

### Topic

We will start the term by helping the children settle into school, get to know our daily routines and build their confidence as they become more independent.

In 'From Me to the Milky Way!', we will explore what makes each of us unique and special. We will talk about kindness, being confident and celebrating what makes us all different.

Then, in 'Big Days, Bright Smiles', we will discover how people celebrate special days and festivals in different faiths and cultures, including a special focus on the Christmas story. Along the way, the children will continue to build their confidence and resilience, developing the skills they are already beginning to learn.

It is going to be a fun, exciting and meaningful term, and we can't wait to see the children grow and shine!

### Communication and Language

This term, we will help the children develop their listening, speaking and thinking skills in a fun and supportive environment. We will encourage them to listen carefully, take turns when talking and share their ideas with others.

Through everyday conversations and activities, the children will learn and use new words, ask simple questions and become more confident when speaking. We will also encourage them to listen and respond to instructions, talk about what they are doing and explain their ideas.

We will enjoy lots of stories together too, helping the children to listen for longer, remember important details and talk about what they have heard. By the end of the term, we hope they will feel confident joining in with group discussions and using new vocabulary in their play and learning.

### Literacy

This term we will help children retell familiar stories, order events, and begin making simple predictions and inferences from pictures. They will use new vocabulary in play and begin to follow multistep instructions such as "Get your coat and wait by the door." Children will enjoy longer stories and join nursery rhymes.

We will be using the RWInc phonics programme. Children will learn Set 1 sounds and practise blending them to read simple words. They will also have fun shaping letters in sand, paint, shaving foam and the like. We will start writing names and begin spelling simple words. Parents are invited to a workshop where you can see the RWInc approach in action and pick up handy tips for supporting phonics at home.



**St Michael's**  
CofE Primary Academy

## Newsletter – Autumn Term 2026

### **EYFS — Reception**

Welcome to the EYFS—Reception Curriculum Newsletter. This is a summary of the learning planned for the Autumn Term.

If you have any concerns about your child's learning please contact Mrs Dutton directly, in the first instance.

### Maths

We use a mastery approach to maths from Reception, so each child works at the same pace with support they need and challenge they're ready for. This term we will:

- Spot numbers inside larger ones, use finger patterns and develop counting skills (one to one, cardinality and subitising).
- See each number as one more than the previous and follow counting "staircase."
- Learn four shapes and find them in the environment.
- Use positional words (next to, under, over, through) and "time" language to order routines.
- Create patterns, make plans, count actions or sounds and start using "whole" for objects with parts.

Our aim is to make maths fun, engaging and a foundation for learning.



### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term, we will help the children grow into confident, caring and independent learners. We'll encourage them to take turns, share, wait patiently and build positive relationships with both their friends and the adults around them. We'll talk about different feelings and help the children learn to recognise and name their emotions. They'll explore simple ways to manage their feelings and develop the confidence to keep trying when things feel tricky. We'll also encourage the children to be independent with everyday tasks, such as putting on and fastening their coats and outdoor clothing. Through discussions and activities, we'll help them develop empathy, perseverance and resilience, while celebrating their progress along the way.

### Physical Development (Gross and Fine Motor Skills)

This term, we'll have lots of fun developing the children's gross and fine motor skills. We will practise big movements through **Kinetic Letters animal positions** and the six big moves: push, pull, up, down, flick and slide.

The children will build their strength, balance and coordination through activities on the trim trail, bikes and climbing wall. We will also work on their fine motor skills through activities such as Dough Disco, hand rhymes, sand letter writing and practising their pencil grip. They will have lots of opportunities to use pencils, paintbrushes, scissors, tongs and chopsticks to help strengthen their hands and fingers.

**Our PE day is Friday.** Children should come to school wearing their PE kits. Please remember that **earrings must be removed** on PE days.

### Religious Education

This term we will explore the meaning of the word God. Children will hear the creation story and the Christmas story. We will discuss how the Bible's tales help us show love, tolerance and kindness to others.



### Understanding the World

This term we will be focusing on the local area: recognising local landmarks like the postbox, church and shop. We will locate England on a map and compare with another country. We will explore nature with our senses, meet helpers and discuss how objects have changed over time.

### Expressive Arts and Design

Children will learn tool names and how to use them safely. They will experiment with colour mixing. They will describe textures, make, share and comment on artwork. We will role play with props, join the Nativity play and learn songs and rhymes.

