



BIRKENHEAD  
HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMY

GDST  
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

**Reception Curriculum Leaflet**  
SPRING TERM - Earth and Beyond

Dear Parents and Carers,

What an exciting term of learning we have prepared for your daughter/ward.

Our curriculum unit is 'Earth and Beyond'. We will be learning about Polar Regions, Space, Growing and Traditional Tales.

In February, we will be celebrating Chinese New Year.

We will also be observing seasonal changes that happen in Winter and Spring.

**How you can help your child learn at home:**

- Visit your local library and explore books about Polar Regions, Space, Seasons and Plants.
- Visit the park and look at the seasonal changes/plants.
- Research and discuss planets.
- Continue sharing books with your daughter/ward at home.
- Practise recognising and writing numbers.
- You could grow your own vegetables at home.

**Home Learning**

Every Friday, homework will be sent home which will focus on our Phonics or Maths learning. The homework will vary each week and we ask if you could support your child in completing the homework.

**Reading**

An early reader book will be sent home with some girls each week for you to share with your daughter/ward.

Once your daughter/ward is secure in recognising Phase 2 sounds and can segment and blend CVC words an appropriate reading book will be sent home.

**Reading books will be changed and sent home on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday.**

**Topic Words to Learn:**

- Polar Regions (Antarctic and Arctic), Polar animals, Arctic animals, Inuits, igloos, temperature, freezing, ice, chilly.
- Space, names of planets, astronaut, space station, rockets.
- Plants, flowers, seeds, growth, soil, water, sunlight

We have introduced Phase 3 tricky Words that must be learnt by sight. Please practise reading them with your daughter/ ward:

she, her, they, me, all, my, you, be, he, we, was, are

# Earth and Beyond

## Reception Curriculum Map

### Communication and Language

- Following instructions
- Listening and responding to teachers and friends
- Listen and respond to the following stories:
  - Lost and Found
  - Whatever Next
- Ask and answer questions related to the text.
- Developing a narrative through Role play

### Literacy/ Phonics

- Learn to write first and second name.
- Practise letter formation and recognition of Phase 3 sounds.
- Hearing and naming letter sounds in words with correct pronunciation  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYx1CyDMZSc>
- Segmenting and blending CVC words
- Word recognition - high frequency words

She, her, they, me, all, my, you, be, he, we, was, are

Whatever Next

Lost and Found

Traditional tales

### Expressive Arts and Design

- Experiment with different media and explore colours
- Sing nursery rhymes and songs
- Polar animal paintings
- Craft penguins
- Create sounds with different musical instruments, listen and respond to music
- Making paper mache planets
- Observing and drawing plants
- Dance and yoga - exploring how our body moves to music.

### Reading

There are two elements to learning to read in Reception that your daughter/ward will develop during their first year at school: phonics and comprehension. All of the teaching and activities around reading that we put in place in school will be aimed at supporting these elements.

### Physical Development

- Getting ready for PE and playtime independently - fastening buttons and zips.
- Developing gross motor skills. Balancing, movement and spatial awareness.
- Being willing to take risks.
- Developing fine motor skills, pencil grip and cutting.
- Learning to handle equipment safely.
- Developing ball skills (catching, throwing, dribbling)

### Personal, Social, Emotional Development

- Following school routines and behaviour expectations
- Sharing with others
- Working as part of a group

### Maths

- Recognising and forming numbers to 20
- 3D shapes
- Addition and subtraction
- Doubling and halving
- 1 more/ 1 less
- Ordering numbers
- Measuring, weighing and capacity

### Understanding the World

- We will be celebrating Chinese New Year.
- Discussing other religions and traditions.
- Similarities and differences between planets.
- Observing changes in plants.
- Planting our own beans and flowers.