



Welcome to Reception!

We are looking forward to getting to know you all very well! We believe a cooperative relationship between our school and yourselves is essential. By working together we will be able to provide the best possible start to school life for your child.

There are two classrooms in Reception; Polar Bears and Brown Bears.

The staff in the Polar Bear's class are Miss Bond (Teacher) and Mrs McCarthy (Early Years Practitioner). The staff in the Brown Bear's class, Miss Blair (Teacher) and Mrs Vinson (Early Years Practitioner).

Throughout the first term we will be settling the children and finding out their likes and dislikes. We are always eager to find out more about your child and what interests and inspires them. Any learning and development you notice at home is always useful to help us plan relevant activities and to add to their Learning Journals.

We are always happy to chat to you about your child and school at a mutual appropriate time.

Miss Bond

Miss Blair

Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

The themes we follow across the year are based on the children's interests. We are keen to know what interests them out of school as well as in school to help us plan relevant and interesting activities. The children learn through a mix of play activities as well as adult directed tasks and small group times. The areas of the curriculum are below.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This area covers being interested and eager to learn, enjoying school, working independently, keeping safe, behaving well and building relationships with other children and adults.

Communication and Language

We will be working on listening and attention skills, speaking skills and understanding spoken instructions, stories and questions. In addition we will be developing children vocabulary and encouraging its use.

Physical Development

All areas of the children's physical development are important—their large physical movements and being able to manipulate and use small objects, including using pencils for writing.

Literacy

It is crucial for children to develop a life-long love of reading. Comprehension only develops when adults talk with children about the world around them and the books they read with them. We will be developing reading skills including sounding and naming letters and using phonic knowledge to read and write.

Mathematics

Developing a strong grounding in number is essential so that all children develop the necessary building blocks to do well in maths. Our focus will be to ensure children can count confidently and develop a deep understanding of the numbers to 10, the relationships between them and the patterns within those numbers

Understanding the World

We will help the children to make sense of different cultures, communities and traditions and develop their understanding of our local environment

Expressive Arts and Design

Working with paint, glue, musical instruments, movement and imaginative play all help the children to create from their experiences.

How could you help learning and development at home ?

- Read stories daily to your child and use them as an opportunity to talk about the characters and events in the story. You could also discuss some of the details children have spotted in the pictures, such as the character's facial expressions.
- Have lots of conversations with your child throughout the day. Try and increase their vocabulary by using a wide range of vocabulary.
- Practise counting with your child and looking at small groups of items. Explore what happens to numbers when you put these small groups of items together, or split a larger group into two smaller groups.
- Support your child's early reading by practising phonic skills, such as recognising letter sounds and blending them together to read words. Also, support your child with their writing by checking they are forming their letters in the correct way and holding a pencil properly.
- Encourage your child to make healthy food and drink choices, especially related to sugar content and how this can affect teeth. Also, support your child to properly brush their teeth at least twice a day at home.
- Plan activities that allow your child to be active and develop their strength through large body movements as well as smaller, more precise movements.



A few reminders....

Times - We open our doors at 8.40am for the start of the school day. The doors will be shut at 8.50am, after which, you need to come into school via the office.

School finishes at 3.00pm. Please arrive and collect your child on time.

Any children arriving late must enter through the main school entrance . Children collected late will be monitored and parents may be charged for child care. If someone else will be collecting your child please inform staff beforehand.

Uniform – Please ensure your **child's clothes have their name on**, we encourage independence and children will be taking off their own jumpers throughout the day. We ask the children to put them in their drawer so please check drawers regularly.

Library – Your child will receive a library book pack to take home for you to enjoy and share at home. You will receive the pack on a **MONDAY** and return on **FRIDAY**

Reading - All children will be given a reading folder, yellow reading record and a plastic wallet. This will be sent home for you to read with your child throughout the week, as well as letters and words to practise. After reading with your child please write a small comment or sign their reading record book. **Please bring reading folders to school every day.**

Handwriting - Your child will be learning to write using cursive handwriting. We will give you a copy of the alphabet so you can help them to practise writing the letters at home too.

Phonics - For the correct pronunciation of the letter sounds, there is a useful video on the school website.

P.E. - Alternate **Thursday's** your child will take part in Physical Education lessons in the school gym. Their PE kit will be provided by school and will stay in school. **Please support your child to dress and undress themselves independently** at home so getting ready for PE is less challenging.

Learning Journal Files – These are kept in your child's classroom and are available for you to look at and comment on. We value all contributions you make to your child's learning and welcome any comments/examples you may have.

