

Welcome to Reception



Important Information for Parents and Carers



A warm welcome to Reception!

Beginning school is a major event in the life of a four year old and it won't be long before your child starts with us at Hollingwood Primary School. There will be lots of new things to learn and we want to help you prepare for this significant event. We hope it will be a happy and memorable experience and our welcome booklet will provide all the information you need to settle your child quickly into school.



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Contact Information

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Head Teacher: Mr Chris Stewart

Chair of Governors: Mrs Rebecca Vodden-Page

Phase Lead: Mrs Helen Glossop & Miss Jade Thirkell



Our Vision / Mission Statement

At Hollingwood Primary School we actively promote the 3 Rs: Respect, Resilience and Responsibility.

We show respect to one another by behaving in a polite and courteous way. We respect the environment by taking care of the school building and the resources within it. We respect the learning opportunities we are given and do what we can to reach our potential.

We show resilience in our learning. We have a growth mindset and see setbacks as an important part of the learning process. We expect learning to be challenging and we seek opportunities to show that 'practice makes progress'.

We show responsibility by taking on roles within and beyond our school. We represent the school in sporting, engineering and creative opportunities. We are responsible citizens within our community and contribute to making the lives of others a little easier through our charity and enterprise work.



A big “hello” from the staff...



Mr Stewart
Head Teacher



Miss Clarke
Deputy Head Teacher



Miss Thirkell
EYFS Lead, SENDCo & Class
Teacher - Laurel



Mrs Glossop
EYFS Lead & Class Teacher
Lilac



Miss Thorneycroft
Class Teacher – Acacia



Mrs Dungworth
Class Teacher – Laurel



Parents as Partners

We recognise the importance of parents and carers in a child's developing stages. As a primary care provider you are your child's first educators and we greatly value any input, opinions and information you can share with us about your child's learning and progress.

We provide many other opportunities for parents and carers to take an active part in their child's education. These include:

- Parents Evenings
- Parent/Carer workshops
- Special Mentions assemblies
- Twitter updates/school website
- Whole-school events e.g. Mother's Day/Father's Day celebrations

Phone calls or emails to to the school office are most welcome. Mrs Lester, Mrs Jenkinson or Mrs Barber will be able to offer their assistance.

Preparing Your Child for School

It will make starting school much easier if your children are independent and can do many things for themselves.

What should your child be able to do?

Can they...

- Dress and undress themselves?
- Use the toilet independently and ask to go there?
- Tidy up after themselves?
- Recognise their own name? Please tell your child's teacher if their name is abbreviated in any way.
- Feed themselves?
- Share toys and equipment?
- Hold a pencil?
- Write their name?
- Sing some nursery rhymes?
- Practise counting to 10?
- Listen well and follow instructions?

How can I help prepare my child for school?

- Encourage your child to be as independent as possible.
- Establish a routine of going to bed early enough for you and your child to have a stress-free time when getting ready in the morning.
- Attend our transition events where possible.
- Talk to your child about the information in this booklet, particularly about the staff and the school day.
- Never threaten them with school! Be positive. Present it to them as an enjoyable experience and something to look forward to.



What can I do with my child before they start school?

- Give your child as many varied experiences as possible: drawing, painting, cooking, singing, making models, playing games, jigsaws etc.
- Expose them to: pencils, crayons, felt pens, chalks, paints, playdough, scissors.
- Share stories, books and rhymes. Read to them.
- Share songs and sing to / with them
- Count everything and share things out.
- Talk to them all the time. Name familiar things and discuss what they see around them and what things are for. Talk about what you see when you are out and about. Watch people work and discuss what they are doing.



The School Day

8.45am Register

(Please note: Registers formally close at 9am. Arrival after this time will be recorded as a late).

12-12.55pm Lunch Time

3.15pm Home Time

During the school day your child will take part in a range of activities including child-initiated play, teacher-led activities and lessons including phonics, writing, maths, PE, PSHE, RE, science, handwriting and enquiry. They will also take part in woodland sessions to enhance their learning and understanding of the world.

We deliver an enquiry based curriculum. Each term, your child will work towards answering an overarching question through their learning and experiences. Our enquiry questions are:

Autumn 1: What can a story tell us about the past?

Autumn 2: What is beyond our world?

Spring 2: What will we find in our local area?

Summer 2: What is it like to live in Brazil?

Reading

Early reading is a school priority. We strongly believe that reading opens doors to the rest of the curriculum.

Your child will read to an adult in school at least once a week. Your child will bring home multiple books at any one time; some books are for developing fluency and others are for nurturing a love for reading.

We highly recommend that your child reads at home on daily basis. More information about reading will follow in the Autumn term at our reading workshops – we look forward to seeing you there!

Morning Procedures

We understand that when your child first starts school, they might need some support settling into the morning routine. However, we have found that if children are dropped off just outside the classroom, it helps them to become more independent and ensures a smoother start to the day. A member of staff will always be on the door to greet you and your child.

Collecting Your Child

At the end of the school day, you are able to access the school site from 3:05pm. Your child will remain with a teacher until you collect your child from the door.

In the event that someone unfamiliar to school needs to collect your child, please contact the school office to inform us. They may ask you to agree a password, that both the teacher and person collecting will understand.

Lunch and Snack



Miss Middleton prepares hot meals for us every day in our school kitchen. A menu is sent to parents regularly. School dinners are free for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

Children are provided with a healthy snack at break time (a piece of fresh fruit or vegetable). It is not necessary to send your child with any extra snacks.

