



Welcome to Reception
2021-2022



Dear Parents/Carers,

We look forward to warmly welcoming you and your child to Ernesettle Community School. Our aim is to promote that every child is unique, resilient, confident, and a self-assured learner.

As your child begins their school life at Ernesettle Community School, this booklet will provide you with lots of information regarding their start with us in September; as well as many other useful pieces of information that might be useful throughout your child's first year in education. Please keep it as a reference booklet until you are familiar with our school routines. We look forward to working with you and your child, helping them to thrive.



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Our School Day:

Reception classroom doors will open at **8.30am** and close at **8.50pm** in order to start registration.

During this time the children will come into the classroom and start their 'Early Morning Learning'. This will also give you the opportunity to talk to the class teacher and share any 'WOW' learning that your child has completed at home. All children, with the help of their Parent/Carer will choose their lunch from the choices provided for that day. After this, they will settle straight into an activity that has been provided for them that morning. Please bring and collect your child promptly, as punctuality aids the smooth running of classes.

Please collect your child from the Early Years Playground at **3.10pm**.

During the course of the day we will take part in a variety of activities including adult led sessions such as Phonics, Maths and PE, and also child-initiated learning where your child will learn through play, alongside their friends. A typical day in Reception can be found below:

8.30-8.50 – Early Morning Learning.

8.50-9.00 – Registration and lunch selection.

9.00-9.30 – Phonics.

9.30-9.45 – Plan, Do and Review.

9.45-11.15 – Independent Learning Time and Snack Time (this is where the children choose their own learning through play).

11.15-11.45 – Storytime, Makaton and Lunch Preparation.

11.45-12.45 – Lunch Time.

12.45-1.00 – Afternoon Registration.

1.00-1.15 – Tooth Brushing.

1.15-1.45 – Mathematics.

1.45-2.30 – Independent Learning Time and Snack Time.

2.30-2.50 – Circle Time/SMSC.

2.50-3.10 – Storytime and Home Preparations.

Throughout both Independent Learning (IL) Sessions, the children will have access to water, milk and fresh fruit or vegetables for snack. Throughout IL, we open all classroom doors, where children can move freely between the three indoor classrooms and one outdoor classroom. This provides an opportunity for children to explore all learning environments, play with a variety of children and work with all members of the EYFS team.

Lunchtime:

All children in Reception are entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals following the Governments incentive scheme, where they aim to provide all children in Reception, Year One and Year Two will a hot meal, each day. Our school dinners are of a high standard and we encourage children to have them. Each day, they will be able to choose from three hot choices and one sandwich option. At lunchtime, the children are taken into the hall and seated. The Early Years staff make sure that children are happy and settled and model expectations for a dinner table. Playworkers are on hand to help the children whilst they are eating and then to supervise play in the playground. Year 6 buddies also help and play with the children in the playground.



Should you wish your child to have a packed lunch, please bring it in a clearly named box. We are a healthy school, therefore please refrain from including sweets, chocolates, and fizzy drinks. Additionally, please send your child to school with a drinking bottle which has been clearly named so that they can have access to a drink throughout the day; we recommend water.

Physical Education:

Physical Education is taught for one hour a week. When your child starts with us in September, they will be assigned a team colour for PE, which will be either Red, Blue, Yellow or Green. Please note, if your child already has siblings in the school, they will be assigned to the same colour team. After your child has been allocated a team, they will be issued a complimentary free PE Kit. This will include an Ernesettle coloured PE top, shorts and bag to store it in. Your child will need to bring their PE kit in to school ready for their lesson, along with some suitable trainers or pumps.



School Uniform:

At Ernesettle Community School, we encourage our children to be well-dressed and take pride in their appearance. Therefore, our school uniform is as follows:

- *Black or grey trousers, skirt or pinafore.*
- *White blouse, shirt or polo shirt.*
- *Ernesettle Community School jumper or cardigan.*
- *Black, smart school shoes (not trainers).*

Please ensure that everything is named to prevent any confusion or lost items.



You can buy the jumpers, cardigans and polo tops with the school logo on from price-buckland.com, a company that takes orders over the phone or internet and delivers them to school or home.

