



HOLLICKWOOD

school

The Early Years
Foundation Stage
Booklet
Reception
2024-25

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to offer you the warmest welcome to Hollickwood Primary School and especially to the Early Years Foundation Stage. I hope your child's first days here will be the beginning of a long and happy time with our school. This will be the start of our educational partnership together with you and your child.

We believe active learning is the best learning. The wide variety of experiences is carefully planned to help all the children explore and learn, interact with each other, develop self-confidence and co-operate.

We need you to be active in your child's school experience and to be a partner in the learning journey. We always welcome your help and will encourage your participation along the way.

Please take your time to read this booklet carefully as it will provide you with lots of useful information to help you as you get to know the school routines and develop your partnership with our staff.

Wishing you many happy and successful years ahead together.

Yours Sincerely,
The EYFS Team

The Curriculum

We aim to work together with you and follow the principles of The Early Years Foundation Stage 2021 (EYFS) in Nursery and Reception. Through this curriculum we provide quality and consistency so that, every child makes good progress and has a secure foundation of learning. The partnership between practitioners and parents through equality of opportunity are central to this success.

We use the seven areas of learning and development in the curriculum, incorporating the Characteristics of Effective Learning (playing and exploring, active learning and creating and thinking critically) to provide high quality first hand experiences and play so that, children can reach their potential and grow in a happy, stimulating and supportive community. We provide a calm and secure environment where a positive attitude is encouraged and children are enabled to learn life long skills and independence.

The seven areas of learning and development are:

Prime areas

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

Specific areas

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

Equal Opportunities

All our children have access to the curriculum regardless of their race, gender, cultural or ethnic background. We are totally opposed to racism, bullying and we avoid any stereotyping. Copies of school policies relating to equal opportunities are available on our website.

Reception Classes

We have one class of up to 30 pupils in Reception who are able to enjoy their learning together in the inside and outside environment. Each class has a Teacher and an Learning Support Assistant. The children free-flow between both classrooms and the outside area to play and learn. We provide a range of first hand experiences to explore, ask questions, talk, listen, turn take and share. Each child has individual needs and each child will follow their unique pathway to learning. Children are helped to assess risks and know how to manage them in different situations.

Arrival, Attendance and Home time

Our day begins between 8:30-8:50am when you will say goodbye to your child and they will come inside to hang up their coats, put their lunch bags on the

trolley and their book bags in their house group box. No child should be left unattended in the playground.

It is important that you arrive on time each day. You should also be on time to collect your child at 3:15pm, however if you are running late you must telephone the school so that we can reassure your child. If someone new is coming to collect your child please tell us beforehand or telephone the school. We will not let your child go with someone we do not know about in advance.

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| Arrival | 8:30-8:50am | Your child will come straight into the Reception building, and their classroom |
| Home time | 3:15pm | Please wait outside the Reception building in the early year's playground. Your class will be dismissed from the main door. When staff can see you they will call your child to go to you. Please do not call your child to you. |

See separate settling in dates and times for September.

Birthdays

We like to celebrate all children's birthdays at school. Children often bring in fruit or individual packets of raisins to share in class. Individual sweet packets will only be shared out and taken home at the end of the school day.

Please note that some children will not be able to have products that contain gelatine and we will not be able to give out sweets containing nuts. Alternatively, you may wish to donate a favourite story book to your child's class.

If your child has any allergies or food intolerances, you can provide some suitable alternatives which we can keep at school, and give them in place of a birthday sweet when it is not appropriate.

Book bags

Your child needs to bring their book bag to school every day with their books and reading diaries inside. They will bring home a free choice book from our book corner each week, and a phonics reading book when appropriate.

Extended Day

We have a breakfast club and afterschool club available from 7.30 am until 6pm. Please speak to the office for more information.

Homework

Each week we will send home the phonics that has been taught at school for you to follow up and support your child with. In addition, they will take home a writing task to complete and return the following week.

We will be holding meetings about supporting your child with phonics, reading and writing in the Autumn term.

Lunch

We encourage healthy eating and are a nut aware school so no nuts, chocolate spread, peanut butter, chocolates, sweets or fizzy drinks please. *As of September 2014 all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are eligible for free school meals. Menus are available from the school office.*

Medicine, Feeling Unwell and First Aid

- Please telephone the school to tell us if your child is unwell and will not be coming to school.
- If your child is unwell at school, we will contact you so that you can collect them.
- If your child has a high temperature, they should stay at home.
- Diarrhoea and vomiting – Children can return 48 hours after diarrhoea and vomiting have stopped.
- Further information can be found at 'Is my child too ill for school?' - <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

If your child requires any first aid or medical attention, they will take home a first aid letter at the end of the day. You will only receive a phone call if your child has bumped their head or needs to be collected from school.

