



Bridge & Patribourne CEP School
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Tuesday 15th September 2026

Dear Reception Parents and Carers,

As part of the start of Reception, your child will shortly take part in the Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA).

We wanted to explain a little about what this involves, as we know that any form of assessment can sound rather more significant than it actually is.

The RBA is a short statutory assessment that takes approximately 5–10 minutes. It is carried out individually with a teacher or teaching assistant and includes some simple activities designed to give the Department for Education a starting point for understanding children's attainment when they begin school. The results are submitted to the DfE as part of the national assessment process.

For your child, however, this is not something to worry about or prepare for. There is no expectation that they will know what is coming or that they will get everything right. We are much more interested in the relationships they are beginning to build with their teacher and teaching assistant, becoming comfortable in their new environment and developing a sense that school is a happy and safe place to be.

We should also acknowledge the slight irony that the RBA is completed using a screen at a time when schools and families are being encouraged to think carefully about children's screen use. We share that concern. We value real conversations, play, books, practical experiences and relationships far more highly than time spent in front of a screen. Unfortunately, the RBA is a statutory requirement, so we are required to complete it.

The assessment is only a very small part of your child's start to school. The most important things happening in Reception are not measured by this assessment at all.



**Artsmark
Gold Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England



"I am the vine, you are the branches. If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit." John 15:5

Thank you for your continued support as your children begin this exciting journey with us.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Tibbles". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

James Tibbles
Headteacher