Please send your child/ren with their water bottle to school everyday.

Learning in Reception

Reception children learn together in an environment which is developed around the children's learning and interests. We pride ourselves on being an exciting and engaging place to be – encouraging our children to be independent learners through a range of practical activities.



As our Reception children enter the classroom, they learn primarily through a variety of play, real-life experiences, lessons and activities. Work is recorded in their subject books regularly throughout the week.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum

In Reception, children follow the EYFS Framework. The curriculum is based upon four themes and principles:

The Unique Child – we understand that every child is an individual child who is capable in their own right. The holistic child has a variety of needs that need meeting over their time in Reception.

Positive Relationships – Social interaction is key to children's development. Children become strong, independent learners as well as scaffolding their learning through positive social interaction.

Enabling Environments – Providing a safe, secure and stimulating base for your child is key to their development. The framework allows for experiences that respond to the child's individual needs/interests as well as developing a strong partnership between practitioners, parents and carers.

Learning and Development – Children develop and learn in different ways. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Early Learning Goals

The Early Learning Goals are the end of Reception Year statements that all our children will be assessed against. Those children who meet all the criteria under each area of development are said to have 'met' the early learning goal and are working at 'age related expectations.' Some of our children will have met all of the early learning goals before reaching the end of Reception.

- Communication and Language
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Maths
- Expressive Art and Design
- Understanding the World

Characteristics of Effective Learning

- Playing and Exploring
- Active Learning
- Creating and Thinking Critically.

Our School Uniform & Kit:

	Winter months	Alternative for Summer	PE
	Dark grey trousers or skirt White polo shirt Navy sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo (optional) Plain black or navy tights or Dark coloured or white socks	Dark grey shorts or skirt or Blue and white gingham dress White socks Navy sun hat / cap	Navy shorts White rounded necked t-shirt Plimsolls for indoor use Trainers for outdoor use Optional navy jogging bottoms for winter

As our learning environment is both indoors and outdoors, we ask that you make sure your child is equipped for these areas at all times of year. Please ensure their clothing is practical and suitable for the seasonal changes. We recommend a waterproof jacket and winter clothing for cold weather, a sun hat and protective clothing in the summer months. We ask that sun cream is applied before the children get to school so that they are ready for the day.

Your child will take part in one PE lesson each week. For this, they will need to wear the PE kit on their PE day as explained above. For safety, long hair must be tied back.



Things to bring to school:

- Suitable coats – nothing too special, as it is likely to get sandy, muddy or wet
- Hats, scarves and gloves
- Sun hats
- Water bottles with fresh water (please no juice or fizzy pop)
- Book bags, reading books and reading records – these are checked and changed regularly.
- Please refrain from bringing a large rucksack to school



Teach me to do it myself!

In preparation for school, here are some things that you can do with your child to help them develop the basic skills on the road towards their Early Learning Goals:

Listening

- Show your child to be a good listener by listening to them and others.
- Be patient – don't interrupt or finish their sentences for them.
- Give them your full attention when they are speaking, showing them eye contact and good body language.
- Respond to what they are saying by asking questions or ask about their opinions.
- Listen to your child reading.
- Sing rhymes and songs with your children to help them hear rhyme.



Speaking

- Speak clearly and confidently.
- Model using the right words and set an example.
- Speak in full sentences.
- Use clear, simple directions for tasks and behaviours.
- Engage in discussions with your child and allow them the time to speak without being interrupted.
- Ask for their opinions.
- Tell them about your day and ask about theirs.

Writing

- Encourage your child to mark make without feeling pressured.
- Get your children colourful pens, gel pens and exciting new tools to encourage them to mark make.
- Let children write their name on cards or letters.
- If your child is already writing with a pen or a pencil, support their pencil grip so they do not develop a bad habit.



Number skills

- Count daily with your child.
- Count objects, actions, numbers and a range of things.
- Identify numbers wherever you go – a neighbour's house number or a number on a bus.
- Help children to put numbers in order.
- Let children help with the tidying and sorting. Can they sort items by colour?
- Identify shapes around the home.
- Use fingers to represent a number.

Organisation

- Children like routine – so set regular times for bed, for getting up, meals and family time.
- Check your child has their name written in / on everything they bring to school: book bag, PE kit, drinks bottle.
- Help your child have all the equipment they need for learning.
- Let your child take hold of their own things on the way to school – they will know where to put coats, books, bottles and bags.

- Let your child help you at home with the cooking, cleaning and shopping – they relish an opportunity to feel useful!
- Be patient when your child is helping.
- Lay your child's clothes out in the correct order each morning so that they can dress themselves.
- Children are expected to toilet themselves once they begin Reception.

Extending Their Learning



- Link your child's learning to family activities – we can give you ideas for each enquiry!
- Visit local museums, parks, wildlife reserves.
- Talk about nature and the world around them and encourage them to ask questions.
- Take time to listen to your child and explain things carefully, developing their understanding and vocabulary.

- Keep their hands busy to develop fine motor skills e.g. – pinching, twisting, threading, cutting and using buttons, zips and pegs.
- Be active to develop their coordination skills. Eg – balancing, running, jumping, catching and hopping etc.

Behaviour

- Agree clear and realistic rules – and stick to them.
- Give your child boundaries so that they know what is expected of them.
- Encourage your child to always say ‘please’ and ‘thank you’.
- Support the school rules.
- If your child’s behaviour is proving difficult, we can work on a home-school reward system together.



