

# Welcome to Folksworth C of E Primary School.



A Guide For New Parents  
and Carers and Children entering Reception  
September 2023

Inspiring a love of learning through  
the bonds of **family, faith and friendship.**

# Welcome to our School

- A very warm welcome to all our new parents, carers and children
- Starting Reception is an important time for children
- We would like this important transition to be as smooth as possible for all children and their parents and carers
- We know that settled and happy children become enthusiastic, confident and independent learners; this is every child's right
- Here is some information regarding Reception at Folksworth C of E Primary School; this information will help you to prepare your child for the exciting journey ahead
- We look forward to developing strong home-school links with all our parents and carers





# Starting School

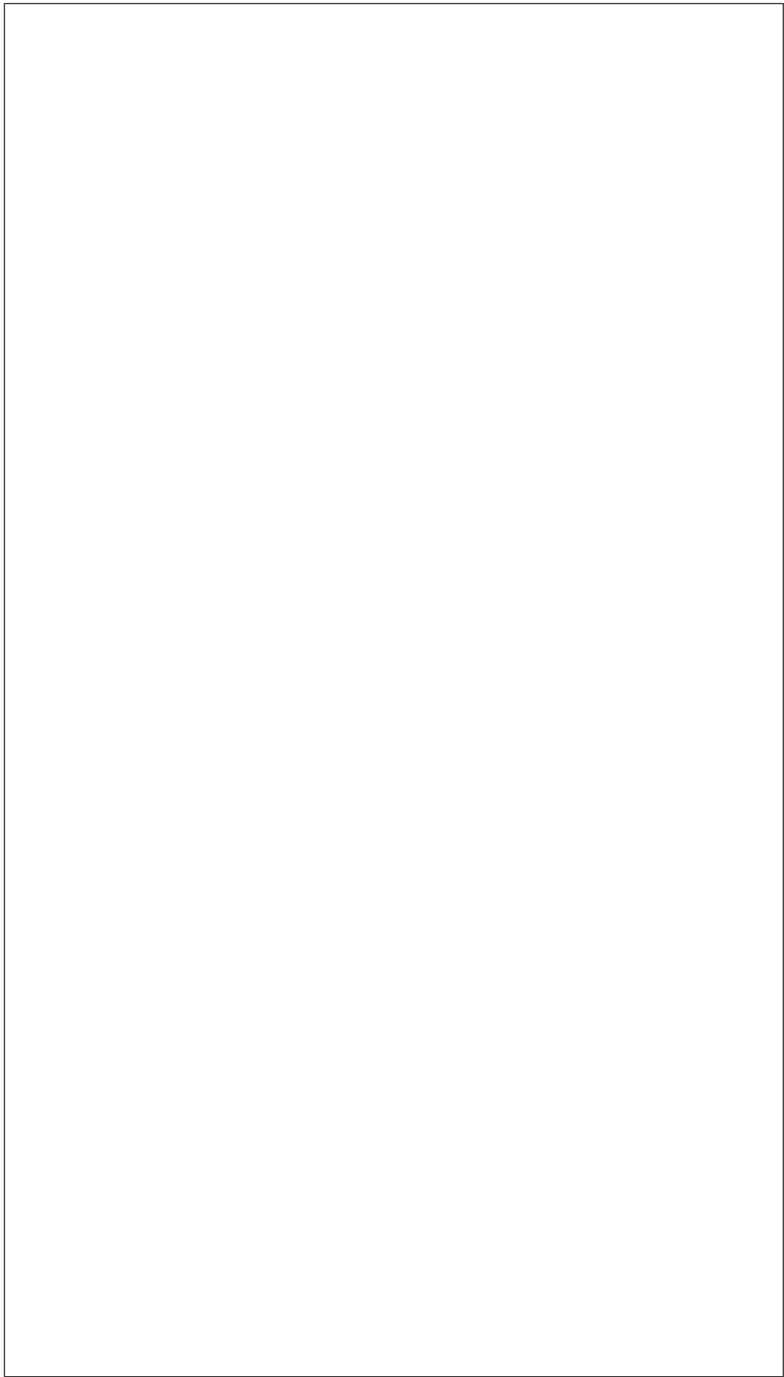
- Helping you and your child to settle into school happily is an important part of your child's journey
- This term, we provide opportunities for your child to visit the school prior to the start of the academic year in September 2023

- Who is who?
  