Other Information:

Accidents / Illness in School

Should your child become ill in school you will be contacted. Please ensure that your telephone numbers are up to date. If your child has an injury during the day, staff are trained to administer first aid and contact you if necessary. All head bumps will require a courtesy call home so that you are well informed.

Lateness

We consider it important to be punctual, but where this is unavoidable, lateness is preferable to absence. Kindly inform the school office if your child is going to be late.

School Absence

Please contact the office as soon as you are aware that your child will not be attending, so the absence can be recorded in the register.



Dental / Medical Appointments

Please try to avoid dental or medical appointments during school hours. If this is unavoidable, please inform the office in advance.

Medical needs or Medicine

We are happy to administer medicines as long as the appropriate paperwork has been filled out and handed in at the main office. All medicines and prescriptions need to be properly labelled and in date.

Breakfast and Afterschool Club

Breakfast Club & After School Club continue to be available five days a week providing childcare from **7.30am until 6.00pm** for children in Reception through to Year Six. Upon joining the school, you will have access to our online booking system, Parentpay so that you can book your child in to Breakfast Club or Afterschool club. **Breakfast Club costs £2 per day with After School Club costing £2 for 3.15pm-4.30pm and £5 for 3.15pm – 6.00pm.**

Extra-Curricular Clubs

At Ernesettle Community School, we offer a number of extra-curricular clubs for children in Reception through to Year Six. There are a variety of clubs to suit the interests of many children which take place both at lunch time and after school until 4.15pm.

Early Years Curriculum Overview:

The EYFS Profile summarises and describes children's attainment at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage. It is based on ongoing observation and assessment in the three prime and four specific areas of learning, and the three learning characteristics, set out below:

The prime areas of learning:

- Communication and Language (CL)
- Physical Development (PD)
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

The specific areas of learning:

- Literacy (L)
- Mathematics (M)
- Understanding of the world (UW)
- Expressive arts and design (EAD)



In Reception, we have three indoor and one outdoor classroom which have been carefully planned and well organised so that all children are able to access learning in all areas of the Early Years Curriculum, regardless of their starting points. For most of the day, all classroom doors remain open so that the children will have access to all learning environments and will be able to socialise with all children in Reception. Each of the classrooms contain a range of learning areas for the children to access and come equipped with rich and engaging resources, which encourage and support open ended play.



Through careful assessments and observations, including information provided by Parents/Carers and other settings, children’s development levels are assessed. The balance will shift towards a more equal focus on all areas of learning as children grow in confidence and ability within the three prime areas. However, if a child’s progress in any prime area gives cause for concern, staff will discuss this with the child’s Parents/Carers and agree how to support the child further.

Learning Journals - All observations are recorded in your child’s personal, online learning journey which can be accessed via Tapestry. Samples of your child’s work and photos are collected by staff and will be annotated against the development matters to show the progress your child has made. Children learn best when there is a strong partnership between home and school and when Parents/Carers and staff share their knowledge and skills. It is very important therefore for Parents/Carers to contribute to their child’s Learning Journal, about significant developments at home and there will be many opportunities for this.

Reception Termly Topics:

Term One	Do You Want to be Friends?
Term Two	What Can You See in Autumn?
Term Three	Why Don’t Snakes Have Legs?
Term Four	Can I Tell You a Story?
Term Five	Why Do Zebras Have Stripes?
Term Six	How Does a Sunflower Grow?

Trips and Visitors:

We enrich the learning in class by providing opportunity for trips and visits. These are excellent learning opportunities for the children. We invite Parent/Carers to accompany us by volunteering to help. Therefore, during Reception, your child will have the opportunity to visit Paignton Zoo, The Butterfly Sanctuary, as well as many local walks including the Post Office, Budshead Woods and St. Aidens Church. In addition to this, throughout the year, we will invite many visitors into the classroom including the Police, Livewell, Cats Protection and a very exciting Storyteller. We have lots to look forward to!





