



# The Royal School

*Wolverhampton*

Reception

Curriculum Document  
for Parents



2023 - 2024

# Important Information

Class Teachers:

Tiddlers: [Mrs S Dorricott \(Early Years & Year 1 Phase Lead\)](#)

Superworms: [Miss A Richardson](#)

Gruffalos: [Miss C Orchard](#)

Higher Level Teaching Assistant: [Mrs S Powar](#)

Teaching Assistants: [Mrs E Lewis](#), [Miss L Butters](#), [Mrs L Bratch](#),  
[Ms Bennett](#) and [Miss Bailey](#)

Should you wish to contact the teachers at any time regarding your child, please follow our communication pathway:

- An informal conversation at dismissal should be the first port of call. Most issues can be satisfactorily resolved in this manner.
- If an in-person conversation cannot take place at that time, email [primaryreception@theroyal.school](mailto:primaryreception@theroyal.school) to outline the issue of concern.
- Telephone 01902 349100 to arrange an appointment to see the class teacher or relevant member of staff.

Please direct any emails for class teachers to:

[primaryreception@theroyal.school](mailto:primaryreception@theroyal.school)

We will endeavour to respond to your emails within 24 hours. However, on some occasions this may take a little longer.

If your child is unwell and cannot attend school, you must ring the school reception before 8:30am. Please do not email.

All general enquiries should be sent to: [primaryreception@theroyal.school](mailto:primaryreception@theroyal.school)

01902 349100



# Welcome to Reception!

In this booklet we will provide you with the relevant information on your child's:

- School Values
- Timetable
- Reading
- Reports
- Rewards and sanctions
- Curriculum
- Sport/Homework
- Trips
- Contacts

## School Values

- Trust
- Respect
- Initiative
- Community
- Risk

## Primary School Rap

Trust, Respect, Initiative

Be Community,

Take a Risk to be the best,

The Royal's the place to be.

Word!

We aim to reinforce these school values through teaching, play and daily routines at school, and hope that by the end of Reception, children have a really good understanding of them.

# **Curriculum**

We use Cornerstones for our curriculum. Cornerstones is topic based learning that allows us to cover all aspects of the Development Matters. We will keep you updated on topic information and what activities are coming up.

*The Reception topics are:*

- Autumn 1: Me and my community
  - Autumn 2: Winter Wonderland/Christmas
  - Spring 1: Starry night
  - Spring 2: Big wide world
  - Summer 1: Ready steady grow
  - Summer 2: Once upon a time
- 
- How I can help my child at home?

There will be homework activities linked to topics each half term, but you can also support your child by finding a little time to ask them about their day at school – what did they do that was new today? What have they been learning about? What was their favourite thing that they did today? What didn't they like so much? In the early days, discussing their daily routine in the morning is helpful when settling into a new environment – let them know what is happening at school each day (swimming, P.E., what's for lunch, clubs, any trips or special events coming up?). You may like to share stories linked to our topics at home throughout the year.

## **Useful Websites for Reception:**

- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Search.aspx?AgeGroup=1>  
(this is filtered by age Early Years for online games)
- <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources>  
(Phonics games- top 3 games are free to access)
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/numberblocks>  
Cbeebies- Numberblocks- great videos and games to play. Cbeebies is also good for other games, puzzles, songs etc) This one is a good one to explore.
- <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/free-ebooks>

(Oxford Owl provides lots of e-books to read online- this link will take you to books suitable for your child)

The new approach to the curriculum that we are using follows four key stages in deepening learning. They are:

## Engage

Hook learners in with a memorable experience.

Set the scene and provide the context.

Ask questions to provoke thought and interest.

Provoke curiosity using interesting starting points.

## Develop

Teach knowledge for depth of understanding.

Demonstrate new skills and allow time for consolidation.

Provide creative opportunities for making and doing.

Deliver reading, writing and talk across the curriculum.

## Innovate

Provide imaginative scenarios that provoke creative thinking.

Enable and assess the application of previously learned skills.

Encourage enterprise and independent thinking.

## Express

Encourage reflective talk by asking questions.

Provide opportunities for shared evaluation.

Celebrate success.

Through this vibrant and dynamic curriculum we aim to inspire the children to become self-motivated learners, in order to enable them to reach their full potential. Learning should not stop at the end of lessons or a school day and so family outings and personal interests are of great importance!



