



Fern Hill Primary School

Inspiration • Collaboration • Empathy • Excellence

Welcome to Reception 2020/2021

Bluebell



Poppy



Sunflower



A warm welcome from the Reception team!



Mrs H West
Bluebell Class
Teacher



Mrs S Manzambi
Bluebell Class
Teacher



Mrs D Pettifer
Poppy Class
Teacher



Mrs L Wilson
Support



Mrs V Matthewson
Sunflower Class
Teacher



Miss C Wakeman
Support



Mrs K Solan
Support



Mrs H Felton
Support



Miss A Disalvo
Support



Miss S Black
Support



Welcome introduction

- ✓ You will have received a letter from Mr Scott telling you the name of your child's class and teacher plus details of their 'Stay and Play' session and start date in September.
- ✓ On our school website, we have created a **virtual classroom** where we have posted photographs of the school, play areas and classroom spaces and a video of your child's class teacher sharing a story. Please enjoy these together with your child!
- ✓ Don't forget to read the '**Starting in Reception**' welcome and transition pack that is also posted in your virtual classroom.





Starting in Reception

- Your child's Stay and Play session will be on either Friday 4th or Monday 7th September; their first day at school will be during the week of 7th September.
- On the first day of school, please arrive for 9:00 am. You will walk with your child through the infant (KS1) playground and around to the Reception courtyard. A teacher will greet you at your class gate and welcome you and your child into the courtyard. Please ensure you accompany your child into the courtyard and encourage them to be independent.
- To support a happy transition, from your child's start date until Friday 11th September, they will have a shorter school day and should be collected at 11:45 am from their classroom in the Reception courtyard. On Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th September your child will stay at school for lunch and should be collected at 1:15 pm from their classroom in the Reception courtyard.
- Your child's first full day at school will be Wednesday 16th September and they will attend from 9:00 am - 3:15 pm. The infant playground gates will open at 8:45 am and your child will be able to go into their classroom from 8:50 am.
- Please always say goodbye to your child and reassure them that you will see them later. We will call you if your child is distressed.

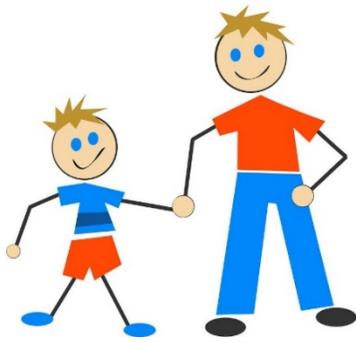


School lunches



- All children in Reception are entitled to a free hot school lunch under the Government's Universal Free School Meals (UFSM) initiative. Although you do not need to pay, you must place an order for lunch. Orders are placed using an online platform called ParentPay and, for lunches for week commencing Monday 14th September, orders must be placed by **midnight on Sunday 6th September**.
- You will have received a letter with instructions on how to activate your ParentPay account. If you have not received it, please contact the school office as soon as possible. Once you have activated your account, you will be able to book your child's lunches. Lunches for the first half of the Autumn term will be available to book from Monday 20th July.
- Step by step instructions on how to book a school lunch are available on our school website: <https://www.fernhill.kingston.sch.uk/lunchinfo>
- We offer a choice of meals for lunch, including a vegetarian and pasta pot option. The menu for lunches for the first half of the Autumn term will be available to view on ParentPay during the booking process.
- Alternatively, you may provide your child with a healthy packed lunch from home. Regardless of whether your child has a hot school lunch or a packed lunch from home, they will eat together with their peers. Please note our guidance on healthy packed lunches, available on the website here: <https://www.fernhill.kingston.sch.uk/lunches>





Your child's safety

- Please provide us with a passport sized photograph of anyone who will be collecting your child on a regular basis, **INCLUDING** parents.
- If your child's collection arrangements change – even for a single day – we will need your written permission to dismiss your child to a new adult. You can email the school office or provide us with a letter. Children will not be dismissed to unauthorised adults, including other Fern Hill parents.
- You should wait outside the Reception courtyard at collection time - we will dismiss your child when we see you. Please do be on time as some children get upset if their parent or carer is late.
- If your child is going to be absent from school for any reason, please inform the school office by 8:30 am on the day, and every day thereafter.
- If your child is sick or has diarrhoea, they should not return to school until at least 24 hours after the last incident of vomiting or diarrhoea. This is a whole school policy.



What does my child need to bring to school?

