



Starting
Reception
2026
Shavington
Primary School

Welcome & Daily Routines

Welcome to the Shavington family! We are SO excited to welcome your little one to Reception this September! Mark Wednesday 2nd September in your diary - that's when the adventure begins! We're doing a gentle staggered start (because we know those first days are big!), and by Tuesday 8th September, all our new Reception children will be together, ready for full days of fun and learning.

Here's how our day works: gates open at 8:40am, school starts at 8:50am, and home time is 3:25pm. You'll drop off and pick up at the Southbank entrance gate - our friendly staff will be there every morning to welcome you and your child.

The morning magic happens like this: Big hug goodbye outside → Book bag pops into tray → Coat goes on peg → Lunch box slides underneath → Settle on the carpet for early morning activities! Before you know it, your child will be doing this independently like a superstar!

Need us earlier or later? No problem! Our Breakfast Club opens its doors at 7:30am (perfect for early birds!), and After School Club runs until 6:00pm (great for busy families). Just give the office a ring to find out more! ☀️

Uniform, PE Kit & What to Bring

Let's talk about looking AMAZING in Shavington colours! Our smart uniform is simple: grey or black trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore, topped with a white polo shirt and our signature red sweatshirt or cardigan. Finish the look with smart black shoes and you're ready to learn! When the sun shines, our red and white checked summer dresses are perfect too.

PE time = FUN time! Your child will need black shorts, comfy black pumps or trainers, and a plain white or red t-shirt. When winter arrives, black tracksuit bottoms keep everyone cosy because we're outdoor learners all year round!

The daily essentials checklist: ✓ Named book bag (adventures inside!) ✓ Coat (weather can surprise us!) ✓ Lunch box if bringing packed lunch ✓ Wellies or raincoat for puddle-jumping days OR a sunhat for sunny adventures ✓ Sun cream applied before school (the 8-hour stuff is magic - lasts all day!)

Top tip from us: Children can bring fruit or veggies for morning snack time - yum!

The golden rule? LABEL EVERYTHING! Seriously, everything! Little ones are brilliant at many things, but remembering whose jumper is whose? That's tricky! Grab uniform with our logo at www.schoolsinuniform.co.uk and those genius labels at www.stikins.co.uk - they're lifesavers!

Meals, Snacks & Health

🍴 Lunchtime is the BEST time! From 11:45 to 13:15, our Reception children get the dining hall all to themselves for the first 30 minutes - it's like having a VIP restaurant experience! And guess what? Hot school lunches are completely FREE for all Reception children!

Every day brings FOUR delicious choices: A hot main meal (always a winner!), a tasty vegetarian option (equally delicious!), jacket potatoes with yummy fillings (classic comfort food!), or fresh sandwiches (simple and scrumptious!). Each morning at register, your child becomes a decision-maker by choosing what they'd like for lunch - it's great for building independence! Prefer packed lunch? Absolutely fine! Just remember: we're a nut-free zone (super important for everyone's safety), and we say no thanks to fizzy drinks, sweets and chocolate bars. Check out www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes for brilliant packed lunch inspiration! 🍷

Hydration station! Throughout the day, children can grab a drink from our filtered water stations whenever they need - staying hydrated helps those brilliant brains work! At morning break, we offer fresh fruit or veggies from our fruit bowl, or children can bring their own healthy snack (fruit and veg only - save the treats for home!). Milk is available at lunchtime too! 🥛

When poorly bugs strike: Just give the office a quick call (or leave a message on the answerphone after hours). If it's a tummy bug with sickness or diarrhoea, we need your little one to be 48 hours symptom-free before bouncing back - it keeps everyone healthy! Only prescription medicines allowed, and these go straight to the office with a completed form - never in bags where curious hands might find them! 💊

Home Learning & Communication

📖 Here's the SECRET to Reception success... READING TOGETHER! Honestly, this is THE most powerful thing you can do! Just 10 minutes, four times a week, snuggled up with a book and your child - that's it! Pop a quick initial or note in the red Reading Diary (we love seeing what you've read!), and watch the magic happen. Children who read regularly at home absolutely SOAR in their learning - they're the ones who bounce into Year 1 ready for anything! Build it into your routine: bedtime stories, breakfast books, weekend reads - make it YOUR special time together.