# Class Timetables

## Reception Gruffalos (Miss Orchard)

	8:30-9am	Session 1 9.00-9.15	Session 2 9.15-10.15	Session 3 10.15-10.45	Session 4 10.45-11.15	Session 4 11.15-11.45	Lunch 11:45-12.45	Session 5 12.45-13.00	Session 6 13.00-15.10	Session 7 15.10-15.25
Monday	Leap into learning (Prime Areas)	9.00-09.30 Assembly	09.30-10.00 PSE	10.00-10.20 Snack and story time	10.20-11.15 Free flow Within provision Guided Reading	Phonics		EAD	Free flow within provision 2-3 Swim	Dismissal super 6
Tuesday	Leap into learning (Prime Areas)	CL and Literacy	Free flow within provision	Snack and story time	Free flow Within provision Guided Reading	Phonics		Maths	Free flow within provision	Dismissal super 6
Wednesday	Leap into learning (Prime Areas)	CL and Literacy	Free flow within provision	Snack and story time	Free flow Within provision Guided Reading	Phonics		Maths	Free flow within provision	Dismissal super 6
Thursday	Leap into learning (Prime Areas)	CL and Literacy	Free flow within provision	Snack and story time	Free flow Within provision Guided Reading	Phonics		PD		
Friday	Leap into learning (Prime Areas)	UTW	Free flow within provision	Snack and story time	Free flow Within provision Guided Reading	Phonics		Maths	Free flow within provision	Dismissal super 6

## Reception Tiddlers (Mrs Dorricott)

	8:30-9am	Session 1 9.00-9.15	Session 2 9.15-10.15	Session 3 10.15-10.45	Session 4 10.45-11.15	Session 4 11.15-11.45	Lunch 11:45-12.45	Session 5 12.45-13.00	Session 6 13.00-15.10	Session 7 15.10-15.25
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Friday	Leap into learning (Prime Areas)	UTW	Free flow within provision	Snack and story time	Free flow Within provision Guided Reading	Phonics		Maths	Free flow within provision	Dismissal super 6

## Reception Super Worms (Miss Richardson)

	8:30-9am	Session 1 9.00-9.15	Session 2 9.15-10.15	Session 3 10.15-10.45	Session 4 10.45-11.15	Session 4 11.15-11.45	Lunch 11:45-12.45	Session 5 12.45-13.00	Session 6 13.00-15.10	Session 7 15.10-15.25
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## Sport Timetable

Swimming and P.E. are part of our curriculum and learning in Reception, and they form an important part of our week. As a rule of thumb, if your child is well enough to come to school, they are expected to take part in these lessons. We are very lucky to have our own swimming pool, and we expect that children will be enabled to benefit from using it weekly.

Swimming – **Monday** (children to wear their P.E. kits to school and bring swimming kit in drawstring bag)

P.E. – **Thursday** (wear P.E. kit to school)



Unless requested otherwise, your child only needs their P.E. kit and swimming kit on the specified days.

If you have any queries regarding physical education, please contact Mr Biddlecombe or Ms Parker who are the Heads of PE at [nbiddlecombe@theroyal.school](mailto:nbiddlecombe@theroyal.school) or [spa@theroyal.school](mailto:spa@theroyal.school)

## Spare Clothes!

Accidents do happen, so please ensure that your child has spare named pants and uniform to keep in school.

## **Homework**

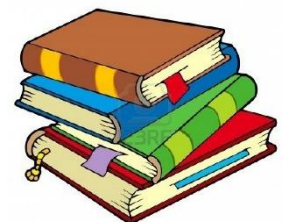
Your child will receive a yellow homework book this year. At the start of each half-term, there will be a selection of activities to complete in any order you choose. Activities vary, and you can record in lots of ways – photos, a written note, or children's own work. Homework books will be collected in on Mondays, so that teachers can award a stamp for super work. There will also be a weekly handwriting activity sent home in a handwriting book. This will be given out on Mondays and is to be returned to school by Friday so that it can be marked and prepped again for the following Monday.

## **Reading**

Our home reading books will contain decodable words that are matched to the sequence of phonics teaching in school. Your child's home reading book will be carefully matched to their phonics ability. It is expected that children will read at least three times a week at home with their parents, although the more frequently you can read with them the better! We ask that parents sign the reading record book after they have heard their child read. Children will read their book in school twice a week. Books will be exchanged only if your child can talk clearly and confidently about the book, and sound out/recognise key words. Sitting down with your child for 5-10mins, asking questions about the text and discussing unfamiliar words will improve their comprehension greatly.