### Diary Dates

18.09.26, 22.09.26 & 28.09.26 Learning Together  
12.10.26 Individual Photographs  
23.10.26 Harvest Festival  
10.11.26 Mastering Number Parent Workshop  
20.11.26 Forest School  
09.12.26 Christmas Production  
15.12.26 School Disco

### Contact Details

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## EYFS - Reception

### Core Story Picture Books – Autumn Term

The Colour Monster

Goes to School

by Anna Llenas



Elmer

by David McKee



The Best You

by Nima Patel &

Cally Johnson-Isaacs



Giraffes Can't Dance

by Giles Andreae &

Guy Parker-Rees

### Core Maths Picture Books –Summer Term

One to Ten and Back

Again

by Nick Sharraff & Sue Heap



Ten Black Dots

by Donald Crews



Kipper's Toybox

by Mick Inkpen



Rosie's Walk

by Pat Hutchins

Reviewed August 2026





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## EYFS – Reception

### Core Rhymes & Songs – Autumn Term

#### Morning Welcome Song

Good Morning Everyone

How are you? (clap, clap)

Good Morning Everyone

How are You? (clap, clap)

It's time to start our day

Let's learn, laugh and play

Good Morning Everyone

How are you? (clap, clap)

Reviewed August 2026

Core Rhymes & Songs – Autumn Term

Days of the Week Song

Monday, Tuesday,  
Wednesday Thursday,  
Friday, Saturday, Sunday  
too.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 days  
Each day different  
And every day new.



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## EYFS – Reception

### Core Rhymes & Songs – Autumn Term

## Heads and Shoulders

Heads and shoulders, knees and

toes,

Knees and toes.

Heads and shoulder knees and

toes,

Knees and toes

And eyes and ears and mouth and

nose.

Heads and shoulder knees and

toes.

Revised August 2026

# Wind the Bobbin Up

Wind the bobbins up

Wind the bobbins.

Pull, pull, clap, clap clap.

Wind it back again

Wind it back again

Pull, pull, clap, clap, clap.

Point to the ceiling, put to the floor

Point to the window, to the door.

Clap your hands together

1, 2, 3

Put your hands upon on your knees.

Reviewed August 2026



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## EYES – Reception

Core Rhymes & Songs – Autumn Term

# The Grand Old Duke of York

The Grand Old Duke of York

Had ten thousand men

He marched them up to the top of  
hill

And he marcher them down again

When they were up, they were up

When they were down, they were

down

And when they were only halfway

up

They were neither up nor down.

Reviewed August 2026



St Michael's  
CofE Primary Academy

## EYFS – Reception

### Core Rhymes & Songs – Autumn Term

#### Five Little Ducks Went Swimming

1.  
Five little ducks went swimming  
one day  
Over the hill and far away.  
Mather duck went "quack, quack"  
And only four little ducks came  
back.

2.  
Four little ducks went swimming  
one day  
Over the hill and far away.  
Mother duck went "quack, quack"  
And only three little ducks came  
back.

3.  
Three little ducks went  
swimming one day  
Over the hill and far away.  
Mother duck went "quack,  
quack"  
And only two little ducks  
came back.

4.  
Two little ducks went swimming  
one day  
Over the hill and far away.  
Mother duck went "quack, quack"  
And only one little ducks came  
back.

5.  
One little ducks went swimming  
one day,  
Over the hill and far away.  
Mother duck went "quack, quack"  
And five little ducks came back.

Reviewed August 2026



Instead of asking



# "How was School today?"

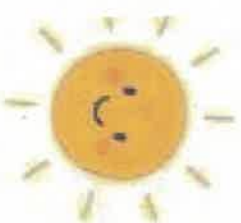


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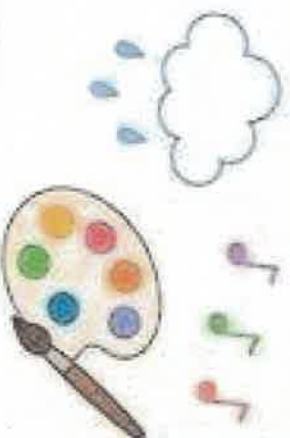
## General:

- What was the best part of your morning?
- Did you learn anything that made you say "wow" today?
- Can you tell me about a game you played at school?
- What did you talk about at snack time?
- What story did the teacher read?
- What songs did you sing today?



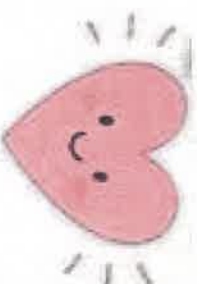
## Sensory-focused questions

- What colour did you see today?
- Did you hear any funny noises in class?
- What were they?
- What did your hands feel like when you were painting/doing craft?
- Was there anything that smelled nice in the classroom? What did it smell like?



## Feelings & emotions

- What made you feel proud today?
- Was there a moment when you felt a little nervous or worried? What helped you?
- What made you laugh today?
- If you could give a hug to someone at school, who would it be and why?



## Creative & imaginative prompts

- If today were a colour, which one would it be and why?
- Imagine you could bring one thing from school home, what would it be and why?
- Can you draw a quick picture of something you did today?



## Reflective "mini-review" style

- What did you try today that you have not done before?
- What is the one thing you'd like to do again tomorrow?
- If you could change one thing about today, what would it be? Why?



