



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 whole school topics, covering all aspects of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum: Stop, Look, Listen (where we will be thinking about how we keep ourselves safe) and Mr Men and Little Miss (to include thinking about ourselves and how we learn).

. Autumn 1st	Autumn 2nd	Spring 1st	Spring 2nd	Summer 1st	Summer 2nd
Stop, Look, Listen / Mr Men and Little Miss	Mr Men and Little Miss	Wild World	Once Upon a Time	Earth, Wind, Fire	To Infinity and Beyond!

Below is some information about the Early Years timetable:

Tuesday	Communication books and reading books collected in
Wednesday	New ' speed-reads ' and reading book sent home – see information below. Library books changed. Playball - <i>All children to come to school in their PE kit.</i> Please see information below
Friday	8.40 – 9.00am : Parent Read-ins PE afternoon - <i>All children to come to school in their PE kit.</i> Please see information below

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.

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 Communication', 'Home / School Reading Logs' and 'Learning Logs'. The Communication page is specifically for messages to your child's teacher. 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 Tuesday and will be returned to you on Wednesday, so please make sure it goes in the box on Tuesday morning.

Reading books

Your child will be provided with a wordless 'reading' book on the same day they are issued with a library book. As with the library book, your child's reading book will be changed weekly, on the same day each week. We would appreciate it if you could ensure your child's reading book is kept in their book bag and brought everyday, this enables us to share the book with them in school too.

The reading books we have started to send home are from our collection of wordless 'picture books'. We have looked at some of these books in reception over the past week and the children are

beginning to answer questions about what is happening in the pictures with enthusiasm! It is very important for children to be able to talk about the pictures in a book and begin to tell the story in their own words, just by using the pictorial clues. This aids them to develop early reading skills, imagination and creativity. You will find some ideas about different ways of using the picture books on sticky labels in the front cover of each book. You will also find some examples of key questions in the back cover of the book. Repetition is a great way to develop children's love of books and early reading skills, and often children want to look at, and talk about, the pictures again and again.

If your child is on books with words then they can be changed more regularly. If you have finished with the book and would like a new one then please ensure the book goes in the box with the communication book.

Before you return the reading book we would appreciate it if you could fill in the reading log in your child's communication book. You can see an example is below:

Home/School Reading Log Week Beginning.....



Date	Title	Home/School Comments
Monday	Chalk	Sam really enjoyed this book. He carefully looked through all the pictures first and then together we made up an exciting story to describe each page. He even thought about which character he liked best and told me why.

PE Sessions (Wednesday PM/ Friday PM)

Please ensure that your child comes to school in their PE kit. Please keep a pair of plimsolls in a named peg bag on your child's peg. The children will change into their plimsolls for the PE session. During our PE sessions we will use a range of equipment to develop large and small physical movements and control. In addition to the PE sessions, we will be developing gross motor skills daily through the use of climbing equipment, the adventure playground and bikes/scooters.

Speed Reads

Every Wednesday 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 opposite the current weeks Reading Log. Children are given sounds to practise, or simple words, which relate to what they are learning in phonics lessons. On a Tuesday, in their phonics lesson, children are encouraged to write the sounds/simple words on the lines provided below the grid. Please do not write on the lines 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 Wednesday and keep it at home for one week. Please return your child's library book, in the plastic folder, every Wednesday in order to borrow another book. Unfortunately if you do not return it on the specified day we will be unable to swap it for another one until Wednesday the following week. Remember: These books are for you to share together, so we hope you enjoy the titles too!

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.

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 or sesame seeds 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.

Class Reps

Class Reps are volunteering parents who help to liaise with the rest of the parents in the class about key dates/ information and organise the cake sale. It is beneficial to have 2 Class Reps per class for the year. If you are interested in becoming a Class Rep please see the class teacher or the school office.

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.

We are looking forward to a great first term,

Miss Vacher, Miss Sasson, Miss Hildreth and the Early Years Team

Frequently Asked Topic Meeting Questions:

- Can we bring siblings to read-ins?
 - Yes, everyone is welcome but please ensure that siblings, particularly younger siblings, are supervised.
- 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 piece of fruit. 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.
- 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.
- 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 black joggers, black leggings or red shorts.
- How long do we keep reading books?
 - Silver books are kept for a week. If your child has books with words in they can change their book as often as they wish.