



Autumn Term 2026



Welcome to Reception

Welcome to Reception! We are very much looking forward to getting to know both the children and yourselves over this next term. At the start of each half term term, we will provide you with these overviews to share the upcoming learning and events your child will experience in Reception. We will also email our weekly learning overview, which will share our phonics focus for the week and any 'Wow Words' that we have been sharing in class.

Our First Half Term

During our first half term at school, we will spend lots of time helping the children settle into school life. We will get to know our rules and routines, make new friends and build positive relationships with staff and the other children in Reception.

To support the children with their transition into school, our first topics will focus on **Kindness** and **What Makes Us Special**. We will explore what makes each of us unique and special, and how kindness can be our very own superpower. We will use a range of key texts to support the children as they settle in, develop friendships and learn strategies to manage their emotions and behaviour.

As the half term progresses, we will develop our learning through the theme of **Superheroes**. Towards the end of the half term, we will explore **Autumn** and learn about **hibernation**, discovering how animals prepare for the changing seasons.

Throughout our first half term, we will also be teaching the children about our three school rules. At Eastfield, we are:

- **Kind**
- **Calm**
- **Co-operative**

Being Prepared

Please can we ask that all children are provided with a spare change of clothes, including socks, underwear, top and trousers/skirt/dress.

Having a set of their own clothes, helps the children to feel comfortable if they have a toilet accident or get wet and muddy in the garden. Please can we also remind everyone to **label all clothing** that is coming into school, including spare clothes. Many of the children wear very similar uniform and having their names on their clothing make it much easier for us to be able to return items to the correct child. We would also like to encourage all children to bring in a named water bottle to help them access drinks throughout the day.

Please note that we strongly encourage children not to bring in any other items such as toys from home.

Our Garden

Outdoor learning is highly valued here at Eastfield. Children in Reception have access to our garden during their self-initiated learning time everyday. All the activities set up in the garden help to develop the children's learning across our curriculum. Please remember to bring in wellies and a coat for your child as we can access the garden no matter what the weather is doing. You are also more than welcome to send in waterproof trousers for those extra rainy days.

At drop off and collection times, we ask that the children do not use the equipment around the garden, especially items such as the bikes. It can get extremely busy during these times and we need to ensure that pathways and walk ways are clear for families to move around safely. At the beginning of the day, many of the activities are set up ready for us to introduce to the children and at the end of the day much of the equipment will be packed away to protect it from the weather. We are more than happy for children to access the wooden climbing frame and swing for a short time, whilst they are waiting.

Information Sessions/Cafes

Throughout the year, we will be providing our Early Years parents and carers with other information sessions and cafes, all linked to different areas of the curriculum. Our information sessions are aimed at our parents and carers, providing key information about important aspects of your child's schooling.

During our information cafes, we welcome parents and carers to join us in the hall for a hot drink and biscuits and our Early Years Lead will share information on how we approach key curriculum areas and how you might be able to support at home. Further into the year, your child is then invited into the hall to join you, where you will both be able to take part in some focused activities and games.

On Wednesday 16th September at 9am, we would like to invite our Reception parents to our 'Phonics Café'.

We will then have a 'Life in Early Years/Online Safety' information session on Tuesday 29th September at 6:30pm.

Stay and Learn Sessions

Following on from a parent/carer information session, we often run a Stay and Learn session. This is where parents and carers are invited into Rabbit and Squirrel class to join in with activities. These activities are based on what was covered during the information session. Activities are set up across the classroom and adults can sit with the children, play games, read books and share the activities set out.

Our first Stay and Learn session will be on Tuesday 22nd September at 2:30pm. This will be a phonics stay and learn session, where you will be able to join in with phonics based activities and games.

Reception Baseline Assessment

For the last few years, the government have asked all schools to deliver the Reception Baseline Assessment. This has to be carried out during the children's first 6 weeks of schooling and so we will be administering these over this half term, when we feel your child has settled into school. The children work with their class teacher and we ask them some questions relating to maths, literacy and language. The children see these activities as games. These assessments are then referred back to at the end of year 6 to help build a picture of their progress. Due to schools not receiving any formal feedback on each child's assessment, we continue to work closely with your child to help us build a picture of them as a whole and know where each child needs to move with their learning.

Key Dates

Thursday 10th September - Reception begin full time

Friday 18th September - Jeans for Genes day

Tuesday 29th September - Individual Photographs

Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th October - Parents evening

Thursday 22nd October - Art Around the World Day

Wednesday 16th September, 9am - Reception Phonics information session.

Tuesday 22nd September, 2:30pm - Phonics Stay and Learn session

Tuesday 29th September, 6:30pm - Life in Early Years/Online safety

Friday 16th October - EYFS Baking Day

Friday 23rd October - Inset Day

<u>Personal, Social and Emotional Development</u> During the first half term we will be learning all about our school rules and routines like how we have lunch and what to do on the playground. Kindness will be a main theme across this half term and we will be spending time getting to know our classmates, making friends and developing our understanding of turn taking.	<u>Physical Development</u> We will spend some time working on our gross and fine motor skills to help us be ready to develop our letter formation. We will take part in activities that include scissors, nuts and bolts, threading, using pegs and mark making tools to help build up our muscles in our hands and arms. In our garden, we will also have climbing, balancing and co-ordination activities such as stepping stones, large construction and sports equipment.	<u>Communication and Language</u> During our first half term in Reception, we will spend lots of time working on taking turns to talk and learning how to listen well. We will be encouraging children to talk to each other during their learning to explain what they are doing and then to listen to what their peer has to say and respond appropriately.
<u>Literacy</u> We will begin our phonics and literacy sessions during this half term. Our first phonics sessions will help to develop our listening skills to ensure we are ready and able to hear individual sounds and sounds in words. We will then begin learning our Phase 2 sounds. During our Literacy sessions we will be reading books based around the topic for that week. We will be thinking about how stories are structured, predicting what might happen and discussing how characters are feeling and why. We will also support the children in knowing that we can all be writers and that the marks we make are valued.	<u>Mathematics</u> Reception children will have a mathematics session every day. We will start by looking at the number system. We will do lots of counting forwards and backwards, recognising numerals and beginning to order them. We will also begin investigating different 2D shapes, naming them and start to look at some of their simple properties.	<u>Understanding the world</u> Within our topic, we will investigate all about ourselves, thinking about what makes us special, our senses and what we can and can't do yet. We will learn about what parts of our bodies do i.e. eyes, legs, arms and how we can stay healthy. Towards the end of this half term, we will learn about the seasons and how we are moving into the season of Autumn. We will find out what happens in nature during this season and the reason why some animals hibernate.
<u>Expressive Art and Design</u> In this half term we will start by learning how to access the paints, what we can use to make marks and what materials and media we can use to make different things. We will explore the construction areas both inside and out and find out how we can connect and combine different mediums. To link in with our 'I wonder what makes us super' topic, Reception children will look carefully at themselves and make portraits of themselves and their friends.		