

Welcome to Stramongate School



‘The Foundation Stage’



Welcome to Stramongate School!

A very warm welcome to the Foundation Stage at Stramongate School. We are all really excited about getting to know the new children and we look forward to a busy, fun-packed year ahead. This booklet is aimed at giving you an insight into a typical school day and what the children will be learning, as well as giving a few tips on how to prepare them for starting school. Feel free to catch our members of staff if you have any other questions or queries. We're here to help!

Meet the Team!

We can't wait to welcome you in September. Our Reception 2024 intake will be split into two classes – one class will be a straight Reception class and one will be mixed with some Year 1 children. Regardless of the class your child is in, all Reception children will receive the same exciting experiences. Here are some of the staff you will meet in the Reception unit:



Mr Beresford
Head Teacher



Mrs Anderson
FS / KS1 Leader



Mrs Dalton
Class Teacher



Mrs Moratto-Smith
Reception Class Teacher



Mrs Mason
Reception / Y1 Class Teacher



Mrs Tully
Classroom Assistant

Starting the School Day in Reception

During the induction period of the first three days, your child will have one morning, one afternoon and then on the third day all of the Reception children will be in together to have lunch and will be collected at 1pm. The staff will stay with them in the hall in order to help the children feel comfortable and settled for the first few days while they eat their lunch. Our amazing Year 5/6 Reception Buddies will also be on hand to support your children – expect to hear from them soon! Finally, the children will come in for full days commencing on MONDAY 11th SEPTEMBER. We will encourage your child to self-register at the beginning of their session by putting their name in the post box to show they are here.



How can you get involved as parents?

At Stramongate we realise how important it is to communicate with you as parents in order to get the best out of your children. We are using Tapestry in school, an online learning journal, which will give you regular insights into what is going on in our busy Reception classroom. Please also feel free to add photos from home to your child's online journal. We will organise parental workshops focussing on Numeracy, Phonics and Reading which will give you more information about the curriculum and how you can support your child at home. We have a dedicated 'Parent Communication' board in the first cloakroom which gives you dates for your diary, information on school dinners, menus and PE days, as well as any trips or special days we may be having. We will send home a topic newsletter every few weeks to keep you up to date with key learning which is taking place. We have also seen how much the children love having parents helping out with trips or in class. We often need extra adults to fulfil our set ratios when we go out of school. Please consider helping out when you can – it also gives you a lovely insight into life in Reception!



A Typical Day in Reception

A typical day in Reception is made up of some focussed teaching, for example in Phonics, Numeracy or Topic, followed by 'busy time'. 'Busy time' is a very important part of Reception life as it is your child's chance to independently explore and choose from a selection of activities. The children have the freedom to move between the two classrooms and on to our outdoor patio area. During this time, the class teacher and teaching assistants will also work with small groups and individuals on short guided activities.

The children will have both a morning and afternoon break and an hour break at lunchtime.

Our busy day, of course, will always end with a story time!

Independent 'Busy Time'



Role Play



Play Dough



Be kind, work hard and discover

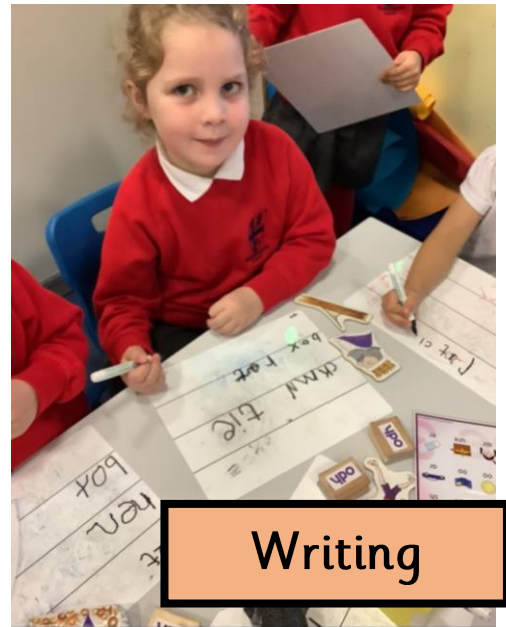
Provision Indoors and Outdoors



Numeracy



Writing



Fine Motor



Co-operation and Team Work



Be kind, work hard and discover

PE – What will your child need?

