



Our Reception Unit

- We run our Reception as one unit where the children are able to access all areas throughout the day. We work very much as a team and all adults will be working with all children.
- The children will however be split into two registration groups, Ash and Oak, that will each have a designated teacher and teaching assistant. We will send you a letter towards the end of June stating who your child's designated teacher will be.
- This teacher will be responsible for monitoring your child's progress and will also be the person you must speak to if you have any queries or concerns about your child.

Our Reception Unit

- The children will learn through a mixture of whole class teaching, small adult led activities and also through their play.
- Whole class teaching includes Maths and English inputs, daily phonics sessions, handwriting, two PE lessons a week, ICT, PSED and Music and other lessons linked to our topic.
- Small adult led activities allow us to focus on children's individual needs ensuring they are making progress.
- The children get free play opportunities and can access activities both indoors and outdoors everyday.

Inside areas:

Book corner, writing/mark making area, maths area, construction area, small world area, role play, creative area

Outside areas:

Sand, water, role play, bikes, physical activities, tuff spot, creative area, numeracy area, reading area, writing boxes to use in other areas, climbing equipment.

The first few days...

- We understand the first few days of school are going to be an exciting yet emotional time for both the children and parents! We make every effort to ensure that this is a smooth transition for the children. However, you may find that your child is particularly tired in the evenings and their behaviour may be a little more unsettled at home due to the new routines they will be getting used to. This is normal!
- Please see your Welcome Letter for information on how we will run settling in sessions in the first week of September (WC 2nd September 2024). We will finalise these arrangements nearer the time.
- All Reception children will be in school full time from Tuesday 10th September. Currently, the gates open at 8.40am for Reception children and our pick up time is 3.20pm. We will communicate any changes as promptly as possible.
- We do encourage the children to come into the classroom on their own. Therefore, it would be helpful if you could say goodbye to your child at the gates and hand them in to the care of the Reception team. We will help the children put their things away and help them to develop independence with the morning routine. Don't worry, we will take extra special care of everyone, particularly those who are upset.

Communication between the school and parents

- You have been sent links to questionnaires that we ask you to complete with your child so we can get to know more about them, for example, their interests, dislikes, family etc. **Please ensure these are completed by Friday 17th May 2024.**
- We will be sending out a weekly newsletter to parents by e-mail (this can also be found on our class page on the website). This could include:
 - A summary of what the children have been learning in the previous week, in both adult led activities and their free play.
 - Information on what the children will be learning about that current week so that you can support your child's learning at home.
 - Show and Tell rotas.
 - Other important information and reminders, for example, if there is a special event happening that week at school.

Communication between the school and parents continued...

- Please feel free to note down any non-urgent concerns or queries you have in your child's reading record. There may be messages from us in there occasionally too.
- If you wish to speak to your child's designated teacher about your child, then after school is the best time. However, if it is urgent then please feel free to catch us in the mornings.
- There are opportunities throughout the term for you to find out how your child is getting on at school, including parents consultations, work share afternoons and reports.

Communication between the school and parents continued...

- We use Tapestry, an online learning journal, to help us record and assess the children's progress.
- You will receive a registration email and more details in this section of the website.
- If your child is already in Acorn, they will have an account set up. If not, we will be collecting parent's email addresses and assigning them a Tapestry log in.

Getting to know your child

- As well as finding out about your child through the questionnaire we are asking you to complete, we will be visiting your child's current nursery or pre-school to meet them. We also have a chat with your child's keyworker at their current setting to find out more about your child's interests, strengths and areas for development.
- We also have opportunities for your child to visit the school twice before they start:
 - **Friday 5th July - See the Welcome Letter for more information.** This is a short play based session for children only.
 - **Wednesday 12th July - Whole School Open Evening (more information to follow, book a slot).** This is an opportunity for you and your child to meet their new teacher and spend some time in the classroom and look around the whole school.

House Teams

- The children will be put into house teams when they start school. The four house teams and their corresponding colours are:

Hiz – Blue

Ivel – Green

Pix – Red

Purwell – Yellow

If you already have a child at the school, we will make sure that we put your child in the same team as their sibling.

- Children can earn 'team points' in school for positive behaviour and each week the points are added up across the whole school. The children will also participate in Sports Day and other activities in their house teams. Children will need to have the correct colour PE t-shirt depending on which team they are in. We will let you know which team your child will be in when we write to you to inform you which class your child will be in.

Supporting your child's learning at home

There are many ways that you will be able to support you child's learning at home, including:

- Daily reading
- Helping your child to practise their sounds and tricky words
- Fortnightly phonics and maths homework
- Games and activities on the weekly newsletter which are linked to the learning that is taking place in class that week
- Termly Star Challenges
- Regular parental contributions to Tapestry

We hope to restart our regular Parent Opportunities for parents and carers to come into class to see lessons and work with their child.

More Useful Information

Please see our Reception New Starter section on our website

<https://www.gothicmede.org.uk/newstarterssept> to find out more information on:

- Uniform
- School dinners and snack
- Tapestry (online Learning Journey)
- Parentmail (used for communication)
- Information on how we allocate classes
- School readiness information



And finally

- We are very much looking forward to meeting you and your child and getting to know you.
- We will provide you with lots more detailed information about day to day life in Reception when your child starts with us in September.
- Meanwhile, please feel free to contact the Reception Team if you have any questions or concerns
GMA-Office@bestacademies.org.uk