

Discover with Donaldson Reception 2026

We will...



Personal, Social & Emotional Development

- Continue to form constructive and positive relationships.
- Learn about sharing and caring for others (The Smartest Giant in Town).
- Identify and express our own feelings and consider the feelings of others (A Squash and a Squeeze/Tiddler).



Physical Development

- Develop gross and fine motor skills through games and mark making, PE sessions and outside play.
- Encourage independence.
- Develop fine motor skills to use a range of tools competently – scissors, knife and fork and paintbrushes.
- Use core muscle strength to achieve good posture when sitting.



Communication & Language

- Engage in story times and discuss the Julia Donaldson stories.
- Understand how to listen carefully to others (Freddie and the fairy).
- Discuss families linked to The Gruffalo, The Gruffalo's Child and Gruffalo Granny
- Describe events in detail.
- Learn new vocabulary and rhymes.
- Describe Tiddler's adventures.

Mathematics

- Match and sort objects and numbers
- Measure and compare the heights of each other (compare size, mass and capacity of different objects) (Tiddler)
- Say, recognise, match, sort and order numbers and corresponding amounts.
- Say the number which is more or less
- Match numbers and amounts- e.g. number 8 and 8 sticks.
- Positional language with the Gruffalo and Ugly Five characters
- Shapes- identifying and sorting, composing/decomposing (Zog)

Literacy

- Begin to read letters by saying the sounds following the Little Wandle Phonics Programme. Begin to read CVC words and some tricky words.
- Begin to form lower case letters correctly.
- Label Zog/Label the animals in 'What the Ladybird heard';
- Write sentences linked to The Gruffalo' and 'Tiddler'
- Write a list for the Scarecrow's wedding.
- Drawing Club sessions based on the stories Stickman, Zog and the flying doctors and What the ladybird heard. Learn new vocabulary linked to these stories.

Understanding the World

- Recognise that some environments are different to the ones in which we live (Superworm)
- Compare and contrast characters from Julia Donaldson stories
- Compare habitats for different animals (The Ugly Five)
- Draw information from a simple map (The Ugly Five)

Expressive Arts & Design

- Explore different ways to express feelings.
- Sing in a group and independently, engage in music making and dance.
- Explore music making.
- Develop storylines in play
- Create collaboratively, sharing ideas, resources and skills.



Further opportunities	British values:	Celebrating British occasions - Christmas, Bonfire night, Remembrance Sunday. Encouraging good table manners at lunchtime. Encouraging waiting and listening to others when they speak. Democracy - book vote. Talking about school rules and rules. Focus on mutual respect and respecting people of different faiths and religions	
	Visitors/Speakers:	Reverend visit from our local church to tell the Christmas story.	
	Trip/Visit/Experience:	Christmas Pantomime- our first trip out together!	
	Parent Session:	Nativity performance	
Curriculum Drivers	Knowledge of the world	Possibilities	Community
	We will be looking at the different settings where Julia Donaldson books are based and talking about the different environments in which the books are based.	We will learn and become familiar with our class rules/school rules. We will learn about what respect means and practise this in our daily routines.	We will learn about helping each other and build on our class responsibilities. We will be taking part in charitable events including: Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day and Children In Need.