

Elm Class, September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

We are so excited to welcome you to our brilliant school! This is a very special time for you and your child and we hope to make the transition to school life as smooth as possible. One of the ways we communicate with parents is through a half-termly letter and topic web which outlines activities and topics we will be covering. We hope that this will enable you to support your child's learning at home.

Please do not hesitate to come and talk to us if you have any questions or concerns. Please contact the school office or let us know in the morning in order to arrange a convenient time. This can either be in person or over the phone.

At the end of the day, please come forward to the door for collection. It makes it easier to match children and parents/carers. It also enables us to get your attention if we need to pass on any information or messages.

We look forward to a wonderful year ahead!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Ellie Wild and Mrs Becca Cootes

The Revised Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum – 2021

The current EYFS framework was revised by the DFE in September 2021. This framework must be followed by providers of care for children up to five years old. There are seven areas of learning and development. We use these areas of learning and development when we are observing, assessing and planning for your child's individual needs. The areas of learning and development ensure that we are constantly challenging your child and helping them to develop and succeed. The seven areas of learning are split into two parts: three prime areas, and four specific areas.

At the end of Reception, we will use our observations and knowledge of your child to assess them against the new Early Learning Goals (ELGs). These goals are short statements for each area of learning. You will be informed whether your child has reached these ELGs in their end of year report.

Our Early Years team use a 'focus week' approach to our observations. Each half term your child will be a 'focus child' for a week where the staff team will closely observe their learning and identify their next steps. We share with parents/carers the week prior to this and request any additional information that you would like us to know about your child. We may suggest areas of focus for this information/observations. These observations are shared at the end of the week.

Our Learning

Topics in Reception are usually guided by the children's interests, although we do plan to cover certain specific themes across the year, such as seasons, festivals and celebrations. We are starting our year with a topic entitled '**Getting to know you**'. It would be brilliant if you could provide copies of photographs of your child with some of their important people e.g. their family or friends for them to share with the class and add to our family display.

This half term we will also be focusing on *The Colour Monster* by Anna Llenas and the traditional tale of *The Little Red Hen*.

Learning through Play

The learning in Reception is through exploration and play with some discrete adult led teaching, for example: Phonics and concepts and skills in Maths. We encourage children to reflect and question the world around them and provide quality first hand experiences to help with this. We experiment with different art media, enjoy listening to and making music and moving to music. We enjoy activities to develop our fine motor skills and have an excellent outdoor learning environment in which we can practise gross motor skills and where there are many child initiated play opportunities. These are predominantly on a larger scale than activities inside.

Phonics

Next week we will begin daily phonics sessions to support development in reading, writing and spelling. A reading and phonics information evening will be held later this term (details to follow).

Home reading books

In a few weeks we will be providing two types of books for the children to take home. These will be:

- **a reading practise book** matched to your child's phonic stage that they can read independently. They should be able to read at least 95% of the words in these books. They will have already read this book in school before bringing it home. In the early weeks, these books will contain pictures without words.

Please visit [For parents | Letters and Sounds](#) for information regarding Little Wandle phonics and how to use the books/support at home.

These books are costly and so it is important that they are cared for at home. We appreciate your support with this.

- **a library book** that they can talk about and enjoy with their parent/carer. These books will be your child's choice and are to help develop a love of reading!

Literacy and Maths

Whole class Maths and Literacy sessions are planned to take place daily. Much of our learning will be themed around different, high-quality books. Literacy will be delivered through Drawing Club which is a pedagogy based on imagination and vocabulary development.

P.E

Lessons will be on Tuesday afternoons with Mrs Pugh. Please ensure your child comes to school in their P.E. kit each Tuesday (red t-shirt, navy/black shorts or joggers and trainers).

Forest School

Moat sessions will be with Mrs Bonham and Mrs Cootes on a Monday afternoon. Please ensure your child has wellies and a waterproof coat and trousers or waterproof puddle suit.

Library

Mrs Pugh will be taking the children to the library once a week on a Tuesday afternoon. Please make sure to return the books every week.

WOW Cards and Tapestry

We would love to hear from you about the things your child enjoys or achieves. It helps us to create a 'well-rounded' picture of who your child really is.

On these "WOW cards" you can share with us any WOW moments in your child's life. For example, they shared their toys with a friend, they read road signs, they got dressed by themselves, they learnt how to ride a bike without stabilisers or they made up a story with their toys! These cards will be celebrated in class. Please ask for more cards if you need them.

The other way you can share your child's achievements is through their online learning journeys on Tapestry. When it is your child's 'focus week' we ask that you add a couple of recent photographs of your child alongside a few sentences of your own observations/insight. At the end of your child's focus week you will see a learning story

added to Tapestry with some photos and information of our observations.

Home learning

In Reception the children are not given formal homework, however parental support in this early stage has a huge impact on how they learn in school. We would love to see any learning or activities the children do at home. The children are expected to read for 5-10 minutes daily and practise their phonic sounds. Each week you will receive a Little Wandle information sheet with the letter sounds that have been taught.

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
Wednesday 15th October 3:30 - 4:30pm	Open classrooms - an opportunity to see what learning looks like in Reception.
Monday 20th October	EYFS Diwali celebration. Please get in touch if you would like to contribute
Thursday 6th November	Parents evening - in person at school
Wednesday 12th November	Parents evening - online
Wk beginning 13th October (TBC)	Phonics workshop/meeting for parents

Timetable

We do our best to respond to children's interests, development and learning needs so our timetable is flexible.

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Adults	Mrs Pugh and Mrs Cootes	Mrs Wild and Mrs Cootes			
Carpet time themes	Topic and activity introduction for the week	Literacy - Drawing Club Maths	Literacy - Drawing Club Maths	Literacy - Drawing Club Maths	Literacy - Drawing Club Maths
Phonics	Recap of previous Week	New letter sound/ phoneme and tricky words.	New letter sound/ phoneme and tricky words.	New letter sound/ phoneme and tricky words.	New letter sound/ phoneme.
Enrichment opportunities	Forest School at the moat	P.E Library	Based on children's interests		