



Welcome to Reception

Welcome to Reception! We are looking forward to getting to know all the new children and parents who have joined us and have lots of exciting things planned. This term we will be enjoying three whole school topics, covering all aspects of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum: Zap! & Game on! (to include superheroes and our own super powers) and Rubbish! (to include looking at different materials).

. Autumn 1st	Autumn 2nd	Spring 1st	Spring 2nd	Summer 1st	Summer 2nd
Zap! & Game on!	Rubbish!	One World	Up...up and away	Who? What? Where?	Dream big!

Below is some information about the Early Years timetable:

Monday	New 'speed-reads' given (in communication books) Library books changed.
Wednesday	Playball <i>All children to come to school in their PE kit.</i> Please ensure your child has a pair of plimsolls in their peg bag, clearly marked with their name.
Friday	8.40 – 9.00am : Parent Read-ins PE afternoon <i>All children to come to school in their PE kit.</i> Please ensure your child has a pair of plimsolls in their peg bag, clearly marked with their name.

Morning Routines

When pupils arrive in the mornings they can enter the classroom from 8.40am. We ask that they do not enter the classroom before this time as school staff cannot supervise them. Staff will tick children in from the garden gate and they will be encouraged to enter the classroom independently. This also allows an opportunity for parents to catch up with staff, and the 'Going-Home book' will be available to record any changes to usual pick-up. Once the children are in the classroom they need to self-register and choose from the activities provided.

Your child should have taken home a communication book and reading book on Monday 19th September. If your child is taking home one of the Silver books they are designed to be kept for one week and shared over the week. If you have a specific comment that you would like to be seen, you may put the communication book in the correct box at the gate. If not, please leave your child's communication book and reading book in their book bag which should go in their tray. A new silver book will be given to your child on a Monday. If your child is taking books home that are not silver and they would like a new book, please place the reading book inside the cover of the communication book and put it into the box outside the gate on arrival at school (their empty book bag then goes in their tray).

Regular Arrangements

If your child is going to be picked up from school by a named person/or organisation as part of a regular arrangement, please fill in the appropriate form. Please remember for any pick-ups that are not regular arrangements, or are not in the 'Going-Home book', the person collecting will need to provide the emergency password.

Personal Belongings

Please ensure that all of your child's belongings are clearly marked with their name; clothing, water bottles, lunch boxes, book bags and peg bags. We have plenty of exciting activities and resources for children in school so we would appreciate it if any other personal belongings, such as toys etc. are left at home.

Coats and Weather Protection

We are lucky to have a well-equipped and exciting outdoor space. Now that the weather is getting cooler, we ask if you could ensure a warm or waterproof coat is available for outdoor activities.

Communication Books

Your child will be given a new communication book at the start of each term. Please ensure this is brought to school every day. Inside the communication book you will find 'Home / School Reading Logs' and 'Learning Logs'. The Reading Logs are for you to fill in when you share a book with your child. The Learning Logs are used by staff to record evidence, such as photographs of your child and observations on sticky labels, which help towards completing the Early Years Profile at the end of the year. If you wish to tell us about any new skills your child has demonstrated at home, or any significant achievements, please share them with us by writing a note on these Learning Log pages. Staff will write in green pen in the communication books so we ask you to please use a different colour. All communication books are collected in on a Friday and returned to you on a Monday so please ensure you put it in the box outside the gate on a Friday morning.

Speed Reading

Every Monday your child will be given some Speed Reads to practise at home throughout the week. You will find these Speed Reads stuck into the communication book. Children are given sounds to practise, or simple words, which relate to what they are learning in phonics lessons. On a Friday, in their phonics lesson, children are encouraged to write the sounds/simple words they have been practising at home. If you are unsure of how to pronounce any of the sounds please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff.

Library

All children have been provided with a clear plastic library folder. Children can borrow a book from the school library every Monday and keep it at home for one week. Please return your child's library book, in the plastic folder, every Monday in order to borrow another book.

Lunch

Early Years children go to the dining room and have at least half an hour to eat their lunch. If your child brings a packed lunch to school please ensure that they have an appropriate amount of food to eat in this time and please do not send any foods containing nuts as we have many children with allergies. Please take care not to put too much in their lunch box; there is always a healthy snack available for children if they feel peckish at other times during the day. Please also provide a drink.

Read In

'Read in's' take place from 8:40 - 9:00am every Friday morning. You are very welcome to come in and join your child in their classroom to share some books at this time. If you have more than one child at Chestnut Lane, you are welcome to share a book in one of their classrooms and ensure they are back in their own classroom at 9am.

Parent Helpers

Finally, it is great to have parents help in the classroom and get involved in activities with the children, as well as supporting the daily running of the classroom. If you are able to help then please let your class teacher know. Help does not have to be on a weekly basis, but could be alternate weeks, half termly, or as and when you are available. It is important for all helpers to have the appropriate clearance, so please see the office if you do not already have this in place.

If you have a particular area of interest or expertise that you feel fits in well with any of the topics listed, we always welcome one off visits to the class or school if arranged in advance. Please talk to your class teacher to find out more information.

TES iBoard

You will find activities online to support your children in Literacy, Maths and Phonics. Our Early Years link is: <http://www.iboard.co.uk/teacher/ChestnutLaneEYS>

We are looking forward to a great first term,

Miss Flitney, Miss Vacher and the Early Years Team

Frequently Asked Topic Meeting Questions:

- Can we bring siblings to read-ins?
 - Yes, everyone is welcome.
- If we have siblings in other classes, where do we go for read-ins?
 - You can have both children together in one of their classrooms and alternate classrooms each week. They should then return to their classroom at 9:00am to be registered.
- Can grandparents be class helpers?
 - Yes. Please let the office know they are interested then they can arrange for a DBS check which allows them to come into the school and help.
- Can they bring a snack from home?
 - Yes any healthy snack. They can bring it in and keep it in their draw until they are ready for it. All children have access to a fruit snack throughout the day.
- Will we receive a copy of their current assessments?
 - We will discuss the outcomes of any assessments and observations in detail at the November parents evening.
- How do you assess the children?
 - Assessments are on-going and are conducted through play.
- When is a good time to talk to the teacher?
 - In the morning at the gate or after school is best for quick catch-ups. Alternatively, you can arrange an appointment with the teacher for a convenient time.
- What do we write on the topic webs?
 - Any of the children's ideas / suggestions are welcome. It is used to help us plan lessons relating to their specific interests.
- How do we know if they are eating all their lunch?
 - If they are not eating much at lunchtime we will write it in their communication book or let you know if there are any concerns at the end of the day.
- When do they start having books containing words?
 - When your child can blend the sounds in words and we feel that they are ready, we will move them on to books with words.
- Do they wear shorts or joggers for PE?
 - Your child can wear either black joggers or red shorts.
- Should our children be wearing a white t-shirt for P.E?
 - All children should wear a white polo top for P.E. White t-shirts are to be worn for gym. We will let you know if we are going to do gym.
- Is there anything else we need to be doing at home in addition to reading and speed reads?
 - We have our TES iBoard link where you will find activities linked to Maths, Phonics and Literacy.