### **Calling all Volunteers!**

If you think you could spare some time to help hear readers at school, please let us know! This would involve completing a DBS check by the school and signing a confidentiality form. For further information, please speak to a member of Reception staff.





## Literacy, Phonics and Spellings

We follow the FFT Programme for phonics which involves teaching synthetic phonics. We use phonics actions and alliteration alongside this scheme.

GPC	Phonics Phrase
/s/	'The snake slides and slithers.'
/a/	'Alphie asks for apples.'
/t/	'Tap the tall tower.'
/p/	'Peek at the proud parrot.'
/i/	'Imagine itchy insects.'
/n/	'Ned is near the net.'
/m/	'The man marches on mountains.'
/d/	'Don't disturb the dinosaur.'
/g/	'The girl is glad.'
/o/	'The octopus observes olives.'
/c/	'The curly caterpillar crawls.'
/k/	'The kangaroo keeps kicking.'
/ck/	'The chick pecks.'
/e/	'Every elephant enters.'
/u/	'The upside-down umbrella is unusual.'
/r/	'The rapid rabbit races.'
/h/	'The happy horse hops.'
/b/	'Bat before the ball.'
/f/	'The floppy flower falls.'
/ff/	'Huff and puff.'
/l/	'The long leg leaps.'
/ll/	'Bill is ill.'
/ss/	'Less mess, Jess.'
/j/	'Jane jumps for joy.'

/v/	'The vulture veers over valleys.'
/w/	'Watch the worm wiggle.'
/x/	'The excited fox exercises.'
/y/	'Yank the yellow yo-yo.'
/z/	'Zip the zig-zag zip.'
/zz/	'The fuzzy bee buzzes'
/qu/	'The queen is quite quiet.'
/ch/	'The chipmunk chooses cheese.'
/sh/	'Sherry shines her shoes.'
/th/	'Theo has a thimble on his thumb.'
/ng/	'Bring the king a ring.'
/ai/	'Train in the rain.'
/ee/	'See the tree?'
/igh/	'Bright light.'
/oa/	'Goat in a boat.'
/oo/	'Zoom to the moon.'
/oo/	'Look at the book.'
/ar/	'Start the car.'
/or/	'Corn for the horse.'
/ur/	'Purple turtle.'
/ow/	'Brown cow.'
/oi/	'Noisy boiling water.'
/ear/	'Near and dear.'
/air/	'Air on hair.'
/ure/	'Sure cure.'
/er/	'Bigger batter.'

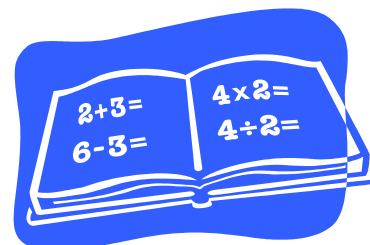
Whilst in Reception, children will be introduced to new words continuously. Spellings will take place within school during phonic sessions to encourage children to develop the skill of segmenting phonetic words and learning common misconception words (tricky words). We will send sounds and words to practice at home throughout the year.



During daily Literacy sessions, children will take part in a mixture of independent and teacher guided learning, covering reading, writing and understanding.

## **Mathematics**

Children in Reception will take part in daily maths sessions. This could be a short mental maths blaster, or a longer learning session investigating different aspects of mathematics. We will look at counting and calculations (adding, subtracting, doubling, halving) and recognising, writing, using and ordering numbers. We will also look at 2D and 3D shape and measurements such as weight, length, capacity, patterns, time and money.



There are many useful websites that will help your child with number work and there are some particularly good apps for tablets and iPads. Many of the apps are free and we often use them in class.

## **Continuous Provision**

Young children learn extremely well through play, and during Reception your child will have lots of opportunities to explore and learn through play both indoors and outdoors. During Continuous Provision time, staff will observe and join in with play. There will also be adult-led activities that link in to our topic, covering all areas of the curriculum. Please ensure your child has a coat in school daily. The children will be going outdoors in all weathers and will need to be dressed appropriately!



## **Rewards and Sanctions**

There are many reward systems currently in place:

### **House Points**

House points can be awarded for good work, homework and displaying the school values. At the end of the week, the house points are added up and the winning house is announced in assembly. Pupils will achieve points for their house and not on an individual basis. Throughout the year there are various house events where pupils can compete to gain house trophies/cups which are awarded at the school's Prize Day in the summer term.

