Reception Class Newsletter – September 2026

Dear Parents/ carers,

Hello and a warm welcome to all our new and existing families. We have enjoyed meeting you all and look forward to working with you this year. The children have been settling in brilliantly during their first few sessions. We are really enjoying getting to know them all.

Starting school is an exciting time of change for children and families. School life is very different to their previous experiences at Pre-school or Nursery. We understand that the first few weeks can be an anxious time, so please do not hesitate to contact us about anything, no matter how small it may seem. We believe that working in partnership with parents is key to the children settling in quickly and happily.

Communication, Language and Literacy

In Reception, we will soon begin our phonics programme. We use the scheme *"Unlocking Letters and Sounds"*. Over the year, we will learn all 42 sounds that make up the English language. We will begin to learn four new sounds each week (one sound each day), starting the week commencing 14/09/26. The letters will be learnt in sets of four each week, with common exception words being learnt as well. These new sound/word flashcards will then be sent home in your child's book bag every Thursday for them to practise at home please.

Please support your child in learning the four sounds for the week. We will send home weekly Tapestry videos to show you how to correctly say each sound.

Please fill in the yellow reading comment book at least 4 times per week to let us know when your child has read to you or when you have read to them. Sharing books and reading scheme books will be changed a group per day throughout the week. Very soon, your child will bring home a wordless book to "read" to you.

Each term we select core books to focus on. Each book offers the children the opportunity to engage in role-play, drama activities and provides them with rich vocabulary and a stimulus for writing.

Writing:

Some of the children will be ready to write and some won't be - this is fine. During the year, we will build up our fine motor skills through lots of funky finger exercises as well as building on the gross motor skills needed to develop balance and the shoulder muscles needed for good handwriting. Please support your child to practise their name on their laminated sheet as this is the most important word that they'll need to write.

Mathematics

Through a variety of multi-sensory activities both in the classroom and in the outside learning area, the children will be developing their knowledge of numbers. This term we will be covering the following areas in maths.

- *Matching and sorting objects*
- *Identifying simple shapes*
- *Shape games and activities (Making play dough shapes, sorting shapes into boxes etc.)*
- *Finger gym mathematic activities.*
- *Comparing amounts, size and capacity*
- *Exploring patterns*

Some of these objectives will be achieved through teacher led sessions, and some through child-initiated learning.

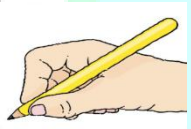
Understanding the World

This term our topic will be "All about Me"- enabling us to get to know your child. This will be done through play and communication and language skills. We will look at pictures and talk about everyone's family and friends.
We will also be introducing weather and seasons, commenting on the changes and differences between days and months.

Reception Class Newsletter – September 2026

Physical Development

Daily "funky fingers" activities in the classroom will encourage the children to develop their fine motor skills and gain control over pencils and scissors.
Letter formation is taught through huge body movements then through smaller movements with a range of media.
We will be working to ensure that children use the correct pencil grip. We encourage you to help your children with this "tripod" grip as it can be tricky to master.



(Pencil grasped between thumb and index finger, resting on the middle finger).

It is important to try to get pencil grip right early on as it is very difficult to fix later. Gross motor skills will be developed in our fantastic outside space, whether that's through climbing, sand and water play or bike riding.

PE- PE lessons will be on a **Tuesday.** We will start PE on 15/09/26. The children can come to school in their PE kits that day. We will begin with parachute games in the hall as this really helps gross motor skills- working on those core and shoulder muscles.

Expressive Arts and Design

In Art, we will be exploring paint, collage, pencil drawings and using other medium such as chalk and pastels.
In music the children will be singing a variety of songs and identifying and creating sounds.

Learning Journeys- Tapestry

Please ensure you have downloaded the tapestry app. We have published observations already and it is great to see parents engaging. You will receive an email/app alert when a new observation has been added, and you can then login and make comments should you so wish.
The overall aim of the online Learning Journey is to record some of your child's learning experiences, to make assessments, to help us plan for their next steps of learning and to match the learning experiences to your child.

This online journal will outline the journey of children's learning and development and is made up of observations, photographs, "wow" moments and comments from parents/carers. The Wow slips make a valuable contribution to their journals

Tooth Brushing

We are part of the *Big Brush Club* - an initiative to encourage healthy dental habits and effective tooth brushing. The children in Reception will be brushing their teeth every day in school. They will all have their own toothbrush and will brush as a while class for two minutes while listening to various catchy tooth brushing songs. The children really enjoyed this last year.
We will send home a consent form and information letter soon for this, please return asap once you receive it.
It's vital that you still brush your child's teeth twice a day at home (morning and evening) please as we cannot closely supervise each child brushing in school.

Eye tests

If your child has never had an eye test, please do book one, they are free for children and every year we find that several children are prescribed glasses. There is an optician in Winterbourne.

Other notices:

- Please clearly label absolutely everything.
- Please ensure that your child has a full water bottle in school every day. Please only send in water.
- Please order school lunches on Arbor and let your child know what you have ordered if they are having a school dinner.

Reception Class Newsletter – September 2026

- Your child only needs a book bag and not a backpack.
- Please don't let your child bring in toys from home.

If you have any questions, please arrange to pop in after school and we're always happy to help.

We are really looking forward to working with you and an exciting term ahead.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs Wilton and Mrs Hillocks

Key Dates
24.09.26 – Individual School Photographs
07.10.26 – 5pm, Open Evening for prospective parents
12.10.26 – INSET Day
14.10.26 – Open Morning for prospective parents
21.10.26 – Grandparents' Afternoon
26 – 30.10.26 – HALF TERM
02.11.26 – Start of Term 2
11/12.11.26 – Parent Consultation Evenings