects

Sport	Swimming	PE
This term the children will practise both Rugby and Hockey. They will practise and develop handling skills and passing skills in Rugby and they will learn stick control and passing drills with unihoc sticks. They will perform drills that will develop their agility, balance and coordination and prepare them for when they are developing these skills further up the school	The primary focus is to build water confidence, develop basic movement skills, and promote safety awareness. Pupils will learn how to float with and without support, move through the water using simple kicking and arm actions, and practice basic breathing skills. Sessions are play-based to encourage enjoyment and exploration while gradually improving coordination and independence. The aim is to establish positive early experiences in the water and lay the foundation for future swimming proficiency.	This term, the children will continue to develop their gross motor skills through a variety of activities. They will practise their ball skills such as rolling, throwing and catching as well as movement skills such as jumping. Sessions will be play-based and encourage the enjoyment of exploration.
Music	**ICT**	**Forest School**
This term the children will explore pulse and beat through a range of playful activities, using movement, voice and percussion. They will develop their listening skills, coordination and early ensemble awareness as they experiment, respond and perform together.	This term, the children will continue developing their early Computing skills through our Fairy Tales theme. They will practise core mouse skills, including clicking, selecting, dragging and dropping, and will begin using simple digital tools to create images and add short text labels. We will also introduce the idea of choosing and opening appropriate programs, as well as using basic keyboard keys confidently. As this term includes National E-Safety Day, we will place particular emphasis on learning to use technology safely and responsibly. Children will discuss asking an adult for help, keeping personal information private, and knowing what to do if something online doesn't feel right.	During the Spring term, Reception children will explore the changes in nature as winter turns to spring. They will observe new plant growth and look for signs of wildlife returning to the outdoor environment. Activities will include simple tool use, shelter building, and nature-based crafts to develop creativity and problem-solving skills. Children will take part in teamwork challenges and imaginative play to build confidence and independence. Sensory activities, stories, and outdoor exploration will support language and communication. Throughout the term, children will learn how to care for the natural world and develop a sense of respect for their environment.