

Welcome to Reception at Endeavour Academy. We hope you and your child will be very happy to begin their educational journey with us. Our Reception is a fun filled area of learning, with children at the heart of everything we do.

Starting Reception and full-time schooling is a new and exciting experience for all involved. However, both parents and children can sometimes feel apprehensive about the changes ahead. We aim to make this transition as smooth and as positive as possible.

## Starting Reception in 2020

We want to know lots about your child before they join us, to help us make the transition easier for your child. This year we will be completing virtual home visits. These will be conducted using Skype Business. Information on these will be sent via email shortly, so please look out for the email. During this virtual Home Visits, we will share how our transition will look throughout the Summer term.

If your child has not been apart from you before, try to arrange for him/her to spend some time with relatives/friends so they can get used to being with others

It is also good to share books about starting school with your child and talk about how the characters are feeling about starting school. This will help your child to talk about any fears or concerns they may have and allow you to

reassure them. Some examples are: 'Elephant Comes to School' by Jan Omerod and 'Starting School' by Janet Ahlberg. We will also read some of these stories on our transition days and in our first weeks together in September.

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One of the major things we look for in the early days of Reception, is children becoming more independent in their own hygiene, behaviour and learning. Some ideas to help promote independence include:

- Talk to your child about starting school and what they are excited and or nervous about
- Beginning to teach them to zip up their coats and dress and undress independently - This really helps for P.E. sessions.
  - Encouraging children to use a knife and fork correctly to help them eat independently at lunch time
  - Encourage children to share toys and take turns

## Toilets

Reception have their own toilets, and these will be shown to the children when they arrive. Accidents can happen, so please ensure your child has a spare change of clothes we can use.

Please also ensure you have filled in and returned the various forms included with this pack. Forms should be returned to school in the designated time to allow us to adhere to social distancing regulations.



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## Our Learning

Our curriculum involves us following the statutory Foundation Stage curriculum. This is organised around the following seven areas of learning.

The prime areas are:

- Communication & language (Listening & Attention, Understanding, Speaking)
- Physical Development (Moving & Handling, Health & Self-Care)
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development (Making Relationships, Managing Feelings & Behaviour, Self-Confidence & Self-Awareness)

The specific areas are

- Literacy (Reading & Writing)
- Mathematics (Number & Shape, Space and Measure •
- Expressive Arts & Design (Being Imaginative and • Exploring Media & Materials)
- Understanding of the World (People & Communities, The World and Technology)

A day in Reception is incredibly busy. The children will be involved in daily Maths, Literacy, Phonics and Topic sessions as well as taking part in indoor and outdoor activities to develop our learning. The children will have time to independently choose in continuous provision, but also had adult led activities to help them develop areas such as writing and Maths.

Reception are also very lucky to have their own outside classroom, where children can take part in activities to consolidate their learning.



We operate an 'open door' policy, so parents can talk to staff when they drop off and pick their children up. Parents will be able to come in with their child during the first few weeks as they settle, however as we become more settled, we will ask parents to remain at the door to help the children become more independent.

Each child has a Home Learning Book, which they bring home each week. This is used to let parents know what their child is learning in class and includes activities for the children to complete. Please help your child to compete these, to enable good learning habits to develop from the beginning. This book can also be used as a means of communication between parents and Reception staff. Please ensure these are brought back to school on a weekly basis.

You will also receive a termly parent map & knowledge organiser from Reception staff detailing the topic for the term and other activities that will be happening.

Staff make regular observations of children in Reception and keep a record of their progress and development by completing the Foundation Stage Profile, which is linked to the seven areas of learning in the Foundation Stage curriculum. Every child will have a learning journey consisting of observations and Wow moments that parents can fill in at home. Our observation app (Evidence Me) also has a parent share app, where you will be able to share

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observations from home. We will send home a link for this later on in the Summer term.

We also have Maths and English journeys for the children's focussed learning to be included. This also includes independent learning completed by the children.

Parents have an opportunity to meet with Reception teacher to discuss their child's progress on a regular basis. In the first term, a parents evening will be held to discuss how your child has settled, and discuss what your child's next steps in their learning are. As the year continues, you will have an opportunity to meet with your child's teacher at a further parents evening in March.

We also hold VIP Visits on a termly basis. These give you chance to look at your child's learning journey and work books in the classroom and offer your thoughts on how your child is doing. In their final term, you will receive a written report detailing your child's attainment at the end of Reception.

Reception children are entitled to free school milk and free fruit is also available for children each day as part of the governments 'Fruit in Schools' scheme. Children do not need to bring their own snacks.



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Throughout the week, the children also will have individual reading and guided reading sessions. Children will bring home a Reading book from mid-September. We will also have a P.E. session led by a trained sports coach. The children will also join in with EYFS assemblies beginning in October/November and join Key Stage 1 assemblies from January.

Our areas of Continuous Provision are enhanced depending on our topic. We use the EYFS curriculum and children's interests to plan activities. Topics for the next year will be based around questions such 'What makes me so great?', 'What special events do I celebrate?', 'How will I grow and change?' and 'Whatever happened to the dinosaurs?' amongst many others.

## Next steps

- Look out for an email in the next few days with an appointment for a virtual home visit. This email will contain a guide on how to access the visit. It is a really simple yet effective way of us conducting the home visit.
- We will explain in this home visit how our transition will be managed this year. Please be aware that events are subject to change due to the ongoing health crisis. We will keep in contact throughout to ensure as seamless a transition as we can.



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