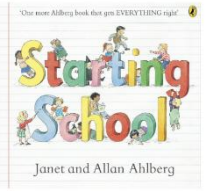
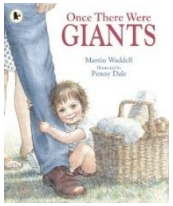
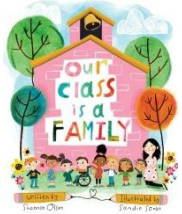
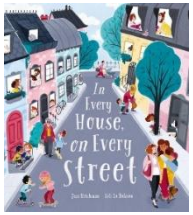
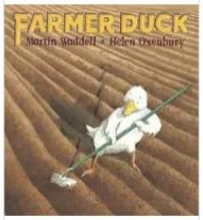
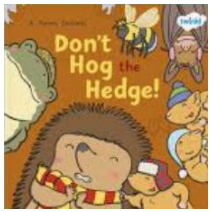
EYFS Medium Term Plan - Autumn 1 2026

How Am I Special?

As we welcome the children to Reception, our 'big question' this half term will be **'How am I special?'** We will be supporting the children as they begin their journey at St. Gregory's, helping them to settle into new routines, build relationships, and feel a sense of belonging within our school community. We will explore what makes us special, talk about our feelings, learn about our families and homes, and discover how we can be kind, caring and supportive friends. As we become Great Gregorians, we will learn to follow our Guide to Greatness and how to love all like Jesus by showing kindness, respect and compassion towards others. Throughout the half term, we will also explore the world around us through our understanding of Autumn, Harvest and seasonal changes, investigating how nature changes and how we can care for living things.

Our learning experiences and themes may adapt and develop in response to the children's starting points and interests, allowing us to follow their curiosity and provide meaningful learning opportunities that inspire and engage all children.

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8
Weekly Theme	Starting School	My Feelings	My Family	My Friends	My Home	Hello Autumn	Harvest	Animals
Question	How do I belong?	How do I feel?	Who cares for me?	How can I be a good friend?	What makes a home?	What changes around us?	Why do we show gratitude?	How do animals prepare for winter?
Key Texts								
Possible Supplementary Texts	Hooray! It's Our First Day A Letter From Your Teacher Harry and the Dinosaurs go to School	The Colour Monster Goes to School Ruby's Worry Find Your Happy Incredible You	Owl Babies Five Minute's Peace The Invisible String All About Families	I'm Going to Make a Friend Have You Filled a Bucket Today? All About Diversity	The Three Little Pigs A Squash and a Squeeze Peace at Last	Fletcher and the Falling Leaves Hello Autumn Leaf Man	Oliver's Vegetables Rosie's Walk The Little Red Hen The Scarecrow's Wedding	The Busy Little Squirrel Oliver's Wood Bear Snores On
Key Vocabulary	St. Gregory's, school, classroom, teacher, key worker, friends, rules, routine, tidy up.	Happy, sad, angry, excited, calm, worried, scared, loved, feelings, emotions, share.	Family, carer, sister, brother, siblings, grandparent, auntie, uncle, cousins, baby, together, love, care.	Friend, play, share, help, kindness, turn, together, team-working, caring, listen, talk, join, welcome.	House, flat, street, door, window, garden, bedroom, furniture, rooms, neighbor, number, terrace, semi-detached, detached, bungalow.	Autumn, season, change, leaf, tree, branch, acorn, seed, colour, weather, wind, nature.	Harvest, farmer, farm, grow, plant, seed, crop, fruit, vegetable, share, thankfulness, gratitude.	Animal, wildlife, habitat, woodland, hedgehog, shelter, hibernate, prepare, winter, change, protect, care.
Possible Learning Experiences	Exploring the classroom, meeting new friends, building relationships with key workers, self-portraits, school tour.	Sharing what makes us happy, using our cosy corner, creating our peg doll to check in each morning.	Sharing family photos, sharing photos of us as babies, family portraits, discussing our special people.	Discussing what makes a good friend, making friendship bracelets, making friendship artwork.	Junk modelling houses, building homes in the construction area, comparing different homes and where we live.	Autumn walk with buddies/grown-ups, making Autumn artwork.	Tasting fruits and vegetables, baking bread, Harvest festival.	Creating animal hibernation homes, making bird feeders.

Loving all, like Jesus, we flourish together

Our Class Superskill: **RESILIENCE**	At St Gregory's, our 'Superskills' are seven key attributes that are embedded throughout our curriculum to help children thrive in school and beyond. Our class Superskill is **Resilience**, which will be nurtured through the Characteristics of Effective Learning as children are encouraged to have a go, persevere when faced with challenge, think critically and celebrate mistakes as part of the learning process. By providing rich, purposeful opportunities for exploration and problem-solving, we help children develop the confidence and resilience to become independent learners. Across school, we will also be focusing on **team-working** and **empathy** this half term.

Religious Education - Creation and Covenant

This half term in RE, we will be learning about God's wonderful world and how we can look after it. The children will hear and explore the Christian belief that God made the beautiful world, everything in it, and each one of us. We will celebrate the goodness of creation, give thanks for it, and think about how we can care for ourselves, others, and the world around us. The children will learn that God loves everyone and that each person is special, so we must treat one another with kindness and respect. We will explore how we join God's family, the Church, through baptism, and practise making the Sign of the Cross.