- Headteacher – Miss Michelle Norbury
- Class Teacher – Mrs Andrea Mac
- Class Teacher/Early Years Leader – Miss Laura Kohlschmidt
- Chair of Governors – Mrs Clare Kirk
- Office/ Finance Manager – Mrs Shannan Hibbins
- Early Birds / Stay and Play Manager – Mrs Wendy Reynolds



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<b>Key Stage</b>	<b>Year group</b>	<b>Class name</b>
<b>EYFS</b>	<b>Reception (Age 4 to 5)</b>	<b>Acorn</b>
<b>KS1</b>	<b>Years 1 and 2 (Age 5 to 7)</b>	<b>Maple</b>
<b>KS2</b>	<b>Years 3 and 4 (Age 7 to 9)</b>	<b>Oak</b>
<b>KS2</b>	<b>Years 5 and 6 (Age 9 to 11)</b>	<b>Elm</b>



# Communication

- Home-Learning Journal
- This provides the link between the parent and the teacher.
- Any letters will be communicated to you using the Home-Learning Journal or via email: to inform you of important dates and/or events that are taking place at school. Please ensure that you check your child's Home-Learning Journal and school bag every day.
- Feel free to use the book to communicate with your child's class teacher. Children are responsible for passing on the book to the class teacher.
- Additional reminders and information are sent out using email, Twitter and the school newsletter.
- **Independence** – In Reception, we teach and support every child to be a confident and independent learner. We encourage children to address their needs independently, modelling and supporting where necessary. Especially with putting their shoes on and doing up coat zips. This expectation is also encouraged in their learning. We have a saying, 'You choose it, you use it, you put it away' to remind children to tidy away their learning environment when they finish in that area or with that particular activity.



# THE EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE CURRICULUM

The EYFS curriculum is made up of 7  
different areas:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Communication and Language Development

Physical Development

Literacy Development

Mathematics Development

Understanding of the World

Expressive Arts and Design



# Holistic development and learning

“Every child is a unique child who is constantly learning,” says the EYFS principle, emphasising that each everyday experience is an occasion for holistic development and learning, as seen in this example of a toddler enjoying his snack.



Enabling environments foster holistic approaches to early development and learning, recognising that different aspects are constantly connected in a child's experiences. In the EYFS, areas are described separately in order to break down the complexity of development and learning, but it is important to keep the whole child in mind. As a child encounters objects, events and other people, all spheres of development and learning are in action at the same time, as in the example below of two children who are experimenting with water and a construction using tubing and plastic sheets.





# WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE?

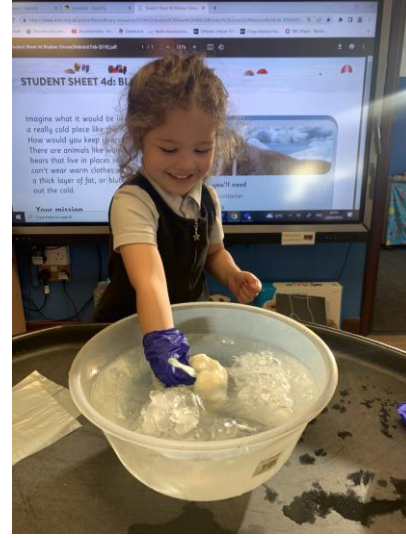
Independent Learning



BUILDING AND MAINTAINING STRONG  
RELATIONSHIPS



# TEAMWORK

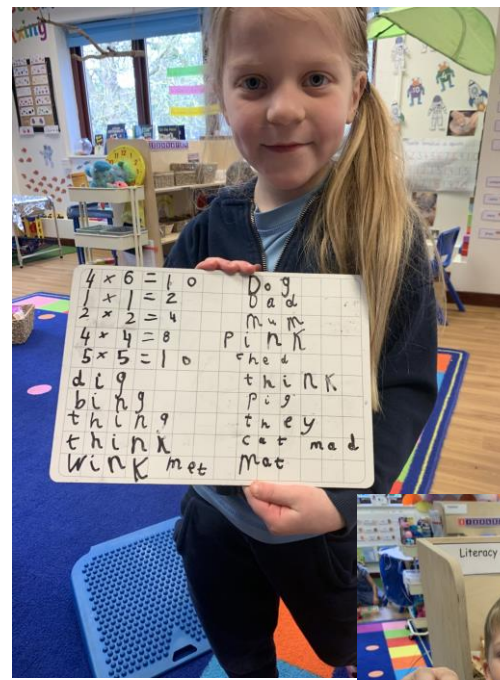


EXPLORING THE WORLD, MAKING LINKS  
AND THINKING CRITICALLY

# Reading and Writing in Reception

We follow the Read, Write Inc. phonics scheme. Children are taught the letter names and the sounds they make and how they blend these sounds together to read words and segment the sounds to spell. The children have a 30 - 45 minute phonics lesson everyday. In Reception, the children are read with every week by the teacher and take home a reading book and a library book.

The children are encouraged to write for a purpose, this could include writing a letter, writing their name on a piece of work or writing a shopping list. In order to write, children need to have strong hand and arm muscles. In our class there are activities that support muscle strength and fine motor skills.



