

EYFS Vocabulary and Proposed Sticky Words

This document summarises the exact vocabulary found in the Water Mill Reception long-term plan and groups it by subject. A set of **sticky words** is proposed for each subject – these are the core terms that should be retained into Year 1 to align with the progressive vocabulary schemes. Enrichment or story-specific words from the EYFS plan can still be used in Reception but do not need to be carried forward.

Table: EYFS vocabulary by subject and proposed sticky words

Subject	EYFS vocabulary from the long-term plan	Proposed Reception sticky words
PSHE	happy, sad, scared, excited, marvellous, energy, brain, imagination, same/different, special, skills/talents, brave, caring, helpful, kind, strong, important, respectful, superhero, colourful, patchwork, bright, cheerful, different, unique, proud, shimmering, sparkling, scales, precious, share, lonely, odd, patterned, strange, wonder, tiny, gentle, tall, golden, healthy, delicate, bloom, heavy, tug, stubborn, juicy, hard-working, together	kind, brave, helpful, respectful, special, feelings (happy/sad) – key values and emotions that recur throughout PSHE topics.
Science	Plants: ground, sun, soil, leaf, stem, flower, root, blooming, healthy; tiny, gentle, tall, golden, bright, healthy, delicate, bloom; plant, wheat, bake, bread, crop, share, grind, busy, tired, helpful, golden, fresh, delicious, crisp, hard-working, important, respectful. Animals & minibeasts: caterpillar, egg, food (apple, pear, plum, strawberry, orange), hungry, grow, cocoon, butterfly; ground, slimy, shelter, scuttle, tasty/munch, rotten, clever, beautiful; wiggle, stretch, curl, twist, whirl, reach, droop, sway. Materials & structures: materials, straw, sticks, bricks, house, build, huff, puff, blow, strong, weak, sneaky, clever, safe; heavy, strong, tug, stubborn, juicy, hard-working, together; enormous	plant, leaf, root, grow, butterfly, seed, material, build, strong, weak – core biological and materials vocabulary that link directly to Year 1 science units.
R.E.	glow, candle, flame, light, festival, celebration, community, hope, shy, shimmer, flicker; sparkle, crackle, whizz, bang, dazzle, glitter, burst; special, starry, shiny, bright, joyful, magical, celebrate, peaceful; journey, explore, discover, festival, delicious, traditional, famous, adventure	light, candle, celebration, community, hope – anchor words for units on festivals of light and expressing joy and thankfulness.
Maths	three; big/small; tiny; tall; heavy; enormous; same/different	three, big, small, tall, heavy – simple counting and comparison terms that pave the way for Year 1 number and measurement vocabulary.
History	rescue, lighthouse, storm, lifeboat, hero, coast, brave – introduced through the Grace Darling/“people who help us” theme	rescue, hero, coast, brave – these link to Year 1 stories of historical figures and early ideas of the past.

Subject	EYFS vocabulary from the long-term plan	Proposed Reception sticky words
Music	Core songs and rhymes: <i>One finger, one thumb, One two buckle my shoe, On a cold and frosty morning, Mary had a little lamb, Frog lifecycle song, The Enormous Turnip Song, Oh I do like to be beside the seaside, Down in the ocean</i>	pulse, rhythm, pitch, song, rhyme – introducing these musical concepts alongside familiar songs helps children transition to the Year 1 music vocabulary.
Art	sparkle, crackle, whizz, bang, dazzle, glow, glitter, burst; special, starry, shiny, bright, joyful, magical, celebrate, peaceful; shimmering, sparkling, scales, precious, share, lonely, proud, special; colourful, patchwork, bright, cheerful, different, unique, proud	colour, pattern, shine, glitter, bright – foundational art descriptors that align with Year 1 art lessons on line, shape and colour.
Design & Technology (DT)	plant, wheat, bake, bread, help, crop, share, grind, busy, tired, helpful, golden, fresh, delicious, crisp, hard-working, important, respectful; materials, straw, sticks, bricks, house, build, huff, puff, blow, strong, weak, sneaky, clever, safe; heavy, strong, tug, stubborn, juicy, hard-working, together	bake, bread, plant, material, build, strong, weak, safe – core vocabulary for cooking and simple structures that connects with Year 1 DT topics.
Geography	journey, explore, discover, festival, delicious, traditional, famous, adventure; home- and school-based words: school, teacher, classroom, friends, playtime, lunchtime; environment words: ground, shelter, slimy (minibeast habitats)	home, school, journey, explore, world – key spatial and locational terms that support Year 1 work on the local area, contrasting locations and simple mapping.

Suggested additional words to add to the EYFS lists

To further align the Reception vocabulary with Key Stage 1 and 2 progression, the following terms could be introduced in Reception. Each word is linked to a schema or prototype model that appears in later vocabulary lists.

- **PSHE:** *friendship, family, rules, safe, community, equality* – these words support the schema of relationships and citizenship found in Year 1 and Year 2 PSHE themes on families, safety and democracy.
- **Science (Plants and Animals):**, *habitat, predator, prey* – adding these terms introduces classification and habitat prototypes that are central to Year 1 and Year 2 science (e.g. living things and habitats).
- **R.E.:** *thankful, gratitude, blessing* – these words align with the “being thankful” and “expressing joy” dispositions in the RE progression and help children articulate appreciation and kindness.
- **Maths:** *number, count, more, less, equal* – including these basic mathematical prototypes prepares children for Year 1 number and place-value vocabulary.
- **History:** *past, present, history, timeline* – even simple references to “past” and “present” start to build the chronology schema that runs through KS1 history topics.
- **Music:** *beat, listen* – alongside pulse and rhythm, these terms emphasise attentive listening and steady beat, which are reinforced in the KS1 music vocabulary.

- **Art:** *line, shape, colour* – early use of these descriptors aligns with Year 1 art units on cubist portraits and sketching, reinforcing the prototype of analysing visual elements.
- **Design & Technology (DT):** *cut, glue, sew, join* – these action words reflect basic making skills used throughout KS1 DT projects and link to the prototype of constructing and joining materials.
- **Geography:** *map, globe, weather, country, city, village, near, far* – these words introduce spatial schemas and locational awareness, connecting Reception experiences to Year 1 topics on local areas and contrasting locations.

By introducing these additional words as part of continuous provision, story times and themed activities, the EYFS vocabulary can more closely reflect the conceptual models pupils will revisit and extend in Key Stage 1 and beyond.