EYFS Cycle B 2026-2027

Reception Vocabulary Progression

Curriculum-aligned priority vocabulary. Words are introduced through explicit modelling and reinforced in stories, play, routines and adult interactions. They are not a checklist to test every child on every word.

Progression: understand and respond → use with adult modelling → use flexibly in meaningful contexts. Revisit earlier vocabulary throughout the year. Adapt with objects, pictures, gestures and alternative communication for children who need them.

Autumn 1 — Once Upon a Time... What Happens Next?

Curriculum links: The Gingerbread Man; stories and familiar people; planting and colour mixing.

Area of learning	Priority vocabulary (introduce / revisit)
Communication & Language	Conversation, idea, describe, predict, explain, listen
Personal, Social & Emotional Development	Emotion, respect, friendship, responsibility, independent
Physical Development	Space, safely, obstacle, coordination, thread, stir
Literacy	Author, illustrator, character, setting, sequence, blend
Mathematics	Subitise, quantity, compare, pattern, equal, compose
Understanding the World	Past, present, familiar, environment, harvest, natural
Expressive Arts & Design	Primary colour, mix, shade, rhythm, represent, artist

Teaching opportunities: The Gingerbread Man; stories and familiar people; planting and colour mixing. Model meanings, invite talk during play, and revisit the words in a later context.

Autumn 2 — What Are We Celebrating?

Curriculum links: I'm Going to Eat This Ant!; minibeast hunt, anteater trap, celebrations and texture.

Area of learning	Priority vocabulary (introduce / revisit)
Communication & Language	Question, because, how, why, fiction, non-fiction
Personal, Social & Emotional Development	Patience, fairness, kindness, compromise, celebrate
Physical Development	Slither, crawl, skip, hop, posture, direction
Literacy	Phoneme, grapheme, segment, tricky word, caption, plan
Mathematics	Part, whole, number bond, more than, fewer than, subitise
Understanding the World	Tradition, religion, celebration, material, smooth, rough
Expressive Arts & Design	Texture, collage, observe, structure, sturdy, stronger

Teaching opportunities: I'm Going to Eat This Ant!; minibeast hunt, anteater trap, celebrations and texture. Model meanings, invite talk during play, and revisit the words in a later context.

Spring 1 — Where Will Our Journey Take Us?

Curriculum links: The Naughty Bus; journeys, transport, maps, construction and comparing old/new.

Area of learning	Priority vocabulary (introduce / revisit)
Communication & Language	Recount, detail, clarify, information, compare, articulate
Personal, Social & Emotional Development	Perseverance, resilience, challenge, perspective, cooperate
Physical Development	Balance, fluent, core, grip, control, posture
Literacy	Narrative, retell, event, expression, sentence, decode
Mathematics	Composition, represent, estimate, spatial, pattern, compare
Understanding the World	Journey, route, transport, map, artefact, past
Expressive Arts & Design	Construct, attach, technique, collaborate, design, evaluate

Teaching opportunities: The Naughty Bus; journeys, transport, maps, construction and comparing old/new. Model meanings, invite talk during play, and revisit the words in a later context.

Spring 2 — How can we look after God's wonderful world?

Curriculum links: The Journey Home; growth, life cycles, caring for the world and making props.

Area of learning	Priority vocabulary (introduce / revisit)
Communication & Language	Explain, reason, connect, investigate, discuss, conclude
Personal, Social & Emotional Development	Empathy, self-regulation, respectful, independence, responsibility
Physical Development	Aim, pass, catch, accurate, direction, coordinate
Literacy	Setting, problem, solution, character, sentence, describe
Mathematics	Length, height, mass, capacity, compare, order
Understanding the World	Environment, conservation, habitat, germinate, seedling, life cycle
Expressive Arts & Design	Refine, adapt, costume, prop, expressive, technique

Teaching opportunities: The Journey Home; growth, life cycles, caring for the world and making props. Model meanings, invite talk during play, and revisit the words in a later context.

Summer 1 — What lies beneath the waves?

Curriculum links: The Whale Who Wanted More; sea creatures, marine environments and plastic pollution.

Area of learning	Priority vocabulary (introduce / revisit)
Communication & Language	Observe, identify, contrast, infer, justify, question
Personal, Social & Emotional Development	Confidence, considerate, negotiate, resilient, healthy
Physical Development	Agility, precision, control, balance, strength, sequence
Literacy	Prediction, comprehension, evidence, retell, vocabulary, sentence
Mathematics	Number bond, double, halve, compose, partition, spatial
Understanding the World	Ocean, marine, pollution, plastic, recycle, species
Expressive Arts & Design	Effect, pattern, perform, tempo, collaborate, compose

Teaching opportunities: The Whale Who Wanted More; sea creatures, marine environments and plastic pollution. Model meanings, invite talk during play, and revisit the words in a later context.

Summer 2 — What's on Our Plate?

Curriculum links: Supertato; healthy eating, food, occupations, reflection and Year 1 transition.

Area of learning	Priority vocabulary (introduce / revisit)
Communication & Language	Summarise, clarify, persuade, sequence, reflect, evaluate
Personal, Social & Emotional Development	Wellbeing, hygiene, independence, responsibility, transition
Physical Development	Accurate, efficient, coordinated, controlled, flexible
Literacy	Sentence, punctuation, caption, narrative, explain, revise
Mathematics	Consolidate, subitise, compare, composition, reasoning, pattern
Understanding the World	Nutrition, balanced diet, occupation, community, symbol, lifecycle
Expressive Arts & Design	Process, evaluate, improve, design, create, perform

Teaching opportunities: Supertato; healthy eating, food, occupations, reflection and Year 1 transition.

Model meanings, invite talk during play, and revisit the words in a later context.