



Welcome to Reception

September 2024





What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

- The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the stage of education for children from **birth** to the **end of the Reception year**.
- It is based on the recognition that children learn best through play and active learning.

There are 7 Areas of Learning

Prime areas:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Specific areas:

- Literacy
- Maths
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

We teach children through their own interests. We observe what they enjoy doing whilst they are at play. We move children's learning forward 'in the moment' or set up invitations to learning which enable them to acquire and develop more specific skills.



The Characteristics of Effective Learning

There are three characteristics of effective learning - **how young children learn**. These are taken into account when we plan and guide children's activities.

- *Playing and Exploring*
- *Active Learning*
- *Creating and Thinking Critically*

Please visit our website for more information about how we teach the EYFS curriculum.



The Curiosity Approach

At Hollybush, we are embracing 'The Curiosity Approach'.

'Bringing curiosity, awe and wonder into early childhood & creating the 'thinkers & doers' of the future'

The Curiosity Approach



You can find out more by visiting their website
<https://www.thecuriosityapproach.com/parents>



The First Few Weeks

The first few weeks will be spent settling the children into their new class, supporting them to get to know their friends and adults in the class, and how to access their new learning environment.

We will observe what children can already do, what their interests are and any support they may need.

The Reception Day

Morning:

8:40 – 8:45 – Drop off

8:45 – 9:00 – Soft start/ settling activities

9:00 - 9:30 - Literacy/Drawing club

9:30 - 10:00 - Read Write Inc

10:00 - 11:10 - Child initiated learning

11:10 – 11:15 – Tidy up

11:15 – 11:45 – Maths

12:00 – 13:00 – Lunchtime

Afternoon:

13:00 – 13:20 – Topic Learning

13:20 – 14:30 – Child initiated learning

14:30 – 14:40 – Tidy up

14:40 – 15:10 – Story and Poetry basket

15:10 – Home time



Outdoor Learning

We will spent lots of time learning outside, whatever the weather! This includes our weekly Forest School session. Please do check the weather forecast each day and dress children appropriately.

Children should have a named pair of wellies to be kept in school.

Learning can be messy!

From playing with water or sand, to the mud kitchen, shaving foam or slime, paint or playdough, we LOVE to get messy in Early Years.

Your child will come home dirty! Please don't be surprised; we call this risk taking, sensory play and above all... fun!

Children should have a named bag of **at least** 1 set of spare clothes to be kept on their peg, including underwear and socks.

“At the end of the day your feet should be dirty, your hair messy and your eyes sparkling” Shanti



School Uniform

All children in our EYFS are required to wear the active uniform. Formal uniform is not practical for our approach to learning and does not enable children to dress/ undress themselves independently when using the toilet/ changing into clean clothes.

Active Uniform Must be worn every day

- Plain black or white T-shirt (round neck)
- Black shorts
- Black jogging bottoms
- Black leggings
- Black Hollybush hoodie
- Plain black hoodie/ zip up
- Black trainers – please consider Velcro fastenings that your child can get on/ off independently

***EVERYTHING MUST BE
NAMED!***



Uniform can be purchased from Kids Connection in Hertford - www.kidsconnection.co.uk
If you wish to buy uniform elsewhere, it must be plain and unbranded.

School Uniform Continued...

***EVERYTHING MUST
BE NAMED!***

- Ensure everything is clearly named, including water bottles and bags. You may wish to have a look at the following companies to help with this:

- <https://stamptastic.co.uk/> - Personalised stamps and ink pads for uniform

- <https://personalisedkidsstuff.co.uk/product/bottle-bands/>
Bands for water bottles

- All items must be plain and free from logos except the Hollybush logo.
- Our uniform is gender neutral; all children can wear any combination of the active uniform.
- Long hair must be tied back at all times.



What does my child need?



A **named** book bag or backpack



A **named** water bottle



A **named**, waterproof jacket/coat



A **named** pair of wellies (to be kept in school)



A **named** bag of spare school clothes (to be kept in school)

**EVERYTHING
MUST BE
CLEARLY
NAMED!**

How can I prepare my child for School?

- We pride ourselves on being a open and supportive school. Please email or call the school if you have any concerns and would like to have a chat with the Early Years team.
- We want both you and your child to feel relaxed and excited about the forthcoming year and if you have any worries and concerns we are here for you from the very beginning.
- Have a look at the 'Getting Ready for School' document in your pack for some ideas for you to practise over the summer.

What does being 'school ready' mean?

- *Having strong social skills*
- *Can cope emotionally with being separated from their parents*
- *Are relatively independent in their own personal care*
- *Have a curiosity about the world and a desire to learn*

PACEY



How can I find out how my child is getting on?

Evidence Me

- Evidence Me is the online tool teachers and teaching assistants use in school to observe children's learning.
- The 'Parent Share' feature in Evidence Me enables you to view your child's observations (complete with photos and/or videos) via the app or website, showing you what your child has been learning and the new skills they are developing.
- You can also share information, photos and videos of what you have been doing at home via the app.
- More information on how to sign up to follow in September!

We also hope to invite you in for various themed 'Stay and Play' sessions throughout the year to find out more about how your child learns at school.



School Communication

All parents/ carers must have **Arbor Parent Portal** app. This is vital as it is how you will receive key communications (e.g. *daily messages, letters*) and is also how you will make any necessary payments to the school. You will have already received a sign up email.

Please ensure you have provided an up to date email address and mobile number to our school admin team. If these should change throughout the year, please use the Arbor system to update your details.

We will be available to speak to you before/ after school but please be aware this is often a busy time. We are always happy to call or email you or arrange a suitable time for a meeting (face to face or via phone call).

Medical Matters

Please let the office know if your child has any allergies or other medical needs.

If your child is absent, please contact the school office directly on the morning of their absence by calling the office on 01992 581454. Please leave their name and reason for absence. You need to contact the office every day that your child is absent, not just the first day.

Any sickness or diarrhoea must be followed by 48 hours absence from the last episode.

Medicines can be administered by staff and will be kept in the school office. This includes prescribed medications. We are happy to administer antibiotics if they are needed 4 times a day. Inhalers will be kept in the classroom in a named bag in the staff cupboard. A medical form will need to be completed for all medications and should be returned to the office.

Head lice are common! Please check children's hair regularly and treat as recommended.

Please contact the office if you are ever unsure of what the advice is regarding any medical matters.

Lunches

- You child can choose to have school lunch or bring in a packed lunch from home. All lunches must be pre-selected on the Arbor app. This includes home packed lunch.
- Please ensure that any packed lunches are healthy and do not contain any nuts (or products containing nuts such as Nutella), fizzy drinks, sweets or chocolate.
- School lunch menus are available here: <https://www.hollybush.herts.sch.uk/lunch-menus/>
- All children in Reception are eligible for Free School Meals.
- All children will be offered a fruit snack during the morning, provided by the school.



Wrap Around Provision

- Children are able to access the Breakfast club and After School Club at Hollybush.
- Hollybush Out Of School Club runs Monday to Friday during term time. It is run by Hollybush members of staff.
- Children can be booked in daily or on an ad hoc basis.
- Breakfast club starts at 8am.
- After School Club runs until 6pm and costs are split in the following time slots:
 - Until 4pm, until 5pm and until 6pm
 - Late pickups after 6pm will incur a charge for every 15 mins or thereof.
- Sessions will need to be booked in advance via Arbor.
- Please visit the school website for more detailed information.
<https://www.hollybush.herts.sch.uk/breakfast-after-school-club/>

Have a wonderful
summer!

We can't wait to see
you all in September!