



Reception News

September 2026

Autumn Term

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a lovely start to the term it has already been. It has been wonderful to meet you and your children and watch their confidence grow as they settle into their new class. Our class teachers are Ms Kawa and Miss Matthews. The teaching assistants are Mrs Whitaker, Miss Kemp and Mrs Deadman.

Our topic for this half term is '**Homes and Our Families**', after which we will be exploring **Traditional Tales**. After half term, we will move on to the topic of **Light and Dark** and exploring different celebrations.

Communication, Language and Literacy: We will be reading a wide range of stories and basing our learning around the texts, characters and settings. The children will be encouraged to act out stories, draw pictures and produce writing inspired by the themes we explore. A strong focus in the children's early writing development will be on building their oracy skills, helping them to develop confidence in speaking, listening and sharing their ideas before recording them in writing. To support the development of early writing, the children will take part in a range of pre-writing activities and pattern-making tasks to strengthen their fine motor skills and prepare them to become confident writers. Once these foundations are in place, we will begin daily handwriting practice following the Collins Handwriting programme. Daily phonics sessions will introduce the children to letters and their sounds, alongside activities that develop listening skills and sound discrimination. Please read with your child for 10 minutes each day and record the date, book title and any comments in their contact book.

Maths: Children will learn through group sessions and focus group work. They will enjoy a range of stimulating and practical activities that will develop children's skills in counting, calculation and shape, space and measure. Children will be encouraged to explore using their senses and experience Maths in the world around them and use Maths vocabulary as they play and learn. You can help by pointing out numbers and shapes on houses, car number plates, buses etc. as you come to school.

Understanding the World: We will spend time exploring our environment and use our senses to investigate our world. Festivals like Christmas, Harvest and Diwali are great opportunities to try unfamiliar foods and celebrate special occasions. We will observe signs of seasonal change, using the classroom and the outside area at school to explore light and dark, weather and living things. Close observation of special objects and telling stories will allow the children to explore and ask questions about the world around them.

Google Classroom: Once your child has been set up with a login for Google Classroom, you will be able to access our bi-weekly challenges. These challenges provide an enjoyable way for children to share and celebrate their learning experiences. To support your child's learning, we will regularly set activities and challenges that can be completed at home. You can share your child's learning through

photographs, drawings and annotations uploaded to Google Classroom. We will also use Google Classroom to keep you updated on the phonics we have been learning each week. This will allow you to revisit and practise the sounds and activities at home should you wish to provide additional support for your child.

P.E: Children's physical development will progress through a mixture of discrete PE sessions and an enabling learning environment, outside and inside. Children will have a range of activities on offer which develop their fine and gross motor skills. Reception classes will be having their PE lessons twice a week. We would like PE kits to be in school all the time – please remember to label all school uniform and PE kits.

Visits: Walks into our local area, more will be posted nearer the time.

Uniform: We would like to take this opportunity to stress how important it is for all children to wear the correct school uniform. Your child's PE kit should be in school on **Monday**, they will then return it on Friday. Please remember that all school uniform and equipment should be named (including lunch boxes and water bottles please!).

General Information: We are always grateful for any recyclable materials; please ensure food packaging (e.g., cereal boxes) did not contain nuts as we have children at school with severe nut allergies. This term we would particularly appreciate fur fabric pieces, wool, buttons, beads, lids, cotton wool, string, wood shavings etc. to support the idea of texture and feel. If you have any spare time and would like to volunteer to help in the classroom, please see the teacher.

We are always looking for people to hear readers, help with artwork and general maintenance of resources around the classroom. Please talk to the class teachers if you can assist.

School Trips and Experiences: We use a '**pay as you go**' method for school trips, workshops and other experiences, which can be paid for via MCAS. We would be grateful if payments could be made promptly once you receive the relevant information, as this helps us to secure the exciting trips, workshops and theatre groups planned throughout the year.

Keeping in touch: We are available at the end of the day for any quick queries you may have, otherwise please contact us via **Google Classroom**. We will respond within three working days. If your matter is urgent, please email the school office at deansfield@compassps.uk.

We are really looking forward to working with you throughout the year and really appreciate the continued support you give to Deansfield.

With best wishes, **Ms Kawa and Miss Matthews – Reception Class teachers**