

Reception Information 2026

Aims of this evening:

- ▶ Meet the Reception team and some of the members of our school community.
- ▶ Hear information about starting school.
- ▶ Feel informed and confident about your child's Reception year.
- ▶ Opportunity for you to ask and have any general questions or queries answered.

If you have any questions after today, you can email the team on:

ReceptionIntake@lanternprimary.org

Our Reception Team



Mrs Susie Jones
Class Teacher - Owls



Mrs Kate Suswain
Class Teacher - Kingfishers



Miss Rosie Childs
Class Teacher - Kingfishers



Mrs Claire Bausor
Teaching Assistant



Miss Clare Whitehand
Teaching Assistant

Our Reception Team

Wider School Community

Mr Chris Axten-Higgs - Headteacher

Mr Thomas Ritson - Assistant Headteacher

Mrs Joanne Clarke - Assistant Headteacher and SENCO

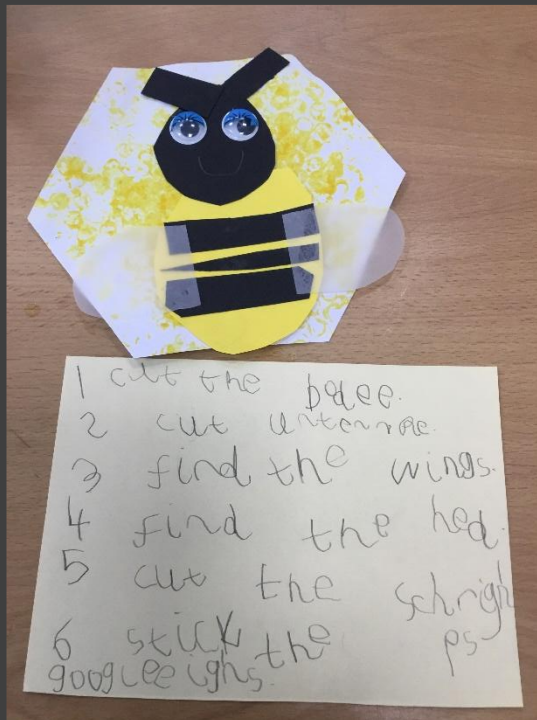
Mrs Nichole Francis - School Office Manager

Mrs Becky Frewin & Mrs Sadie Phillips- Academy Council

Miss Tamzin O'Keefe - Stay and Play Lead

Mrs Sarah Foster- School Cook

FOTLS representatives- Fantastic fundraising team of parents



- ▶ Welcome to Lantern Reception 2026.
- ▶ This is an important, exciting and sometimes daunting time.
- ▶ We are an experienced team of practitioners and we are happy and excited to be working with you and your family.
- ▶ We want your child to be happy and you to be relaxed about them joining our school.
- ▶ We believe in building a firm and strong partnership with parents.

Communication

Communication with parents is very important to us. Please stay in contact with us, leave us messages in the **Home - School Communication book** which you will be given in September. A member of the EYFS team will be available at the classroom door every morning, meeting and greeting children and parents. Please do talk to us to pass on any quick messages. Longer and more detailed conversations will need to be arranged at another suitable time or may need to be via telephone.

- ▶ **Tapestry- Online journal for sharing observations and photos of your child's learning.** In September, you will be asked to sign up and be able to access your child's observations and learning experiences. One parent has described it "like looking through the keyhole into my child's time at school." We will capture and share 'wow' moments.
- ▶ **Lantern Link** - this includes a round-up of the week's learning in both Reception and across the school, any upcoming dates/events. Sent via My Child at School (MCAS) every Friday.
- ▶ **Regular whole school My Child at School (MCAS) messages**
- ▶ **School website**
- ▶ **Parent/teacher consultations-** Autumn and Spring term.
- ▶ **School report** - Summer term.



Classes



We have 2 Reception classes **Owls** and **Kingfishers**.

The classes need to be balanced between gender, age and needs of the children. We have taken into consideration what your child's current settings have told us and tried to group them accordingly. The children may not be with their best friend, but we try to ensure that they are with some children that they know. Now that our classes are interlinked by the shared bathrooms in between, they will also have lots of **opportunities to mix with children in the other class** during exploring and learning time. They will also mix in our shared outside space.

We would encourage you to help your child prepare for this and present it in a positive way.

Please note: Following GDPR we **cannot provide class lists** for parents.

Please note: the Reception classes, along with the rest of the classes in the school may be changed each year.

All About Me Booklet

There is an 'All About Me' booklet along with other items of information in your packs this evening. Please complete it with your child and bring into school when you come for your class visit session. If you'd like to send it in sooner, please send by post to our school office addressed to Mrs Jones or The Reception Team.