Medicine (both prescription and non-prescription) can only be administered to a child where written permission for that particular medicine has been obtained. You must complete a medical form at the main office and hand them the medication.

Asthma pumps and EpiPens should be given to staff in a labelled tupperware container with your child's full name, date of birth and photograph on the front, and a completed medical form.

Please make sure we have your correct contact details in case of emergencies.

Milk, Fruit and Water

Your child is entitled to free fruit each day which will be available throughout the school day at the snack table along with a jug of water. They are also entitled to free milk up to their 5th birthday. If your child is allergic to cow's milk, you may provide your milk of choice in a named carton (no nut milk e.g. almond or cashew.)

We also welcome any donations of fruit, vegetables, bread and other healthy snacks for our snack table.

You will need to provide a refillable named water bottle for your child each day.

Parent/Carer meetings

Parent/Carer meetings are held each term where you will be invited to meet with the staff working with your child to discuss their achievements and next steps. We are also available throughout the term to meet with you more informally.

Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

We look forward to working with you and hope you will take an active part in our school life. The Parents and Teachers Association organise many successful and exciting events throughout the year and are always looking for new members. If you are interested in joining the PTA please ask for more information at the office.

Phonics

Through the programme of Essential Letters and Sounds the children will learn the graphemes (letter shapes) and phonemes (letter sounds) of English. This will start in the Autumn term, once the children are well settled into school. They will be provided with daily phonics sessions, so they soon learn how letters help them to read and write. Each week we will send home the phonics that has been taught at school for you to support your child to practise including some high frequency words and sentences to read and being to write.

Physical Education

Once they are in full time, the children will begin PE. Please help your child to be as independent as possible by encouraging them to get dressed/undressed independently, including having a go at doing and undoing buttons.

A full PE kit includes navy blue shorts, white t-shirt, plain black tracksuit bottoms, plain black tracksuit top and a pair of black or white trainers (with a velcro fastening). Please name all items of clothing.

Your child will need to come into school wearing their PE kit on their PE day (we will let you know when this will be).

Reading

We encourage children to develop a love of books and other reading materials in lots of ways, including enjoying books with you at bedtime. Each week we will change your child's free choice book with them. After we have begun to learn phonics, we will also send home a book that your child will begin to read to you. These books need to be kept in your child's book bag, and will be changed by a member of staff each week. You will be reading with your child daily; however, we do not insist that you write a comment in their diary each day. Please ensure that you have written at least one comment in your child's reading diary each week.

Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA)

The RBA is a short, interactive and practical assessment of your child's early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills when they begin school, using materials that most children of your child's age will be familiar

with. It became statutory for all schools from September 2021. The RBA is not about judging or labelling your child or putting them under any pressure. Your child cannot 'pass' or 'fail' the assessment. Its main purpose is to create a starting point to measure the progress schools make with their pupils. The data from the assessment will only be used by the Department for Education when your child has reached the end of year 6, to provide the baseline to measure the progress of your child's year group from reception to year 6.

More information can be found here '*Reception baseline assessment: information for parents*' <https://tinyurl.com/5bv8cpf5>

Wellington boots - Your child will need a pair of named wellington boots in a named bag to keep at school so that they can go outside in all weathers.

Spare clothes – Please provide a full set of spare clothes for your child, including a spare sets of pants/knickers and socks in their bag. This should be in a named bag on their peg. Should your child need to get changed during the school day they can change into their spare clothes. Please make sure their clothes are replenished as soon as possible if worn home.

Please ensure that all items of clothing, including coats, shoes and wellington boots are clearly marked with your child's name.

Working Together

Our partnership with you is vital and you can help in lots of ways:

- Ensure your child attends daily and on time with the correct named clothing and equipment.
- Provide a refillable named water bottle for your child.
- Complete weekly phonics follow up tasks at home with your child and support them with their writing homework.
- Connect to the class dojo page and check updates and learning information every Friday.
- Read to your child regularly and support them to read to you everyday (once taking reading books home), and write a comment in their reading diary each week.
- Talk to a member of staff if you have any questions or concerns as we are here to help and support you.