



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are thrilled to have your children join us in Reception, where they will embark on a journey of discovery, growth, and creativity.

The first few weeks of Reception's school journey are focused on settling in, making friends, becoming familiar with their teachers and learning their new rules and routines. During this time Baseline assessments, including the EYFS Baseline and Wellcomm speech and language screening, will be completed. Focused teaching will begin once these initial assessments have taken place.

We believe that collaboration between home and school is essential for your child's success. Throughout the year, we will keep you updated on our themes, activities, and how you can support your child's learning at home.

General information:

Please ensure your child brings a water bottle to school and a healthy snack separate from their packed lunch. **Grapes and cherry tomatoes must be chopped into lengthway quarters to avoid choking hazard.**

Miss Laura is LSA Monday – Wednesday.

Miss Amber is LSA Thursday – Friday and lunch supervisor daily.

Mrs Greenall is our PPA teacher on Tuesday afternoons.

Please send children to school wearing **PE kits on Thursday and Friday.**

Forest Club will commence **Friday 3rd October** once baseline assessment is completed (PE Kits and all weather waterproof clothing essential).

Reading booklets will be sent home weekly in a named book bag. Please ensure that you provide your child with a book bag - purchased via the uniform shop. We will start to use book bags **Monday 29th September** once baseline assessment is completed.

Please support your child's practice of Sun Salute yoga and Word of Wisdom at home on the weekends.



## Prime areas of development

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), your child's learning and development are centered around three *prime areas*, which are crucial for building a strong foundation for future learning. These prime areas are: **Communication and Language**, **Physical Development**, and **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**. They focus on helping children develop essential skills such as speaking and listening, coordination and movement, and building positive relationships and self-confidence. These areas are particularly important in the early years, as they support your child's overall growth and prepare them for more specific learning as they progress through their early education.

### **How you can help at home:**

- **Communication and Language:** Talk to your child regularly, ask them questions, and encourage them to express themselves. Share stories, sing songs, and read books together daily to help build their vocabulary and listening skills.
- **Physical Development:** Give your child opportunities to be active—climbing, running, dancing, or playing at the park all help to strengthen their muscles and coordination. Fine motor skills can be developed through activities like drawing, using scissors, or playing with building blocks.
- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development:** Support your child in learning to share, take turns, and manage their emotions. Encourage independence with tasks like getting dressed, tidying up toys, and making simple choices.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), we encourage healthy eating and good hygiene practices to help your child develop habits that will support their well-being throughout life. Healthy eating is an important part of your child's growth, and we promote a balanced diet that includes plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and proteins to give them the energy and nutrients they need for learning and play. In addition to healthy eating, we teach the importance of brushing teeth twice a day to maintain good oral hygiene. At home, you can support this by providing healthy food options, encouraging water as a main drink, and making tooth-brushing a



fun and regular part of your child's routine. Together, we can help establish healthy habits that will last a lifetime.

## Mathematics

In Reception, we focus on building a strong foundation in mathematics through engaging activities and structured learning. We use both White Rose Maths and the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics (NCETM) resources to provide a comprehensive framework that encourages a mastery approach to mathematics. It emphasises fostering a deep understanding of numbers, helping children make connections between concepts. Activities often involve practical, hands-on experiences that promote active learning.

Our curriculum is designed to support children as they explore numbers, shapes, and patterns.:

## **Encouraging Learning at Home**

- **Play Games:** Incorporate counting games and shape recognition into everyday play.
- **Explore Patterns:** Use objects around the house (like buttons or toys) to create patterns and encourage your child to identify and continue them.
- **Measure Together:** Involve your child in measuring activities, like cooking or building, to introduce basic measurement concepts.

By fostering a love for mathematics early on, we can help children develop confidence and a strong foundation for future learning. Thank you for your support in this exciting journey!

## Literacy

### **Red Rose Phonics**

This term, we have been working to build phonetic awareness by recapping phase 1 phonics. This includes oral blending skills and listening for the initial sound in words. We have now commenced phase 2 phonics following the Red Rose Phonics program. This phonics program is designed to support children in developing their reading and writing skills through engaging, structured lessons. It focuses on building phonemic awareness



and helps children connect sounds to letters. We are so excited about our new reading booklets that progressively match the letters and sounds that your children are learning in class. We are able to do guided and 1-1 reading sessions each week. We teach print letter formation and will send home letter formation poems and handwriting practice to support home learning.

## **Drawing Club**

In addition to phonics, we are excited to introduce our Drawing Club, which emphasises a fun vocabulary-rich approach to literacy. This approach encourages children to express their thoughts and feelings through drawing, while also enhancing their language skills. By discussing their illustrations, they will learn to articulate their ideas and build their vocabulary in a positive and creative environment.

## Understanding the World (UtW)

In this area of learning, we explore the wonders of our environment, from the natural world to our community. Our activities will include exploring nature, different cultures, and learning about the seasons. We believe that fostering curiosity about the world around us helps children develop a sense of belonging and appreciation for diversity.

Our UtW curriculum is carefully designed to link in with CbIDs themes and values.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>The World is My Family</b>	
<b>CbIDs Integrating themes</b>	<b>Autumn 1</b> We are here to enjoy Growth Order Layers	<b>Autumn 2</b> Foundations Roots Steps Action
<b>UtW Science</b>	Our body	Earth and space
<b>Animals</b>	Pets	Woodland animals
<b>Seasons</b>	Autumn	



<b>UtW Geography</b>	Celebrations around the world
<b>UtW History</b>	Who is in my family  Key events in my life  Family memories  Toys and games old and new

In the Early Years, Expressive Arts and Design is all about giving children the chance to be creative and use their imaginations. Through continuous provision, children can explore painting, drawing, building, role play, music, and lots more in their own way and at their own pace. This helps them grow in confidence, develop new skills, and share their ideas while having fun with friends.

Children have the freedom to choose whether to play and learn indoors or outdoors, enjoying uninterrupted time to explore and follow their interests. Alongside this, short carpet sessions and small group activities provide gentle, focused teaching to support their learning journey.

### Save the date!

We will be sending out information about our stay and play sessions on 7th, 8th, 14th, 15th October 9.00am-10.00am. There will be 5 places available per date and they will be allocated on a first come first serve basis.

Our Christmas performance will be Monday 15th December at 10am. We will also be sending further information about a special Christmas themed trip for Reception.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Laycock and the Reception team