## High frequency words

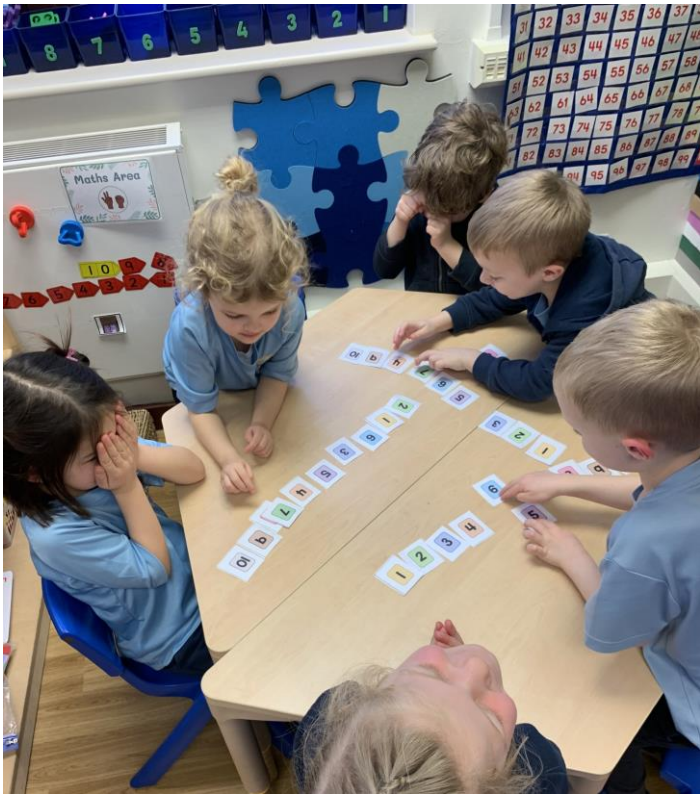
I the to a no go into are my  
 you be he she we me said all  
 going they put was have like some  
 come what want little one were there oh Mr  
 their people looked called asked could Mrs

## Simple Speed Sounds

Consonant sounds - strictly												
f	l	m	n	r	s	v	z	sh	th	ng	nk	
Consonant sounds - loosely												
b	c	d	g	h	j	p	qu	t	w	x	y	ch
k												
Vowel sounds - loosely						Vowel sounds - strictly						
a	e	i	o	u	ay	ee	igh	ow				
Vowel sounds - strictly												
oo	oo	ar	or	air	ir	ou	oy					

## High frequency words

an as at it am  
 see if in is of off  
 on can dad had back  
 and away cat day mum yes  
 get for look this big up dog play



# Maths – Number

- In our classroom there is a Maths shelf, where the children can self select activities that they would like to do. We have a 20 minute maths carpet session in the day where they are taught new concepts and skills. They are then able to apply these newly acquired skills to their everyday learning.
- The foundations for mathematical understanding are built at this stage of learning and our classrooms are organised to support the children's mathematical minds.



# Getting to know the routine...

- The school welcomes children each weekday morning from 8:45am, with registration beginning at 8:55am
- It is important that all children are in school by 8:55am, so that they do not miss out on essential learning
- Choosing
- Assembly
- Whole class teaching
- Indoor/outdoor activities
- Fruit time (children have access to their water bottles at all times)
- Indoor/outdoor activities
- Whole class teaching
- Lunchtime



# Getting to know the routine...

- Group work and indoor choosing time
- Indoor and outdoor activities
- Get ready for home
- Story time
- The school day ends at 3:15pm.





# How do we prepare our children for the rest of their school life?

- We have resources in the classroom that support seven different areas of learning.
- Due to the classroom layout and resources, the children are taught from a young age how to be independent and to challenge themselves with their own learning.
- Teacher supports the children and enable them to partake in deeper level learning.
- The children have access to the same resources throughout the year so that they are able to master their learning in different areas. Secure and safe learning environment encourages the children to take risks and challenge themselves.



Preparing your child for school:

Putting their own coat on and doing it up.

Tidy their toys away.

Turning their clothes the right way round.

Get dressed into their PE kit and back into their uniform.

Recognising their name on their clothes.

Go to the toilet by themselves

Make their needs known

Wash their hands independently.

## Uniform

- All children will need to wear school uniform to Reception.  
Wearing a uniform creates a sense of unity and belonging as well as helping with transition into school.
- The school uniform colours are navy blue, white and grey.
- Please name all pieces of uniform clearly.
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- Children will need a pair of **wellington boots** which can remain at school as children will access outdoor learning during the different seasons and plimsoles/trainers just in case of an accident or bad weather conditions.
- Only stud earrings are allowed at school for health and safety reasons. Hair longer than the top of the shoulders to be tied back.
- Blue and white dresses may be worn in the summer months.
- Our school uniform provider is *Total Clothing*. Full details can be found via our [school website](#).
- Total Clothing* sells a range of items that include the school logo including book bags and PE kit bags.



