



Welcome to the Reception classes

Welcome to the Reception classes at Orchard primary school. This pack consists of important information about the Reception year. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class staff.

The areas of learning in Reception

We follow the Foundation Stage curriculum within Nursery and Reception. This curriculum sets out **7 areas for development and learning**. These areas consist of 3 'prime areas' and 4 'specific areas' outlined below:

| 3 Prime Areas | 4 Specific Areas |
|--|--|
| Personal, Social and Emotional Development Physical Development Communication and Language | Literacy Mathematics Understanding the world Expressive arts and design |

We also aim to develop key 'Characteristics of Effective learning' which will encourage children to play and explore, be creative and think critically and to take an active role in their own learning. Please see details on the summary sheet included in this pack.

Term plans and weekly news:

You will receive a copy of the term plan at the beginning of every term. This shows you the learning the children will be doing over the term and covers all areas of learning.

The weekly news will be on the Reception notice board which is outside in the Reception playground. This will show you the main highlights and focusses for the week ahead.

Learning in Reception:

In Reception children **learn through play** as well as taking part in adult directed work. The activities within the classroom and in the outside area are planned for to encourage children to develop their skills and knowledge through play and exploration. Play is an important part of young children's learning and plays a key role within the Foundation Stage curriculum.

Outside learning:

Outside learning is an important part of the Foundation Stage curriculum. Children will have the opportunity to go outside every day except in cases of severe weather conditions. Please make sure your child has **suitable clothing and footwear** for the weather.

Book bags:

It is important that your child has their book bag every day. They will bring home letters, books and their home school book regularly.

Home school books:

In their book bags, your child will bring home their Home-school book. This book will contain comments about your child's reading. Each week children will bring home a reading book and either a Nursery Rhyme or a second book from their class library. Please listen to your child read each week and write comments in the Home-school book. You can write in English or your home language if you prefer.

Bear Diaries:

Your child will be given the opportunity to bring home a class bear. Each bear has a diary for you and your child to record what the bear has been doing during his or hers time with you.

Phonics and Reading:

We follow a national program called 'Letters and Sounds' to help children learn phonics. Please help your child learn the sound of the letters, rather than the alphabetical name. Children will use a variety of different books to help develop their reading. The weekly news will tell you which sounds we are learning each week.

Writing:

Please help your child to develop their writing skills and their fine motor control. Below are some examples of exercises children could do:

- Play dough or other malleable materials such as plasticine
- Threading (either lacing cards or threading large beads onto string)
- Make marks on paper and pretend writing
- Jigsaw puzzles or pegs

We teach children to write using small lower case letters not capitals.

Food/ Lunch time:

Every class has an allocated 'dinner lady' who looks after the class at lunchtime. The children will wear badges to show the Dinner staff their dietary choices/requirements. The Reception staff will also help to look after the children at lunchtime while they are settling in. The children are offered fruit every day and drinking water is always available. Milk can be ordered online and a milk list is delivered to your child's class weekly.

How do you know how your child is doing?

Staff are always happy to talk about your child's progress at a convenient time. The home-school book is a good way of communicating progress. There are Parents' Evenings in the Autumn and Spring term, though you do not have to wait till then if you have a concern. You will receive a written report on your child's progress in July.

WOW from home:

Please let us know of any achievements from home as these can be added to your child's learning journey. You will find '**A WOW from home**' sheet at the front of your child's classroom, these can be included in your child's learning journey.

Other ways to help your child:

1. Encourage your child to be as independent as possible. Please let them come into the class independently.
2. Name everything!
3. Teach them to dress themselves, eg. taking of coats and shoes, etc.
4. Ensure they can go to the toilet independently and wash their hands
5. Volunteer to help in class or on trips
6. Talk to your class staff - tell us about your child's feelings and achievements
7. Encourage your child in all their efforts and learning
8. Enjoy the fun of Reception with your child!
9. Please ensure your child gets a good night's sleep and has breakfast before coming to school in the morning.

Thank you for your support

We look forward to working with you and your child during their year in Reception.