Homework? We keep it simple and FUN! Occasionally, we'll send home sound mats, word cards or number flashcards with game ideas (learning disguised as play - the best kind!). Each half term, there's optional topic-based activities to explore at home. Sometimes, if we spot a specific area where your child would benefit from extra practice - like speech sounds or finger strength for writing - we'll suggest some fun activities to try together.

Stay connected with all the exciting learning! Tapestry is like Instagram for learning - we post photos and observations of your child's day, and you can share home adventures too! It's absolutely lovely seeing what happens beyond our school gates. Arbor is your one-stop-shop for paying for trips, booking parents' evenings, and managing school life admin. Our website (www.shavingtonprimary.co.uk) is packed with useful info, dates, menus and news - bookmark it!

Come join the fun! We LOVE having parents in school! Every term, we run Stay and Play sessions - bring grandparents, little siblings, childminders, whoever! Come play, create and learn alongside your child. We also run super-helpful workshops (phonics in autumn term, plus writing and maths sessions) where we show you exactly how we teach, so you can support at home with confidence. And of course, there's our adorable Nativity play before Christmas and celebrations throughout the year - grab the tissues!

OPAL - Fun & Engaging

Get ready for OUTDOOR ADVENTURES! In a world where screens seem to be everywhere and children play outside far less than they used to, we've made outdoor play a TOP PRIORITY at Shavington Primary! We've implemented the amazing OPAL (Outdoor Play And Learning) programme, making brilliant use of our extensive school grounds - and the results have been incredible! Here's the science bit: neurological research proves that play is the ONLY activity that lights up EVERY part of the brain! Plus, it's where children naturally practice and build essential skills in language, cooperation and collaboration - all while having the time of their lives!

What does this mean for your child? From nursery to Year 6, ALL our children have access to the entire grounds at lunchtime. We're talking: trees for climbing (yes, really - supervised tree climbing!), a massive mud kitchen (messy play heaven!), digging areas (future archaeologists, this is for you!), den building zones (creativity unleashed!), a Ninja warrior course (feeling strong!), bikes and scooters (zoom!), peaceful quiet areas (for those who need calm), a dressing up zone (imagination station!), climbing equipment, and SO much more!

The impact? AMAZING! Playtime fallouts have dropped dramatically, and here's the surprising bit - even though children are taking more risks (the good kind!), injuries have actually REDUCED! Why? Because we teach children how to manage risk themselves and involve them in safety assessments before new areas open. They're learning to be smart, capable risk-takers! Parents tell us their children are happier, more excited about school, and can't stop talking about their outdoor adventures - music to our ears!

Want to help make playtimes even MORE exciting? We're always looking for donations or support to expand our OPAL provision - every little bit helps us create even more amazing experiences for your children! If you'd like to contribute or get involved, please let us know. Together, we're building a childhood filled with fresh air, adventure and unforgettable memories!

Behaviour, Safety & Key Information

Our school runs on three SUPER-SIMPLE rules that everyone - children AND adults - follows: Be Safe | Be Kind | Be Ready. That's it! These three little rules create our amazing, positive learning environment where everyone can thrive. We LOVE celebrating success! Expect praise, stickers, special mentions in Friday assembly, work displayed proudly, trips to show the headteacher, positive phone calls home (yes, really - we ring to share good news!), postcards popping through your letterbox... we're big on recognition! When things don't go quite right, we use emotion coaching, helping children understand their feelings, think about how their actions affect others, and learn better ways to handle tricky situations. It's all about growing those brilliant little brains!

HOUSE TEAMS - this is SO exciting! Every child joins one of four legendary ships: Golden Hind (Yellow), Mary Rose (Red), Mayflower (Green), or HMS Victory (Blue). Siblings always sail together in the same house! Children earn team points for fantastic behaviour and brilliant work, we count them up each week, and announce the winners at Friday's Special Mention Assembly - the cheering is EPIC! Then comes the ultimate showdown at Sports Day - friendly competition at its finest!

Quick important bits: For safety, children can ONLY go home with people on your contact list - different person collecting? Just give us a quick ring! We don't authorise term-time holidays (except exceptional circumstances) - we want your child here learning with their friends! Please keep school event photos for your personal albums, not social media - it keeps everyone safe and happy. Receiving certain benefits? Your child might qualify for Pupil Premium funding (extra support for learning!) - call 0300 123 5012 to check.

Got questions? We've got answers! Pop over after school for a chat - mornings are a whirlwind, but afternoons are perfect for longer conversations. We're here for you! 🌈