- ✓ On your child's PE day, they should come to school dressed in their PE kit and they will stay in their PE kit all day.
- ✓ P.E. kit - this should include a white tee-shirt, black shorts / leggings / track suit bottoms and a well-fitting pair of trainers (VELCRO) all named. You will be provided with a Stramongate hooded top to wear on PE days.
- ✓ For safety, the children will need a bobble to tie back long hair.

During the P.E. session we ask that all items of jewellery should be removed for safety reasons - this includes earrings.

Muddy Mornings

Reception children will love their weekly Muddy Morning. We have a full morning outdoors engaging in a range of fun activities. We start each session over at our special Base Camp and then get on to a busy morning of action packed fun. Activities could include some wild yoga, digging for worms, toasting marshmallows or bird spotting. A morning of fun is guaranteed!

School will provide your child with a waterproof coat and trousers.

PLEASE BRING IN A NAMED PAIR OF WELLIES TO STAY IN SCHOOL.

On a Muddy Morning, your child should come to school wearing their PE Kit.



Please make sure that all items are clearly named. Shoes should be VELCRO so that your child can put them on and off independently. A spare change of clothes in a drawstring bag is always useful should there be any little accidents.

Lunches

All school dinners are free for every Reception child. Meals are prepared in school and provide good value for money and nutritional content. Fresh fruit and salads are available every day.

All the children eat together in the hall. Midday supervisors are on hand to help the children. If your child is to have a packed lunch, a plastic lunch box with its own unbreakable drinks flask is convenient and easy to store in school. Please make sure they are marked with your child's name. Stramongate is a healthy school and we are having a big focus on healthy lunch boxes - we ask that you do not include sweets or chocolate bars please and only water in their water bottles please.



The children enjoy having time to sit together to have their fruit in the morning. We use the time to share our news, do 'show and tell' and to promote social and emotional development. Fruit is provided as part of The National Fruit scheme and milk is also available free to Reception children until they turn five. Children are also encouraged to bring a named plastic bottle with water in to drink during the day – again, no juice please as we are a healthy school.



Out and About in Kendal

We value our location in the heart of Kendal and we are always looking for opportunities to get out and explore. Your child can look forward to a variety of trips and adventures throughout their Reception year and as they journey through the school. These pictures give you a little 'snapshot' of some of our adventures.



Getting Ready for School

Parents often ask, “How can I prepare my child for school?” We have already sent home our new ‘Top Tips for Transitioning from Nursery to Reception’ document and we have additional copies available should you require them. We hope you have found this document useful. The most important thing to remember is that our ‘top tips’ are not a definitive checklist that your child must be able to complete in order to be ready for school. It is simply a GUIDE and it’s okay if they can’t complete every single item on the list. After all, children develop at different speeds during early childhood education. Getting ready for school is a big change in a little person’s life! We’re on hand to help and answer any questions.

During their reception year we aim to encourage each child to be independent. You can help your child’s confidence so much by practising the following things:



1. Dressing and undressing, changing shoes and wellingtons. VELCRO SHOES are definitely best!



2. Putting on, fastening and unfastening their coat.



3. Using the toilet properly, flushing it and washing their hands.



4. Sharing toys and taking turns.



5. Using a tissue or handkerchief.



6. Tidying away toys.

Safety First

To keep all the children safe from vehicles on the School Site **there is no parking available to parents on the School Car Park during school hours**, unless of course you have a disabled driver badge. Currently we have an agreement with South Lakeland District Council for parents to use the **Blackhall Road car park for 10 minutes only** at the beginning and end of each school Day. The parking area **next to Cancer Care is for their visitors only**.

If you walk to School and enter through our main gates on Sandes Avenue, please use the designated footpath to your right past the willow tunnel. It's safer and it's prettier too!

To ensure we know all our children have arrived safely in School, please phone our school office first thing in the morning if your child is ill or has a doctor or dentist appointment.

If you move house or change your mobile phone, don't forget to let us know your new telephone number in case we need to call you in an emergency.

'All About Me'

We have produced a little 'All About Me' booklet for you and your child to do together. We feel it is important for us to get to know your child as quickly as possible in order to form a good relationship with them and yourselves. It would be lovely if your child could bring them on their first day.

We look forward to seeing you all very soon!

The Foundation Stage Team ☺