- ▶ Your child will learn lots of new knowledge and skills during their first year in school. Happy, engaged and settled children learn best. You can help by ensuring your child has:
- ▶ **Good communication**-talking, stories, songs and rhymes. Introduce a bedtime story if you haven't already. Help your children to be able to approach school adults and ask for help if needed.
- ▶ **Friendships**- try to maintain contact, if possible, with anyone you know who is joining us in Reception too.
- ▶ **Independence**- encourage your child to do things for themselves wherever possible. Allow time for mistakes, practice and patience!

School Book Bag and School Readiness Activities







Class visit to Owls or Kingfishers



Visits to school will take place in the morning and afternoon on Thursday 3rd September and Friday 4th September.

There will be 15 spaces available on each day. You only need to book in for one visit.

You can sign up for a visit during this welcome meeting.

This will be a chance to visit your child's classroom again and meet the Reception team on an individual basis. You will also be able to discuss any changes that may have occurred over the summer.

School visits and staggered settling in

Staggered to help children get used to new environment, new children and grown-ups.

Time for all children to experience being in a smaller group.

Quick to minimise the disruption to your lives.

All parents have received detailed information about how we will stagger the children's start. A paper copy is also in your pack.

School is very different to nursery/pre-school and there are lots of new elements to starting school. We stagger the start to make it as easy as we possibly can for the children and their families.

Tuesday 1st September Wednesday 2nd September	Training days for staff (school is closed)	
Thursday 3rd September (between 9.00 and 3:30pm)	Class visits	A very informal short visit for you to meet your child's Teacher and Teaching Assistant and ask any questions you may have. You can sign up for a 15-minute visit when you come to the information meeting.
Friday 4th September (between 9.00 and 3:30pm)	Class visits	
Monday 7th September	Group A 8.50am-11.50pm	Children with birthdays within September to December.
	Group B 8.50am-11.50am	Children with birthdays within January to April.
	Group C 1:00pm-3:30pm	Children with birthdays within May to August.
Tuesday 8th September	Group A 8.50am-12.20pm staying for lunch (Please bring a packed lunch)	Children with birthdays within September to December.
	Group B 8.50am-11.50am	Children with birthdays within January to April.
	Group C 1:00pm-3:30pm	Children with birthdays within May to August.

Wednesday 9th September	Group A 8:50am-3:30pm (Please bring a packed lunch) Group B 8.50am-12.20pm staying for lunch (Please bring a packed lunch) Group C 1:00pm-3:30pm
Thursday 10th September	Group A 8:50am-3:30pm (Please bring a packed lunch) Group B 8.50am-12.20pm staying for lunch (Please bring a packed lunch) Group C 8:50am-11:50am
Friday 11th September	Group A 8:50am-3:30pm (Please bring a packed lunch) Group B 8:50am-3:30pm (Please bring a packed lunch) Group C 8:50am-12.20pm staying for lunch (Please bring a packed lunch)
Monday 14th September	All groups in full time 8:50am-3:30pm.

EYFS Framework

Recent changes to the Framework have focused on reducing workload, observation collection and recording of activities.

There is a focus on interactions with the children and giving staff time to do this.

We will continue to use Tapestry as our online journal, and you will be asked to sign up for this. We will be capturing the wow moments of your child's learning.

Our day is busy and varied and changes constantly as we respond to the demands of the EYFS curriculum and the needs of our children. There is no such thing as a typical day, but the following will give you some idea how it runs:

Registration and adult led carpet input

Explore and learn time

Snack Time

Adult led carpet input

Explore and learn time and get ready for lunch

Registration and adult led carpet input

Explore and learning time

Tidy up time

Milk - cool milk

Story and get ready for home time

During our explore and learning time:

Equal access to outdoor learning environment-large scale play, physical activities for gross motor development

All areas of curriculum areas are covered.

Time for children to make relationships-negotiate, take turns, build resilience, take appropriate risks.

Adults observe and support the children as needed.

Phonics teaching



We use the Little Wandle Phonics scheme.

We will introduce this during the first week the children are **all in full time** in the autumn term.

In preparation help your child to:

- Recognise rhymes, name rhyming words
- Know the initial sound in their name and name other words that start with that sound.
- Read rhyming stories to them.
- Clap rhythms and beats, sing songs and rhymes.

Messy play

- Encourages creativity
- Allows PSED skills-turn taking, decision making
- Develops gross and fine motor skills
- It's fun
- It engages children
- Allows teaching of key skills in a fun way
- Allows children to explore and consolidate skills
- Encourages independence
- Pen marks from trying to develop writing skills
- Food stains from trying to be independent



Baseline Assessment

- Statutory Government baseline assessment for Reception children upon entry to Reception.
- It allows us to gain information about each child's starting point on entry into school.
- It involves practical activities carried out with the teacher on a one-to-one basis and it is valuable for the staff to spend time getting to know the children as they join.

