

Welcome to Meet the Teacher.....



Welcome to Reception

Q Who are the Reception Staff?

- Reception Blue– Mrs Creswell (Early Years Foundation Stage Lead)
- Reception Yellow– Mrs Lyons and Mrs Afaq
- Teaching Assistants: Mrs Cross, Miss Divito , Mrs Atkinson
- The class teachers plan together to ensure continuity and progression.
- The teaching assistants work alongside the teachers and all the children in Reception
- They also help to deliver letters and sounds in small groups and work with intervention groups

Areas of Learning

Q What is the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)?

- The Early Years Foundation Stage encompasses years 0-5 of a child's life.
- Learning in both the Nursery and Reception years is through child initiated play, adult- modelled activities and direct teaching.
- The classrooms are organised into areas of continuous provision e.g. water, role play, writing, maths, small world, small and large construction, creative and malleable play
- These areas of continuous provision are reflected in the outdoor environment where learning takes place on a daily basis.
- It is in these areas that the children are given opportunities to explore the prime areas (Personal & Social, Communication & Language and Physical Development) and the specific areas of learning (Literacy, Maths, Understanding the World and Expressive Art & Design) as identified in the Foundation Stage curriculum.

Assessment

Q What is the Baseline Assessment in Reception?

- Assessment in the Foundation stage, is through both formal and informal observations, short recorded individual assessment and group assessments.
- These observations inform teachers planning and provide the next steps for your child's learning.
- It is now statutory to assess children during the first six weeks of starting Reception. This is called the Baseline Assessment. Pupils are asked to carry out some everyday tasks with a teacher or TA and results are recorded and are analysed nationally. Parents will be able to discuss this at a parent-teacher meeting in October.

All observations and learning notes are stored in the school tracking system which follows each child's progress through school.

Phonics-Little Wandle

Q How is phonics taught in Reception?

SSP (systematic, synthetic phonics programme)

Phonics has been taught in schools for many years now. This year the government announced that all schools must use a DFE-approved scheme. In order to be validated the scheme has to fulfil several criteria including:

- providing training for all staff
- ensuring that the reading scheme consists of decodable books which are fully matched to pupil's phonic knowledge

Our school has chosen

Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised as our systematic, synthetic phonics (SSP) programme to teach early reading and spelling.

Phonics-Little Wandle

We will be starting Little Wandle next week and at the end of each week we will send a home-learning support sheet so that you can practise the sounds we have been learning with your child.

This weekly reinforcement is the single most valuable support you can give your child at this stage in their reading journey!

You can find out more about how we will be teaching phonics development (reading and writing) at an information evening which will be held on :

Wednesday 12th October

Maths

Q How is Maths taught in Reception?

Maths in School

We develop the children's mathematical understanding in a practical and meaningful way, using lots of everyday equipment. Children can access maths through the continuous provision so that their learning can be fun and child-led with an adult to challenge and extend learning. We also use White Rose Maths as our daily Maths focus.

Maths at Home

If you want to help your child at home with their maths then mental maths is the ideal opportunity. Ten minutes every day – in the bath; at the tea table; in the car is really beneficial. For example try playing number recognition games with house and bus numbers or car registration plates; set the table and count objects on the table or sets of toys. Can they say the number before or after a given number and copy a repeating pattern? Number songs and board games are also great for practising ordering. The more confident a child is with mental maths the stronger the foundation is for their mathematical understanding.

There are also useful website links :

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/numberblocks>
- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games>

Physical Development

Q What do children learn in P.E?

P.E.

In the Autumn term in Reception, we teach gymnastics every Thursday morning. Please see P.E. scheme on the school website.

We take part in the Daily Mile on Friday morning

* Children should come to school in their outdoor P.E kits on Thursdays and wear trainers with their uniform on Fridays

Gross Motor Skills

Children are given the opportunity every day to develop their coordination and gross motor skills in our outdoor area using the bikes, trail, climbing frame , stepping stones, balancing tracks as well as various games equipment

Fine Motor Skills

Activities are provided especially to develop children's fine motor skills and to encourage correct pencil grip. We call this our 'funky fingers' area and activities include threading, using tweezers , pegs, lolly sticks, geo boards , peg boards and many more fun ideas to exercise little fingers and upper arm strength. Every child has their own pot of playdough so that we can join in with the dough disco.

If you haven't tried this please visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3K-CQrjI0uY>

Talking Tubs

What is a talking tub?

A talking tub is a box filled with objects and photos which have a special meaning to your child. This may be something they have been given or collected from a place of interest, a letter or card or a photograph of family or pets. The only stipulation is that it won't rot or go mouldy and will fit in the box we will be providing. You can decorate the tub together by covering with paper/ stickers or painting. Be creative!

Please bring the finished tubs in on Monday 19th September.

How to use a talking tub

We intend to use the tubs to spark conversation with both adults and peers. The talking tub will be available for all children to access and share as they wish.

Possible Outcomes • Curiosity and exploration • Development of language and communication skills • Engaging in conversation • Learning new vocabulary • Sharing • Exploring meaning • Developing listening and understanding • Asking and understanding a range of questions.

My Happy Mind



We have introduced a program to all year groups at school called My Happy Mind which is designed to develop the mental wellbeing of children. It is all based around helping children to understand how their brain works and to support them in building resilient, balanced and happy minds and developing positive skills and habits .

To further embed this learning and ensure that you are able to engage in these topics with your child, myHappymind has developed a set of resources for parents. These resources can be accessed online on your computer, or through an app on your phone.

We Only Reach for The Highest

Our school statement is 'We Only Reach For the Highest' and we have high expectations of all children both in behaviour and attitude to learning.

The Worthy Way encompasses all aspects of our school ethos and the moment children start school we model our behaviour policy through the Worthy Way

Worthington Way

We are gentle – we don't hurt others
We are kind and helpful - we don't hurt
anybody's feelings
We listen - we don't interrupt
We are honest – we don't cover up the
truth
We work hard – we don't waste our
time or others'
We look after property – we don't waste
or damage things

Rewards and Sanctions

- We encourage good behaviour through positive reinforcement
- When children follow the Worthy Way they are given praise and stickers and class reward points. When they have ten class tokens they can choose a class reward
- If children are not following the rules, they will be given a gentle reminder and clear guidance about how they could make better choices. If the behaviour continues they will be given a warning of time out followed by a short 4-5 minute time out period away from any action.
- We have individual and class rewards

We also have house points and children will soon be allocated a house (Mars, Saturn, Jupiter or Neptune). They will be given a coloured badge which represents their house and will be able to earn housepoints for following the Worthy Way

We kindly ask parents for a donation of £5 per term to provide enhancements to the Early Years curriculum. We use this to buy ingredients for baking and playdough and for craft resources. This is payable in cash please at the start of each new term.

If you have any concerns or questions please contact us via email which we check regularly during school hours.

jcreswell@worthingtonprimary.co.uk

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We look forward to working with you and your child throughout the year.

From the Early Years Team

