

Reception FAQ

How many adults are there in one classroom?

In reception we like to have one teacher and a teaching assistant to support a class of 30 children.

How often should I check my child's school bag?

Please check their bags at least once a week for any information. We are turning into a 'paperless' school and a majority of communication will be via emails/text messages. We will also send regular photos and observations via our Tapestry observation system. You have the opportunity to send photos and information back to the class teachers via Tapestry.

Please only put **one** keyring on the book bag if you choose to have one.

How often should I read with my child?

Reading with your child is so important. It can help them to make sense of the world around them and develop language and listening skills. It is important that children learn to read but also have the opportunity to listen to stories. We recommend at least 5 minutes each day either before or after school – whatever times works for you. We do not want it to be a stressful time for you or your child. We will start sending reading books home in October. Please record any reading each day in your child's reading record which will be sent home at the same time.

What are lucky book tokens?

Every time your child reads 10 times at home they get a lucky book token, this is recorded in their reading record with the initials LBT. The lucky book token is then put into a raffle and this is drawn during special assembly times. If your child's token is chosen they get to choose a book to take home and keep.

My child is upset when I leave what should I do? How will you help settle them?

We fully appreciate that leaving your child with us can be scary for them and you but your child's emotional wellbeing is highly important to us, we want them to feel safe and happy at school. If your child is upset the best thing to

do is say goodbye give them a kiss/cuddle and leave them with us. This shows your child that you have trust in us and they will begin to trust us too. If your child is upset when you leave we will give you a call later in the day to help put your mind at ease.

Can my child go part time?

Please speak to the class teacher or Head teacher if you feel that your child would benefit from going part time. This can be arranged until the term in which they are 5 years old.

How will I see what my child has been doing at school?

We use an online system called Tapestry. We will send an email for you to accept communication which enables us to send you regular pictures and observations of your child. You have an option to send observations from home and comment on the photos sent to you. We feel it is important to build positive relationships with families and enjoy sharing observations from both school and home.

What does the learning look like?

Much of the learning in reception is through play based activities. Each child has their own Next steps (targets) that we use to help plan activities that will help them develop as individuals. We also plan group maths activities and daily phonics sessions.

What if something gets lost?

Please make sure all clothing and property such as water bottles are clearly marked with your child's name so that it can be returned if found. Lost property items are collected in the medical room.

Tell me about P.E.

Children should bring in P.E kit to wear. The P.E kit should be kept in a named bag and kept on the child's peg. Every item in the bag must be individually named to avoid any mix ups. Plimsolls are worn for outdoor P.E. We respect special requests made for religious reasons. Please speak to us if this applies to your child. If your child has pierced ears please remove the earrings on P.E days.

Is there any shade in the playground?

There is some shade in the playground under the cherry trees. We recommend that during hot weather your child brings in a named sun hat to wear and you apply sun cream at home.

Can I get free school meals?

If you think that your child is entitled to free school meals, please speak to a member of staff in the office.

Is drinking water available?

Water is available in the dining hall and children can fill their water bottles up from the taps in the classrooms. Children should also bring water bottles into school to drink in the classroom. Please label the bottle clearly with your child's name. We are a healthy school so please only fill the water bottles with water.

What should I do if my child is not well?

If your child is sadly unwell before school please call the school office and report them as absent. If your child has had any form of sickness or diarrhoea they must remain off school for 48 hours after the last sickness.

What happens if my child has an accident at school?

If your child has a wet/soiled accident at school a member of staff will support them by gathering wipes, clean clothes and a bag (we have spares as a school but it is always helpful to have some spares in their PE bag). The child is encouraged to wipe themselves clean. If a child needs more support another adult will be asked to assist by standing close by. A member of staff will catch you at the end of the day to let you know what happened. Please find more information in our toileting policy.

If your child hurts themselves at school they will receive the relevant first aid. Parents/carers will be informed at the end of the day of any accidents that have happened. Sometimes you may receive a phone call to explain what has happened in more detail. All incidents are recorded in our first aid log.

If your child is sick at school they will be taken to the medical room and you will be phoned and asked to come and collect your child.

What time does school start and where do I drop them off?

PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR UPDATES TO TIMES

Children can enter the main playground at 8.30am and a bell will be rung at 8.45am to let the children know they can go to their classrooms. Reception children come in through the early years garden gate with their parent/carer, up the ramp and to their classroom door. A member of the team will be at the classroom door to welcome them, take any urgent messages for the day and pass them to the teaching assistants in the classroom.

We strongly encourage parents to support their child's independence and encourage them to come in to the classroom on their own. Each child's transition will be different and we will work alongside you.

How can I help my child settle into school?

Children respond well to routine so establishing this as early as possible would be positive for the children's transitions. Please speak to a member of staff if you feel your child will benefit from some extra support. We have different techniques and ideas that might help in making the transition smoother.

What else can I do?

We are hoping to run some parent sessions in the autumn term where you can find out about the curriculum, routines and parent/teacher communications. It is also great to see you at parent consultations and events happening at school. Please read through the weekly parent bulletin for important information and check emails and the school website for information.

What happens at the end of the day?

Reception parents enter the early years garden and wait for their children outside the classroom. The teacher will come to the door and send children out one by one to their known adults. If your child is going home with a friend or relative please phone the school office and inform them. If

we do not have a note from the office we will not be able to send the child home until we have made contact with parents/carers. Teachers are available to chat for a short while after school but may sometimes suggest booking in a meeting to discuss things further.

There is a whiteboard outside in-between the classrooms where information will be written up about the day/week. When children first start school we will write up what they had for lunch and little bit about their day, along with some photos. As the year goes on this will become weekly information.

Can I park on the premises?

Please do not park in the school carpark. There is street parking around the school but please park respectfully as this is a residential area.

What else is my child allowed to bring to school?

There may be times that children are asked to bring in something to support their learning, please ensure anything a child brings in is clearly named. We ask that children do not bring in toys unless it is for a stated show and tell.

When can I talk to the teachers?

Teachers are busy settling their classes first thing in the morning and can only receive the briefest of messages at that time. They are more easily available at the end of the day when they have dismissed their classes. Teachers are happy to make appointments to see you if you would like a longer chat. Teachers also meet parents and carers informally at coffee mornings and more formally at parent/teacher consultation days.

What are Dojo points?

Each child is set up with a monster that collect points called dojos. The child can collect points for following school rules and working hard. The two children with the most points at the end of each day receive a dojo certificate.

Are children given home learning?

We encourage children to read at home every day. Children should bring their book bag in to school a minimum of twice a week to change their book, always on a Monday and Friday. We will send home learning activities home via Tapestry, and other activities such as phonics sheets and writing holiday news throughout the year.

What if my child has special needs?

Please discuss your child's needs with the teacher. We can work together to support children's individual needs.

What should I do if I am worried about my child's progress?

Ask for an appointment to talk to the class teacher about your concerns.