

Welcome to Reception September 2023



Welcome to Owls Reception Class. I hope that the contents of this letter help to provide an overview of life in Reception. Topics for the Year will be shared as well as providing information regarding PE kits, Tapestry and general school information. There is a new national statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) to support your child's learning and development.

Please do not hesitate to get in contact with me to share successes, questions or concerns.

Gemma Blair

General

I am available to talk at the end of most days and please let me know anything in the morning that may impact on your child's day, from not sleeping well at night, to being excited about an upcoming birthday or event.

We hold Parents Evenings and fun afternoons where parents can join us at school. There are two formal parents' evenings during the year; more details will follow nearer the time.

The register is called at 8.50 and lunches checked. We then start phonics promptly after this.

If you would like to volunteer to help readers in school, it would be greatly appreciated so please let me know if you are able to do so.

All children should wear school uniform (navy jumper/cardigan, grey skirt/pinafore/trousers/shorts, white polo shirt, plain grey/white/black socks, sensible and smart black shoes.) Nail varnish should be removed before school. Please see our website under the 'Parents' tab (school information) for more information about uniform.

The EYFS

There are 3 'Prime Areas' of learning within the EYFS;

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

There are 4 'Specific Areas' of learning within the EYFS. These are:

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

Early Learning Goals

There are 17 Early Learning Goals (ELG) which summarise the knowledge, skills and understanding that children should have gained by the end of the school year. These are:

1. Communication and Language, 2. Speaking, 3. Self-Regulation, 4. Managing Self, 5. Building relationships, 6. Gross Motor Skills, 7. Fine Motor Skills, 8. Comprehension, 9. Word Reading, 10. Writing, 11. Number, 12. Numerical Patterns, 13. Past and Present, 14. People, Culture and Communities, 15. The Natural World, 16. Creating with Materials, 17. Being Imaginative and Expressive.

EYFS follows a play-based 'curriculum' where lots of enquiry, exploration and curiosity from your child allows them to demonstrate the skills and knowledge that they have. Learning in EYFS is a mixture of adult and child led activities, where natural curiosity is harnessed and captured to form a 'picture' of the progress that your child has made.

These ELG's are reported to you at the end of the year with an 'Emerging' or 'Expected' level.

Topic Work

In our non-core curriculum this year, we will be looking at:

- **What makes me unique? and 'What's your favourite Colour?' in the Autumn Term**
- **'Who can help us in our community?' and 'Are we nearly there?' in the Spring Term**
- **'Can I tell you a story?' and 'Which animals amaze you?' in the Summer Term.**

Each topic will also have child-led discovery and the freedom to explore their interests.

Children will explore a question linked to their topic to help them build and develop their knowledge.

P.E. & Kit

PE will be held on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Children need to wear navy/blacks shorts and a school PE t-shirt or plain red t-shirt and trainers or plimsols. For outdoor games, children may wear a tracksuit instead in cold weather. Children should arrive at school wearing their PE kit on their designated PE days. All kit should be clearly named. Please note, no jewellery may be worn during P.E. sessions. We have a duty to provide physical education to our children and you will be contacted by the school if your child regularly does not have their kit.

Tapestry App

Tapestry is a lovely way of sharing home and school links, with photos and videos being uploaded by both home and school. Tapestry is a record of 'wow' moments and great achievements in their learning at home and at school. It is also a quick way of sending a short message home regarding events such as Forest School, trips and reminders. Please upload to it too!

Media

We now have a high media profile through the local press, our website, Facebook and Instagram. If you do not wish for your child's photo to be published, please let us know through the 'Media Permission' form that the office will send out.

Clubs

Throughout the year the children will be able to participate in a range of clubs after and during school. Further details will be sent out on the newsletter.

Collective Worship

We hold Collective Worship every day and use the time to explore our school values. Our Friday Collective Worship focuses on celebrating achievements and children are welcome to bring in awards they have gained outside school to share with everyone. Please also email the office and let us know if your child has demonstrated the current school value at home.

Information

A link to our weekly newsletters is sent home by email and contains important, up to date information, as well as photos of what the children have been learning that week. **Please make sure you check it weekly.** If you need to contact a teacher directly, please email the admin address and your message will be forwarded to the relevant teacher. We are striving to reduce our "paper footprint" and moving towards sending all information electronically. If you do need a paper copy of any specific letters, please drop into the office and they will be happy to print one for you.

I look forward to sharing this first year at school with you and your family, it is a wonderful year to enjoy together.