

Reception 2024



Welcome to our Reception class, September 2024!

It has come to that time of year when we are getting ready to welcome a new group of children to our Reception class. How exciting! In order to support transition this year, we are happy to be able to offer the following:

- Home Visit for new children
- Stay and Play session
- Transition morning

I am confident and excited to start Reception. I am bigger now and am ready to be more independent.



There are lots of ways to help your child get ready for Reception. Ultimately, they will be gaining more independence in their personal and academic skills. Here are some key skills you could practise together at home to support their independent self-help skills and enhance their confidence:

- **Practising general hygiene routines**, washing and drying hands and knowing when it is important to do this, wiping blowing their nose and placing their tissues in the bin.
- **Practising independent dressing skills**, putting on and fastening their shoes and coat, putting on gloves and changing their clothes.
- **Taking care of belongings** - Who can put all their clothes in their bag without losing/forgetting anything? Ask your child to help you label all their belongings, can they see their name in all of their items of clothing? Show them their uniform/ spare clothes bag and explain what each item is. Show your child the labels so they know what to look out for when checking they have all their own clothes after changing.
- **Talk about the things they will need to take to school and bring home each day** – for example, their jumper, coat, school bag and water bottle.
- **Independent eating**, using a knife, fork and spoon, pouring a drink from a jug, opening food packets, containers and their lunch box. Picnics are lots of fun to practise some of these skills.
- **Good communication**, explaining their thoughts and feelings, asking for help when they need it, expressing themselves and being able to calm themselves down when something has upset them. There are some great stories which you could find online such as 'The Colour Monster', 'Ruby's Worry' and 'Silly Billy'.
- **Turn taking and following instructions**, board games are fantastic for developing these skills. Remember, not being a winner is an important skill to learn too
- **Prepare for change** – Walk past school and wave to your new classroom, go uniform shopping together, take some pictures to share with your friends once you start school in September. We can't wait to see what you get up to!

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If you would like to continue to support your child's academic learning, here is a list of activities to do over the Summer Holidays. These activities will develop their academic skills and independence:

- **Read, read and read some more!** Share as many books as you can. Perhaps you could join your local library? Ask your child to tell you a story that they know really well, perhaps a traditional tale such as 'The Three Little Pigs'.
- **Have a go at writing their name** together. If this is something they find tricky, use a yellow highlighter and encourage your child to trace their name.
- **Count everything!** Steps, jumps on a trampoline, shampoo bottles in the bath.... Can your child help you set the table? How many knives/ forks/ spoons/ plates do they need?
- **Go on a number hunt** and see which numbers you can find. Do you have a door number? Which numbers can you see whilst out shopping? Does the bus have a number on the front?
- **Sing some Nursery rhymes**, counting songs or any of your child's favourite songs. There are lots of excellent songs to try on YouTube or here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-songs-index/zhwdgwx>
- Try learning some **Makaton** songs and signs, have a look at 'Singing Hands' on YouTube or the Makaton section on our website. We will be learning lots of Makaton in Reception! <https://www.hollybush.herts.sch.uk/makaton/>
- Keep strengthening those **gross motor muscles** – spend as much time as possible outside climbing, scooting, cycling and running, throwing and catching a ball.
- Don't forget all your **fine motor muscles** too – lots of cutting and sticking, colouring in, drawing, painting, chalks, play dough and water play!

Most importantly enjoy your summer and spending family time together doing whatever makes you all smile! We are really looking forward to welcoming you to Reception in September!