



Reception News

A newsletter for Blue and Gray Whale Class Parents
Autumn Term 2026

Welcome

Welcome to everyone after the summer holidays and a special welcome to all our new friends that have joined us in both Blue and Gray Whale Class.

It has been a pleasure getting to know the children during these first few days of school. They've settled in beautifully and are already engaging enthusiastically in their activities.

If you have any questions or would just like a quick chat, please don't hesitate to catch us at the end of the day—we're always happy to talk.

Each week, we will share the upcoming week's activities with you via Tapestry. This will give you an overview of what your child will be learning and provide opportunities to support and extend their learning at home.

We'll also be starting phonics soon using Read Write Inc.

Reminder: Your child's water bottle must be brought into school every day. If the weather is good please send in a sun hat. Please make sure that your child's clothing and belongings are clearly labelled with names too.

Thank you!

Baseline Assessment

The Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA) is a statutory assessment. It provides a snapshot of where pupils are when they arrive at school. This half term we have been, and will continue to gather, information about each child's individual learning and development. Once this is completed, we will begin to target children next steps and learning.

Tapestry:

Tapestry should now be up and running, please check your emails for a link to activate your account. We have been unable to send observations home but we are hoping to get this sorted soon.

Phonics Reading Books

Here at St Nics we use the phonics scheme Read Write Inc.

Just before half-term we will send home a Read Write Inc book for your children to share with you. These reading materials may be a sound blending book, a book bag book or a ditty book.

During the autumn term, we will begin reading with all children. We will change their books regularly based on their progress.

Please can the children bring their book bags into school every day.

In addition, your child will also be bringing home a "My Share Book". This is not a phonics book, but simply a story to enjoy together—perfect for sharing some special reading time at home.

When you have shared a book with your child, please ensure you have recorded this in their reading record.

Red Words

Your children will be coming across these red words which cannot be sounded out. Please take the time to practice these with your child at home!

the
to
I
no
go

Birthdays!

We love to celebrate children's birthdays at school and do so by singing and giving the birthday child the chance to talk about their birthday. If you have any invitations, we can help by putting them in the book bags (please note this will only be done in reception as everyone is new to the school). Unfortunately, due to GDPR we are unable to give out class lists. As we are a Healthy Eating School, we do not allow the children to hand out sweets or cakes in the classroom.

Drop-offs and pick-ups

Drop-off starts 8.45am and pick up is 3.15pm. Please leave the children at the gate to come in independently. Please can adults refrain from coming into the garden in the morning as it helps the children settle more quickly and develops their independence. An adult will be around to take any messages.

Please see the curriculum pages of our website for more details about what your child will be learning in Reception: [St Nicolas and St Mary CE Primary School - Early Years Foundation Stage](#)