- ▶ School lunches are available. Bookable online and must be booked in advance. More information will be emailed to you.
- ▶ You can provide a packed lunch or do a combination of both.
- ▶ Reception children are entitled to a Government funded Infant Free School Meal, but this must still be booked following the school's guidance.
- ▶ Children eat in the hall. Food is served already on a plate when they enter the hall. Midday supervisors are in the hall and for the first few weeks Reception staff stay with the children until they are settled.
- ▶ The children go outside to play whilst under the supervision of a designated Midday supervisor.

Lunchtimes

Autumn - Winter 2024		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK ONE						
02/09/2024 23/09/2024 14/10/2024 04/11/2024 24/11/2024 14/12/2024	Option One	NEW Vegetable Stack with Rice	Penne Bolognese	Sausages, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	YAMASI Greek Chicken Pita with Rice, Tzatziki & Salad or Cheese Whiz with Rice, Tzatziki & Salad	Fishfingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce
	Option Two	Cheese & Tomato Pizza with Pasta Salad	Vegan Penne Bolognese	Vegan Sausages, Roast Potatoes & Gravy		BBQ Quorn with Chips
	Vegetables	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day
	Dessert	Freshly Chopped Fruit Salad	Apple Crumble with Ice Cream	NEW Berry Mousse	Iced Vanilla Sponge	Vanilla Shortbread
WEEK TWO						
09/09/2024 30/09/2024 21/10/2024 11/11/2024 02/12/2024	Option One	Pasta Kitchen Tomato Pasta or Carbonara Pasta with Toppings	Burger with Potato Wedges & Tomato Sauce	Roast Chicken, Stuffing, Roast Potatoes, & Gravy	Beef Lasagne with Garlic Bread	Fishfingers or Salmon Fishfingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce
	Option Two		Vegan Burger with Potato Wedges & Tomato Sauce	Vegetable Wellington, Stuffing, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Vegetable Curry with Rice	NEW Vegan Sausage Roll with Chips & Tomato Sauce
	Vegetables	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day
	Dessert	NEW Chocolate Brownie	NEW Iced Biscuit	Fruit Medley	Jelly with Mandarins	Oaty Cookie
WEEK THREE						
14/09/2024 07/10/2024 28/10/2024 18/11/2024 09/12/2024	Option One	NEW All-Day Vegetarian Breakfast	Fiesta Espanol	Roast Gammon, New Potatoes or Mashed Potatoes & Gravy	NEW Chicken Fajitas with Rice	Fishfingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce
	Option Two	Vegan Chili with Rice	Chicken Paella with Potatoes Bravas or Veggie Meatballs with Potatoes Bravas	Pannip & Sweet Potato Loaf with New Potatoes or Mashed Potatoes & Gravy	Macaroni Cheese	Cheese & Bean Pasty with Chips
	Vegetables	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day
	Dessert	Fruit with Ice Cream	Syrup Snap Biscuit	Fruit Platter	Chocolate Shortbread	Summer Lemon Cake
MENU KEY		Added Plant Power Wholemeal Vegan Chef's Special				
Available Daily: - Freshly cooked jacket potatoes with a choice of fillings - Bread freshly baked on site daily- Daily salad selection		ALLERGY INFORMATION: If you would like to know about particular allergens in foods please ask a member of the catering team for information. If your child has a school lunch and has a food allergy or intolerance you will be asked to complete a form to ensure we have the necessary information to cater for your child. We use a large variety of ingredients in the preparation of our meals and due to the nature of our kitchens it is not possible to completely remove the risk of allergen cross contact.				
		caterlink feeding the imagination				

General information

Water bottles - please
bring daily

Home-School
communication book
will be given to all
children in September-
please bring daily

A book bag is best to
fit in your child's
drawer - please bring
daily

Please let us know
your child's weekly
going home
arrangements

Please tell us if
someone different is
collecting your child

Children enter and
leave the school in the
morning through their
classroom outer door

Please label all
clothes/equipment.

If you have any queries before your child starts school, there is an email for a direct communication with The Reception team:

receptionintake@lanternprimary.org

This will be checked regularly before the summer holidays and in the first few weeks in September but please do allow time for a response.

Any admin or urgent enquiries should be directed to the school office.

Thank you for joining us this evening.

Please sign up for a class visit and show Mrs Francis your child's birth certificate.

Reminder of the email to contact the Reception team on:

ReceptionIntake@lanternprimary.org

Main office: office@lanternprimary.org