School Readiness Top Tips:

As Parents/Carers, we recognise and value that you are your child's first educators and so you play a vital role in the education of your child. As the time for school approaches, there are ways in which you can help prepare and support your child ahead of their start with us. Please see below, a few suggestions:

- Help your child to look after their own belongings, i.e. putting their toys away once they have finished playing.
- Promote independence by encouraging your child to dress themselves, recognise their name on clothing and to eat with a knife and fork.
- Ensure your child is toilet trained and able to access the toilet independently.
- Be positive about starting school (hide any of your own worries or fears – we appreciate this can be difficult).
- Play games together e.g. Eye Spy, Snakes and Ladders, Snap, and jigsaws.
- Read aloud to your child as often as possible, encouraging them to answer questions based on the story.
- Inform the school of any health, social or emotional problems.
- When practising spelling your child's name please encourage them to use lower case letters (except for the starting letter).
- Help to get them excited about school by talking about all the wonderful things they have to look forward to such as meeting new friends, new and exciting learning, amazing trips and visitors and lots of fun every single day!

Frequently Asked Questions:

How are toileting facilities arranged?

Children may go to the toilet at any time. There are toilets in the classrooms, which your child will be shown. Children are encouraged to be independent and to develop a sense of personal hygiene. Staff are always on hand to assist with difficult trousers or tights and can assist with toileting where necessary.

Can my child bring their own toys to school?

We have plenty of toys and learning equipment in the Reception classrooms. Therefore, we ask that your child does not bring any of their own toys to school as they may get lost or damaged. Every term, your child will have the chance to bring in a toy or something special from home for their Show and Tell, though this will be explained in more detail nearer the time.

Will my child be able to socialise with children in the other classes?

Yes, our classrooms are designed to be shared and enjoyed by all. During independent learning time, all doors are opened to enable free play across all areas of the Reception Unit.

Will my child need to complete homework?

At Ernesettle Community School, home learning is issued every Friday and returned by the following Friday. In Reception, these home learning activities are fun, practical activities that involve the whole family. For example, activities may include an autumnal walk, collages, cutting and sticking activities as well as baking! They are designed to be an extension of the learning that takes place in class in a fun and engaging way.



Do I need to supply spare clothes?

As a lot of learning is done outside in all weathers and can be messy, yes, a change of clothes is necessary please, e.g. School trousers/skirt, polo shirt, underpants, and socks and ideally a spare pair of shoes or plimsolls. These items can be kept in a bag on your child's peg. We also recommend bringing in wellington boots to leave in school. Please ensure any additional items, including wellington boots have been named. We can supply some spare clothes, though it is always easier if your child has their own. Please always ensure your child has a waterproof coat in school. When it is cold, please also always ensure your child has a scarf, hat and gloves. Alternatively, when it is sunny please ensure they have a sun hat and are sent to school wearing sun cream.

Will my child be able to attend some transition session before they start?

Usually, in May, we write to you and invite your child to come along to several 'Stay and Play' sessions where they are able to become familiar with some of the children that will be in their class, their teacher and their new classrooms. However, due to the current COVID-19 situation and school closures, we do not yet have a date for these. We will contact you in due course when the situation has improved.

Will I be able to meet with my child's class teacher throughout the year?

Yes, Parent/Carer meetings are held twice a year, in October and February and they are a great opportunity to have a formal discussion about your child's progress. Additionally, Early Morning Learning is also a great opportunity for you to talk to your child's class teacher. Throughout the year, there will also be a number of opportunities where all teachers host an 'Open Evening' whereby you can drop in informally and discuss your child's progress with the class teacher.

How is reading taught in Reception?

Reading is taught daily in Reception through 30-minute Phonics sessions. During these sessions, your child will learn to recognise new sounds, develop the skills to segment and blend sounds in words to read and write them as well as improve their comprehension skills. At Ernesettle Community School, we follow a program called Letters and Sounds. We encourage the children to read widely and often, with a minimum of reading three times at home. All home reading books are matched directly to the sounds your child is learning in Phonics and are fully decodable so that they can improve their reading fluency. In September, your child will receive a wordless book so that they can practise inference, comprehension and their story telling skills. After the children begin to learn sounds, book containing simple text will be sent home.

