

September 2026



Welcome to

Reception

Dear Parents, Carers and Reception pupils,

Welcome to Harbury! We are all really looking forward to getting to know you and your children over the next few weeks, making your child's start to school a happy and positive experience. During this first term, we will be concentrating on settling the children into full-time education and making them feel safe and comfortable in school. At the beginning of every half term, you will receive a letter like this outlining key information and the current curriculum topic web; we hope that the elements covered in this letter will begin to answer many of the questions that you may have.

Whilst we will help the children to become more independent in looking after their belongings at school, inevitably there will be items which are mislaid during the school day; therefore; please could you ensure that all items are clearly named so we can strive to return them to the correct owners as soon as possible.

What will the children need to bring to school?

The children will need a **named** water bottle (**water only please**). They will be given a bag which they will need to bring in every day. A change of clothing is always a good idea to keep in school in a small named carrier bag. They will not need to bring any rucksacks into school and we encourage them not to bring in any toys from home either.

PE

The children can come to school wearing their PE kit on their PE days. This term their PE day will be Monday and we will be focusing on introducing the children to PE at Harbury school. Their PE kit includes:

- Red T-shirt
- Black shorts/ plain jogging bottoms



- Black indoor pumps or trainers
- Plain red or black hoodie

Just a reminder that we don't allow slogans on their PE kit please. Thank you for your understanding with this.

Earrings should be covered with tape/plasters (to be provided from home)
Long hair must be tied back please.

Outdoor Footwear and Clothing

Your child will need an old pair of named wellies to keep in school for impromptu muddy walks in the outdoor area and as outdoor shoes for playtimes/lunchtimes. The wellies will stay in school. We will also be exploring our learning outdoors throughout the year. In order for the children to become fully immersed in their outdoor learning could you please send in a puddle suit that they can wear over their uniform.

Snack

They do not need to bring in a mid-morning snack as a healthy snack will be provided. When your child stays for their lunch, they have the option for a free school meal. We also offer a salad bar to accompany their lunch choice. Myself and other members of the reception team will be there to support your child as they become accustomed to their lunchtime routine. There will also be lunchtime supervisors there to help them.



Home School Partnership

Our method of communication is through Dojo. If you are not familiar with Dojo please do come and ask for support with this. I will be sending more information about using Dojo over the next few weeks



Medical

Please ensure that we are informed of any medical information about your child. If we need to keep any medication in school (eg. inhalers) then please speak to the school office to complete the relevant forms.

What will the beginning and end of the day look like?



To support your child's transition to school life, they will be starting in a small group. You'll have received details about which group your child is in, but if you are unsure or would like any clarification, please don't hesitate to contact the school office. Next week, at the start of each day, the doors from the playground will open at 8.40am and the children will be able to enter school and begin their first activity.

Please let us know who will be collecting your child at the end of the day, if it is another family member.

At the end of the day, the adults in the classroom will dismiss the children from the main classroom door. The children will not be called to the door until the adult picking them up has been seen. As we are sure you can appreciate, at the beginning of term, this can be a lengthy process as we learn all your new faces; therefore; we would be very grateful if you could bear with us in the first few weeks- we will aim to dismiss the children as quick as we can- you could even give me a little wave to help me see you! When waiting for your child, please ensure that you stand on the playground in clear view of the Reception door- please refrain from standing too close to the door as this can block our view to other parents. Many thanks for your co-operation with this.

During this year, we will strive to link school with home as much as possible. The children will have many opportunities to share and celebrate their learning experiences out of school with us. If your child wishes to share some exciting news or experience, as well as any home -learning, with us in school, they may bring a photograph into school, or you can post it on their portfolio on Dojo. We will aim to discuss the contents on a regular basis.



There will be some learning activities sent home throughout the year. These are opportunities for the children to share their learning with you at home; they are not designed to bring stress or panic so please do not worry if you are unable to complete some

of them.

A reminder of the timings of the school day:

8:30- The main gates will open.

8:40- The classroom doors will open.

8:50- The classroom doors will be closed.

3:20- End of school day



We understand if you have siblings to collect too.

A few dates to get you started

Thursday 3rd September:

Staggered start times in groups for the children.

Wednesday 9th September:

First lunch at school followed by family time in class 1:15-2pm

Monday 8th September:

Reception children in full time from 8.40-3.20.

Thursday 17th September: Flu Immunisations

October

Black History Month

1st October: 'An Introduction to Phonics Teaching and Reading at Harbury' meeting for Reception parents/carers. There will be 2 meetings one in the morning and one in the evening (specific times TBC) A sign-up sheet will be available. I will let you know when this will be available.

October (Date TBC): Pyjama Day! The children are invited to come to school in their pyjamas for a relaxing day full of wellbeing activities.

October: We will also be inviting you to 'Stay and Learn' mornings. Come and spend some time with us, in the classroom, learning alongside your child. A sign-up sheet will be available nearer the time. Again, I will give you plenty of notice as to when this will be.

Tuesday 6th October: Individual photographs

Thursday 15th October: Thrive afternoon

Week commencing 12th October: Protective behaviours Commence- there will be more information sent out about this.

Tuesday 20th and Thursday 22nd October: Parents' Evenings

Thursday 22nd October: End of term.

A little reminder of the week:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
PE		Mrs Rea will be teaching every afternoon.		

I will keep you posted on Dojo if any other dates arise.

We look forward to getting to know you more during this first half term. Feel free to message us on Dojo if you have any questions/queries.

Best Wishes,
The Reception Class Team

Miss Zoe O'Malley- Class Teacher

Mrs Cally Romero- TA (am Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday)

Mrs Sam Hunt - TA (am Thursday, Friday)

Mrs Isobel Clarke- TA (pm)

Mrs Karen Rea- Class Teacher (Wednesday PM)