Reception

Autumn 2 2026

Marvellous Middle UNCRC 12, 29

My family at home and my school family — Reception Welcome Mass. Children will be welcomed into the St Mary's family at their first Mass, accompanied by their Year 6 buddies. Their families and the wider school community will share this special celebration.

Computing UNCRC 16, 17, 29

Exploring Hardware

Children will explore familiar controls and describe their purpose. With support, they will take photographs, hold the camera steady and compare images, explaining preferences. Safe routines include asking permission before photographing someone, handling equipment carefully, taking turns and asking a trusted adult for help.

English UNCRC 13, 17, 28, 29

Shared Reading

Terrific Texts

Owl Babies
Martin Waddell

Writing Opportunities

Draw and label the owl family; use puppets to retell Owl Babies and rehearse captions. Write firework sound words, Christmas lists and cards, and Nativity labels. Develop letter formation and use taught phonics to record sounds and simple words, with adult support.

Other Reading Opportunities

Stick Man — Julia Donaldson; Nativity stories; Remembrance poems; owl non-fiction.
Reading focus: Puppets, repeated phrases and story sequencing.

Spoken Language Opportunities and Oracy

Children will speak so a partner can hear and use talk, gesture and pictures to share ideas. They will retell part of Owl Babies, ask questions and explain feelings using "and" or "because". Adults will support attentive listening and turn-taking.

Music UNCRC 13, 29, 31

Exploring Sounds

Children will explore sounds made by voices, bodies, instruments and everyday objects. They will listen, copy patterns and choose sounds to match ideas. Adults will model descriptive vocabulary and help children take turns, listen to one another and join familiar songs.

EAD UNCRC 13, 29, 31

Expressive Arts and Design

Children will explore primary colours through Mondrian and firework marks inspired by Jackson Pollock. They will decorate a feather for a class owl.

Provision UNCRC 24, 29

Continuous Provision

Retell Owl Babies with puppets and small-world play. Explore family roles, autumn and night-time scenes through drawing, collage and construction. Adults will extend children's talk.

RE UNCRC 14, 29

Branch 2: Prophecy and Promise

Children will hear and retell the Annunciation and Nativity, recognising Mary's trust and the shepherds' visit. They will explore the crib and Christian Christmas celebrations. Through Advent's hope, peace, joy and love, children will practise showing God's love in kind words and helpful actions.

PSED / RHE UNCRC 12, 19, 24

Life to the Full Plus — Ten Ten
Pathway 3 · Module 1
Unit 3: I Like, You Like, We All Like!; All The Feelings!; Let's Get Real.
Unit 4: Growing Up; New People, New Places. Classroom Shorts support learning.

Family & Community

The human person is not only sacred, but social.

Virtues

Faith-filled & Hopeful

Scripture Focus

Jesus asks us to love one another.
John 13:34.

Prayer Focus

Introduce the **Hail Mary** through Mary's story, pictures and repeated responses. Continue familiar daily prayers.

Big Question

How does my family show love?

DT UNCRC 24, 29

Children make Christmas bookmarks using textiles. They will practise cutting, joining and shaping, explaining their choices.

Communication and Language UNCRC 12, 13, 29

Children will grow in confidence during one-to-one and small-group conversations. They will discuss Owl Babies, describe observations, listen and take turns. Nativity songs and speaking parts will develop clear voices and expression. WellComm support will continue where needed.

Physical Development UNCRC 24, 31

Hands 1 and Dance: Dinosaurs

Children will develop control and coordination when rolling, sending and receiving balls. They will respond to dinosaur ideas through dance, linking movements and using space safely. Everyday provision will strengthen fine-motor control, including careful, increasingly independent use of pencils, scissors and small tools.

Maths UNCRC 28, 29

NCETM Mastery: Composition of numbers, subitising to 5, noticing patterns in numbers, comparison of numbers, counting five objects, repeating patterns, using the language more, fewer, equal.

Understanding the World UNCRC 2, 29

Past and Present: Children will sequence family photographs and talk about growing up. They will learn about Jesus' family and Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.
People, Culture and Communities: Children will discuss families in their community and how people celebrate Bonfire Night and Christmas, noticing similarities and differences.
Map of the school to find the best place for an owl nest.
The Natural World: Children will observe changes from autumn to winter, exploring leaves, weather, daylight and darkness through Owl Babies and bedtime stories.
The introduction of life cycles – through owls.
NPP Autumn; We Are All Different.

Other Opportunities

Remembrance Poetry
One Life Retreat Day
British Values Week
Corporal Acts of Mercy
Reception Nativity
Pantomime

Fantastic Finish

Children will share an image of someone who cares for them and share how that person shows love. Bring the pictures together in a class family gallery and finish with a simple prayer, celebrating that we love and care for one another as members of God's family.