- ✓ **A book bag** - this is very important for sending library books and letters home. Don't forget to check your child's book bag daily!
- ✓ **A spare set of clothes in a named bag.** This can be left on your child's peg.
- ✓ **A refillable water bottle.** This can be refilled in school but must go home everyday.
- ✓ **A sun hat if it's sunny!** Sun cream should be applied before your child arrives at school.
- ✓ **Waterproofs and wellington boots** for splashing in puddles, digging and Forest Fun sessions. You can leave a pair of named wellington boots on our boot trolley or hang them on your child's peg in a bag. We'll let you know which day of the week your child will have a Forest Fun session - we would love you to come and help!
- ✓ Please do not send in toys (except on Show and Tell day) - they tend to get lost!



What can I expect in the first few weeks of school?

- Children will take time to settle into their new routines, to get to know their new environment and classroom, and the adults who are working with them, so please do be patient.
- They will begin to make new friends and build different relationships with our support.
- We will introduce them to the rules and expectations of both their class and the wider school slowly and supportively.
- We will be fostering a love of learning and their independence by observing and monitoring their progress and encouraging 'Learning through Play'.
- We hope to invite you to a **Parents' Welcome meeting** towards the end of September when you can meet the Reception team who will explain the Early Years curriculum, how your child will learn and how you can support your child's learning at home.



The Early Years Curriculum

The Early Years and Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum covers Nursery and Reception teaching and learning. It is explained in more detail in the Reception Welcome and Transition pack.

Prime Areas

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development

Specific Areas

- Literacy
- Maths
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design



How will your child's progress be assessed?

- Your child's learning and development will be recorded using **Tapestry**, a secure online Learning Journal.
- The children are observed throughout the school day, by different teachers in a variety of settings, and the observations are recorded on Tapestry using notes, comments, videos and photographs which are all linked to the Early Years curriculum.
- You will be able to access Tapestry, via an App on your computer, tablet or phone, to view their Learning Journal and share learning at home, uploading your own notes, comments and media to celebrate your child's experiences and achievements outside of school.
- **To create your personal Tapestry account, we need your permission to upload your name and email address to the Tapestry network. Please complete the Tapestry Consent Form available via this link to give us your consent: <https://forms.gle/af2q7JuRhVXti5SS6>**





Home - School Partnership

- **Parent Consultations** are held twice a year, in October and March, and are an opportunity for you to meet with your child's class teacher to discuss your child's progress and how they are settling into Reception.
- You will receive a detailed **written report** at the end of the Summer term that covers your child's progress in all areas of the Early Years curriculum.
- We will keep you informed on what your child is learning with our weekly **Newsletter** and termly **Curriculum Maps**. These will include home learning challenges for your child to enjoy outside of school.
- We will celebrate and share your child's progress and achievements outside of school as a class with '**Sparkle Moments**' ...we'll tell you more about this in September!
- Please do get involved with our wonderful **Parent & Staff Association (PSA)** who have great fun running events to raise money for our school. You might even like to become a Class Rep for the PSA. They will be in touch with you in September with more information but if you would like to get in touch with them before then, please email them at: fernhillpsa@gmail.com
- Don't forget, we have an open door policy so please do get in touch with any concerns or questions



Helping your child prepare for September



- Encourage your child to be independent - going to the toilet, washing their hands, getting dressed and using a knife and fork.
- Teach your child to blow and wipe their nose.
- Share the photos and videos of your child's virtual classroom and their teacher on our website.
- Talk about their class, what they might do during the school day and staying there without you. Don't forget to remind them that you will come back!
- Encourage your child to walk as much as possible to build muscle strength, stamina and spatial awareness.
- Engage in active play.
- Teach them to recognise their name and say hello, thank you and goodbye.
- Encourage them to play an activity without needing an adult for a short time and encourage them to take turns and share with family members and friends.
- Teach them to take care of their books and toys and to tidy up.
- If possible, meet up with other children joining Reception or your child's class.
- Talk, talk and talk some more 😊



Supporting your child to learn letters and numbers

- Encourage your child to recognise and write their own name using lower case letters and not all capital letters.
- Practise moving a pencil up and down along the same line, and in anti- clockwise circles.
- Point out the difference between the 'words' and the 'pictures' in books.
- Show them which way up to hold a book and the direction of reading and share familiar stories and nursery rhymes as much as you can.
- Have fun with mathematical games and bring maths into their everyday world, e.g. look for house numbers, talk about birth dates, weigh ingredients for cooking, sing number songs.
- Practice counting together - their understanding of number concepts is more important than recognising numbers at this stage.
- Point out letters, words and numbers everywhere.



What should I do if I have any questions or concerns now?

Please don't hesitate to get in touch.

You can contact us through the school office by email at: office@fernhill.rbksch.org or by telephone on 020 8247 0300.

**We hope you have a lovely summer
and look forward to welcoming you in September!**