Communication and Language

We will be learning to...

- Develop good listening and attention skills
- Listen and respond appropriately to adults and peers
- Follow simple instructions
- Speak clearly in full sentences and develop new vocabulary

Promoting strong communication and language is at the heart of our provision and in everything we do!

Physical Development

We will be learning to...

Gross Motor

- Move with increasing control, balance and coordination
- Move confidently in different ways, including running, jumping and climbing
- Use the climbing frame

Fine Motor

- Strengthen hands and fingers through activities such as dough disco, threading, peg boards and using tweezers
- Develop control when using tools such as paintbrushes, cutlery and scissors

PSED

We will be learning to...

- Become more independent with our belongings and daily routines
- Make friends and be kind to others
- Follow our class rules and learn our Guide to Greatness
- Share our ideas and have a go at new things



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Literacy

We will be learning to…

Comprehension

- Listen to and talk about stories
- Learn and use new vocabulary
- Explore book covers, titles and illustrations

Reading

- Enjoy looking at and sharing books
- Recognise that letters make sounds and hear the first sound in words
- Begin to blend sounds together orally

Writing

- Give meaning to the marks we make
- Use writing and mark making in our play
- Begin to write initial sounds

Poetry – We learn a poem each half term and perform it to post on Dojo!

"Hello, Autumn!"

Maths

We will be learning to…

- Match pictures and objects.
- Explore sorting techniques.
- Compare amounts.
- Compare size.
- Compare mass.
- Compare capacity.
- Explore simple patterns.
- Copy and continue simple patterns.
- Find 1, 2 and 3.
- Subitise 1, 2 and 3.
- Represent 1, 2 and 3.
- Find one more and one less.
- Explore composition of 1, 2 and 3.

Expressive Arts and Design

Our Art Question – Can I create a self-portrait?

- Looking closely at our facial features using mirrors
- Exploring using different drawing materials

Our DT Question – Can I build a house using different materials?

- Looking at houses in our local area
- Making houses using junk modelling and in the construction area

Our Music Question – Can I use my voice and body to make music?

- Exploring sounds with our voices
- Making music using body percussion

Key Nursery Rhymes – we enjoy daily nursery rhyme time!

- Humpty Dumpty
- Incy Wincy Spider
- Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star
- Hickory Dickory Dock
- Five Little Monkeys
- Wind the Bobbin Up

Understanding the World

Our History Question – How have I changed?

- Sharing baby photos
- Sharing family photos

Our Geography Question – Where do I live?

- Local area Autumn walk
- Comparing homes

Our Science Question – What are my senses and how do they help me explore the world?

- Exploring the five senses
- Observing seasonal changes

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Phonics and Early Reading

At St. Gregory's, we teach our phonics using Supersonic Phonic Friends.

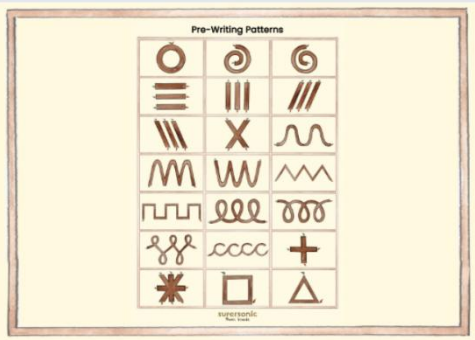
This half term, we will begin with Phase 1, developing our listening and sound awareness skills. We will then begin Phase 2, learning the letter sounds and tricky words shown below:

Securing The Basics 2 CVC		Tricky Words
Group 1	s a t p	N/A
Group 2	i n m d	I is
Group 3	g o c k	the to
Group 4	ck e u r	go no
Group 5	h b f l	has his as

Please keep an eye on Dojo for more information about how we will be teaching phonics and supporting your child's reading at home.

Handwriting

We teach handwriting using Supersonic Handwriting.
This half term, we will begin by practising pre-writing patterns before moving onto Len's Ladder Family letter formations.



Len's Ladder Letters 1		
		
"Down the ladder and curl around."	"Down the treehouse, curl around the ladders and cross the branches."	"Down the iguana's body, curl round its tail and dot the leaf."
		
"Down the underground, up to the umbrella and back underground."	"Drop the yoyo, curl up and curl it all the way down to the yoyo."	"Down the jackdaw's body, curl round to its tail. Then dot the berry."

How to support our 'How am I Special?' topic at home:

Encourage your child's independence when getting ready and coming into school. Read and share stories together, talk about your family and experiences, and sing familiar nursery rhymes. Reading books will be changed every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and we'll let you know on Dojo when these begin coming home. Look out for signs of Autumn when you are out and about and bring in any Autumn treasures you find! Please also keep an eye on Dojo, as we may ask you to share things such as family or baby photos to support our learning in class.

PE Days

Our PE days this half term are:

Tuesdays

Fridays

Please make sure children come into school in their PE kits on these days.

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