### **Merit Awards**

Merit awards are given out on an individual basis for work that is above and beyond the expected. This could be for an outstanding piece of classwork/homework, showing great improvement, working well together as a team or during paired work, showing empathy and courtesy towards others. Stickers will be issued and merits will be recorded onto the School management system. Parents should receive notification of merits through the Schoolcomms app.

25 merits – pupils will receive a merit badge

50 merits – bronze award achieved

75 merits - silver award achieved

100 merits– gold award achieved

## Dojo



Dojo points are awarded when values and learning behaviours are displayed. They link to the school values above. When children receive 20 dojos they will achieve a merit.

## Sanctions

Whilst we do not expect to have cases of poor behaviour, we do have a policy that will be adhered to by pupils and staff.

Classroom rules will be displayed in every room and pupils will be made aware of the rules. Pupils that continue to disrupt lessons will be:

- Spoken to and given a handy hint to remind them of our behaviour expectations
- A conversation regarding the learning behaviours that they are not demonstrating
- Given time to reflect and have a restorative conversation with an appropriate member of staff

## Reports and Parents Evening

Reports are shared at parents evening each term. The first two reports are interim reports with a full report at the end of the year.

There will be a parents' evening every term allowing you to be kept up to date with your child's progress. There is an online booking system allowing you to book a convenient time for you which will help when you have more than one child at the school. It is expected that you attend each parents' evening, in order to keep up to date with their progress and any support required at home.

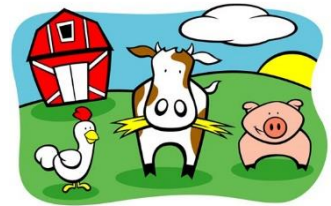


# **Trips**

School trips are not only fun but help bring the curriculum to life. They provide deeper subject learning and increase self-confidence. Research has shown that school trips can enhance team work, social skills, and helps pupils to develop risk awareness.

There will be at least one school trip or workshop within school each term and examples of previous experiences include:

- ☒ Theatre trips
- ☒ West Midlands Safari Park/Cadbury World
- ☒ African drumming and dance workshop
- ☒ Mobile Planetarium



On occasion parents may be asked to help supervise pupils on a trip so that we can adhere to the strict staff: pupil ratios. If you are willing to help please let the form teacher know.

All monies for trips and visiting workshops will be paid for online via the school app SchoolComms/Gateway.

## **Improving Attendance**

We welcome Mrs Dhanda as the new Primary Attendance Officer. You will see her out on the gates every morning and in the reception foyer after 8:30am.

When a child is absent from school, they can miss out on these vital opportunities and their learning, personal development and friendships may suffer. Whilst 90% is an excellent result in a test, an attendance level of 90% is poor, children are classed as persistently absent and children's outcomes in school can be badly affected. Working together we aim to improve the overall attendance at the school and ways we will be doing this include:

- Setting high expectations of 98% attendance for every pupil
- Celebrate students with outstanding attendance termly
- Regularly monitoring attendance
- Below 95% - send a reminder letter home
- Below 92% - invite parents or guardians in for a meeting and issue an attendance contract.
- Below 90% - carry out a home visit and inform Local Authority

New procedures for requesting an authorised absence can be found on the school website, for further information and key documents regarding attendance please follow the link to our website: <https://www.theroyalschool.co.uk/parents/attendance>

<b><u>Absence from School</u></b>				<b><u>Late arrival at School</u></b>		
Children are required to attend school for 180 days each year at The Royal.				When Children arrive late at school they miss important information and instructions		
Attendance during one school year	Equals days absent	Equates to weekly absence	Equates to number of lessons missed	Minutes late per day during the school year	Equates days worth of teaching lost in a year.	Equates to number of lessons missed
95%	9	1.8	54	5 minutes	3	18
90%	18	3.6	108	10 minutes	6	36
85%	27	5.4	162	15 minutes	9	54
80%	36	7.2	216	20 minutes	12	72
				30 minutes	18	108

From this table above, you can see that persistent lateness and absence can really make a difference to your child's education.

We look forward to welcoming your child in to Reception this year!

Mrs Dorricott, Mrs Gollings and Miss Richardson



**The Royal School, Wolverhampton**  
**Penn Road**  
**Wolverhampton**  
**WV3 0EG**

**Primary Head: Mrs Kathy Jefferson**  
**Phone: 01902 349100**  
**Email: [primaryreception@theroyal.school](mailto:primaryreception@theroyal.school)**  
**Website: [www.theroyal.school](http://www.theroyal.school)**



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