

RECEPTION – WELCOME LETTER



Dear Parents,
Welcome to the start of the school year! I hope you all had a wonderful summer.

Learning for This Term

In Reception, we like to start with the children – our umbrella topic this term – ‘This is Me!’ We want to find out what your child enjoys, what they are curious about, and which stories they love.

We will begin with a mini project where the children will create a shoebox diorama of their house or favourite place. Once we discover their interests, we will plan our learning around those themes and carefully chosen books.

An overview of the skills we will be focusing on this half-term will be sent out shortly. I will also be sharing a weekly newsletter on Tapestry, letting you know: our focus story for the week, new vocabulary, phonics sounds, maths focus and suggested activities to try at home.

Our Value This Term: Respect

This term, our Christian value is Respect. In Reception, we talk about showing respect in many ways: valuing each other’s ideas and choices, appreciating our differences, looking after toys and equipment, caring for our environment and showing kindness to ourselves and others. As a Church of England school, we also think about what the Bible teaches us about respect. We remember Jesus’ words: “Do to others as you would have them do to you” (Luke 6:31). We encourage the children to live this out in their daily play and learning.

Reading

Reading is one of the most important skills your child will develop this year, and it will continue to grow throughout their school journey. Working together is key – regular reading at home alongside our work in school makes a huge difference.

More information about our phonics scheme and reading books will be shared at the ‘Welcome to Reception’ meeting in the coming weeks.

We have a sticker reward system in the back of your child’s reading book. Each time their school reading book is read or shared at home, they will receive a sticker. Once the sheet is full, they will be awarded a special certificate in our Celebration Assembly.

Please sign your child’s reading diary each time you read together, and feel free to add comments – these help us support your child’s progress.

P.E.

P.E. will start in Week 3 and will take place on Tuesday afternoons with Mrs Bush and Mrs P.

Please make sure all clothes brought into school are clearly named. Reception P.E. will be indoors, so no trainers, plimsolls, or tracksuits are needed.

What Your Child Needs in School

- Named water bottle (with a straw or sports lid – not a screw top). Please keep water bottles out of book bags to prevent leaks.
- Lightweight waterproof jacket (named) – our weather is unpredictable!
- Named book bag with one key ring attached for easy identification.
- Spare (named) clothes in case of accidents or muddy play – these can be kept in their P.E.

Fruit and Milk

In Reception, we have two snack times, where we all sit together and eat:

- Morning snack at 10:00 – milk is provided if your child would like it.
- Afternoon snack at 2:45

As the school is only allocated one snack per child per day, we kindly ask parents to provide an additional snack from home if you would like your child to have two. Snacks provided by school may include carrots, tomatoes, pears, or other fruit/vegetables. If your child is not keen on these, it is helpful to send in a suitable alternative.

Please send any snacks from home in a named container, and remember that grapes must be cut into quarters. Snacks should be fruit, vegetables, or a healthy savoury option such as breadsticks or crackers.

Cooking and Design Technology

Throughout this term, the children will be taking part in a variety of cooking and Design Technology activities. So far, we have planned to make:

- Portrait pizzas
- Gruffalo crumble
- Pumpkin soup
- Goldilocks oat biscuits
- Bread rolls
- Fruity space rockets
- Christmas treats

To help cover the cost of ingredients for these sessions, we kindly ask for a voluntary contribution of £5 for the term. Your support enables us to provide these hands-on, memorable learning experiences for the children.

Rewards in Reception and Across the School

In Reception, we don't tend to give out stickers (apart from the reading stickers explained earlier). Research shows that children are often more motivated when they experience the reward of completing a task or showing good behaviour, rather than receiving something material.

Instead, our class works together towards a shared goal through our Marble Jar. We choose one target – for the first half-term, this is usually 'putting all our things away in the morning' to build those important early routines. When we see the children meeting our target, we add a marble to the jar. Once it's full, the class chooses a special reward. Past rewards have included afternoon tea, a disco party, cake and hot chocolate.

As a whole school, we celebrate achievements in our Friday Celebration Assembly, where two certificates are awarded in each class:

- Learner of the Week
- Role Model of the Week

At the end of each term, we present two extra awards:

- The Always Award – for a child who always models our school rules of Ready, Respectful, and Safe. One child is chosen from each class (Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Lower KS2, Upper KS2). They receive a special badge and enjoy hot chocolate with Mrs Sharrock.
- The Headteacher's Award – for a child who has made great progress in any area of school life. They receive a special certificate.

Our School Rules

Our three school rules are the same in every class:

Ready, Respectful, and Safe.

We spend time talking with the children about what these mean and what they look like in our class and across the school. We look for children who follow these rules and praise them often. If a child is finding it difficult to follow a rule, we speak to them privately, so as not to shame or draw unnecessary attention. We understand that young children are still learning, and our role is to help and guide them so they can make better choices next time.

Keeping in Touch

We will be sharing photographs and observations on your child's Tapestry account to give you a glimpse into their learning.

If you need to contact us, please go through the school office, and they will pass on your message. We are usually available for a quick chat at the end of the school day; for longer conversations, we can arrange a meeting at a convenient time.

We will hold 'Next Steps' meetings towards the end of term to discuss your child's progress and areas of focus. Dates will be shared nearer the time.

Homework

On Thursdays, your child will receive the new sounds and words we are learning in phonics that week. Please practise these as often as possible.

Ideas and games to support your child's learning at home will be shared in our weekly newsletter, which can be found on Tapestry. We love seeing your photographs and hearing about learning done at home, as these can be included in your child's learning journal.

We are really looking forward to getting to know you and your child and having a wonderful first term together.

Kind regards,
from the Reception Team,
Miss Lucy Cove (EYFS lead, Art and DT lead)
Mrs Sarah Pittard (Full time class teaching assistant)
Mrs Jackie Scutt (Part time teaching assistant)
Mrs Jackie Bush (HLTA/PPA cover Tuesday pm)