## Indoor PE kit

Sky blue sports shirt with the school logo on.

Navy shorts



## Outdoor PE Kit

Navy jogging bottoms

Navy hooded top

Trainers

Change of socks





The toilets for our EYFS children are smaller in size.

Please let us know if you have a concern or a problem regarding your child going to the toilet by themselves so that we can support this.

Children can go to the toilet at any time during the day.

Please provide spare pants and socks in case of accidents.

# Meals

- Lunchtime is an important time in your child's development. Children learn to socialise and build friendships during this time.
- We produce hot school meals on site every day for our children. A three week rotation menu is currently followed.
- Children will also be provided with a free piece of fruit for snack.
- They will also need to bring a NAMED water bottle each day so that they have access to a drink whenever they need one.
- Milk is provided through the Cool Milk scheme free of charge up to their fifth birthday. After this it is possible to order and purchase on line.

As the children settle into class and lunch routines, we support and encourage them to communicate their needs verbally and remember to use good manners (saying 'please' and 'thank you' when being served their lunch). Please remind and encourage your child to demonstrate these at home too. If your child is bringing a packed lunch to school then this must consist of healthy food. These can include: a sandwich, fruit, yoghurt, water.

# Pupil Premium Funding

- Your child may be eligible for *additional Pupil Premium Funding*.
- More information on our [school website](#).





# Medical Conditions

- Please make staff aware of any medical conditions your child may have
- Please ensure the school has your child's medication
- Ensure the school has any medical care plans or medical protocols that your child might need to follow





## Absence and Illness

Obviously we try to keep this to a minimum and actively discourage holidays during term time. If any time away from school is required, a leave of absence form must have been completed in advance. For unauthorised holidays, penalty notices are likely to be issued.

If your child is ill, please inform the office before school starts so that we know where every child is when we register them.

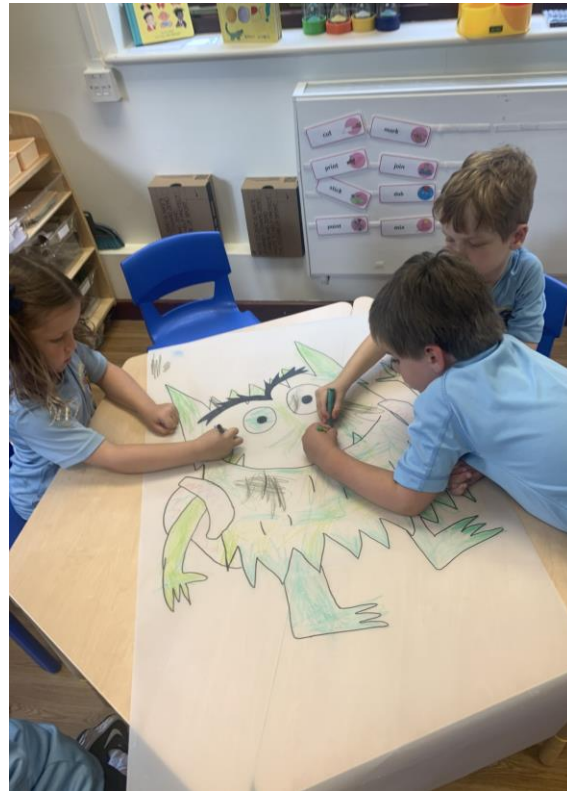
If they have had sickness or diarrhoea they must be kept at home for 48 hours after the last bout. This avoids other children and adults catching the bug!

If your child has any ongoing medical conditions that you would like to discuss with us, please let us know.

# Helping your Child to Get Ready for School

- Build up your child's independence by supporting them to put on their coat and zip it up by themselves
- Practise walking little distances with your child as they will be expected to walk to school
- Establish good routines such as sharing a bedtime story every night
- Talk to your child about what they are most looking forward to at school
- Sing songs and recite nursery rhymes together; share picture books and story books
- Encourage your child to interact with new environments and new people
- Play games that involve turn-taking; provide opportunities for your child to use playdoh, scissors, pencils, letters and numbers





# What can I do if my child is struggling?

- Please come and talk to us if you are worried about anything at all.
- Due to our small intake numbers, we do not stagger our intake. This means that all children can start full time from day one. However, if you feel that your child is struggling with this or they are getting very tired by the end of the week, flexible part time arrangements can be made.
- Alternatively, if we feel that your child is flagging during the day, we may phone you to discuss whether you would like to consider picking them up at lunchtime or having a later start the following day.