

Reception Topic Web

Contrasting Locations

Spring 1 2026

Our core text this term is:
Handa's Surprise by Eileen Browne



Our value this term is:
Perseverance

Communication and Language

This term we will be focusing on developing an oral narrative so that the children can begin to retell their own version of a story. Children will continue to develop their oracy skills when talking in groups.

Developing an oral narrative:

Children will need to be able to listen attentively to a story and begin to join in with familiar/repeated parts of the story. Then they can move on to retelling a story using small world/pictures. Children will think about how to change an element of the story (fruits in Handa's Surprise) and then tell their own version of the story.

Oracy skills in group talking:

During learning time, children will begin to discuss their thoughts and opinions in groups of 3. We will encourage the children to listen to their peers and take turns at speaking. We will encourage children to share their thoughts in full sentences.

Personal, Social and Emotional development:

As the weather has turned colder, we will be encouraging the children to be independent in dressing and undressing for outside. The children should be beginning to start their own activities and encouraging others to join in.

Accurate dressing

Taking off jumpers and putting them on again, turning clothes the right way round, checking clothes are on the correct way round and shoes are on the correct feet, managing hats, gloves and scarves, and doing own coat zip

Starting activities for others to join

Initiate own play, ask others to join, listen to others' views, amend game to suit others, manage small problems

Keeping safe in school

Knowing what being safe is (links to our school rule), being aware of what is around them, identifying risks, keeping other safe with our actions, keeping safe on a digital device.

Physical development:

We will be working on developing our gross motor skills ready for writing and moving around in different ways to strengthen our bodies.

Tool control – pencil

Playdough manipulation, pegs on a washing line, mark making – pencils, chalk, pen, crayons, felt tips, developing appropriate/comfortable grip for tools.

Developing strength and Balance

Balance on mats, balance on benches, balance on higher equipment, 3 points of contact for balance, travel – balance – travel, balance – travel – balance.

Key dates and information:

As our topic this term is contrasting locations, if you or a member of your family have origins other than the UK and would like to share your culture or traditions, we would love to have you in....it could be a traditional story, traditional food, clothing etc.

Thursday 5th February – Jay class trip to Pizza Express. Payment via PAConnect

Wednesday 11th February – Blackbirds class trip to Pizza Express. Payment via PAConnect.

Outdoor learning will be every Friday unless we notify you otherwise. Please send your child dressed in their uniform but ensure that their legs are fully covered.

PE - On Tuesdays, children need to come to school already dressed in their PE kit. They will stay in their PE Kits all day.

Literacy:

In phonics we will be starting phase 3, learning new phonemes and graphemes and introducing more digraphs and trigraphs:

ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, oo, ar, or, ur, ow, oi, ear, air, er.

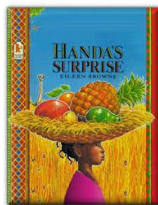
Our core text is *Handa's Surprise* by Eileen Browne. We will use this story to practice oral retelling and then make up our own versions of a story.

Reading fully decodable sentences

Recognise digraphs, use sound buttons to support reading of digraphs, phoneme spotting of digraphs, read individual then read back as a sentence. Creating story maps to show key parts of a story in order.

Hearing and writing all the sounds in a word

Segment words with initial and final sounds heard, listen carefully for middle sound, identify sounds on sound mat, write sound accurately, write all sounds in a word.



Numeracy:

Week 1 - Weight – Children will learn how to compare the weights of two objects, weighing using a bucket balance. Children will use the terms heavier, lighter, balanced.

Week 2 - Subitising – Children will continue to develop their subitising skills within 5 with a focus on dot patterns. They will match numerals to quantities within 5.

Week 3 - Counting, ordinality and cardinality – Children will focus on the visual pattern of adding one more to see that each number is one more than the previous number.

Week 4 - Composition – Children will make 5 in different ways and will start to know some number bonds for numbers within 5 e.g. 2+3 makes 5.

Week 5 - Composition – children will learn more about 6 and 7, initially learning these as “5 and a bit”.

Week 6 - Composition – Children will learn to compare sets and use language of comparison: *more than, fewer than, an equal number to*. They will also begin to know how to make unequal sets equal by adding, removing or sharing.

Understanding the World:

This term we will be looking at our world and where we are in it. We will be comparing this with other locations in the world and thinking about things that are the same and things that are different.

Describe contrasting locations to where they live

Describe their house, describe what Swindon is like, look at different locations around the world; Africa, Uganda, Desert, Polar regions etc.

Describe how they are similar and how they are different.

Describe contrasting times

Describe their house, describe a different house, look at a house in the past, describe how they are similar and how they are different.



Expressive Arts and Design:

We will be creating art through different medias this term.

Use a variety of artistic techniques to represent their own ideas:

- Using tools to represent what they see
- Choosing appropriate colours to represent they see
- Printing techniques using cut fruit and veg
- Representing fruits and vegetables through sculpture techniques (playdough, clay, paper mache)
- Still life form in oil pastels/crayons/pencils.

