

We aim to provide children with a broad and balanced curriculum, covering seven areas of learning including :

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication & Language
- Physical development
- Mathematics
- Literacy
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

The children will learn through carefully planned teacher-led sessions as well as through structured play which is a key part of their learning. They will learn both inside the classroom and in our fantastic outdoor area where they can explore and extend their knowledge.



Starting in Reception



The first week will be staggered starts at school and you will be informed of your child's start date. You will meet with the class teacher prior to this at a home visit, this will give you the opportunity to share information about your child (red, book, 2 year check, interests etc.)

Throughout the year staff will observe and assess all children in Reception. The records of these will be kept in a learning journey. You will be invited throughout the year to contribute to your child's learning journey.

Throughout the year you will be invited into the classroom to work alongside your child and see what they have been learning in school. We will also ask for your support and help when taking the children on school trips into the local community.



We value parent
involvement

What time does school start?

Reception children start their learning at 8.55am and finish at 3.15pm.

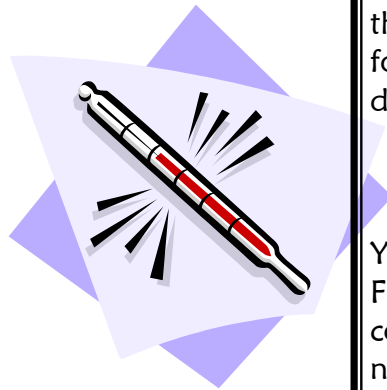
It is crucial that your child comes to school on time, every day. For security reasons and fire regulations children arriving late should enter the school through the school office.



Information

For further information visit our school website

www.holywell.herts.sch.uk



What do I do if my child is ill?

If your child is not coming into school for any reason, please inform the school by telephoning the school office. Do keep your child at home for 48 hours after any bout of vomiting and/or diarrhoea.

School telephone number: 01923 225188

You will be asked to complete a Parent Contact Form, which gives us information about who to contact in an emergency, if your child should need to go home due to illness. We also ask for an alternative emergency contact number, such as a grandparent, relative or friend, who could come in to collect your child, if you could not be reached. Please keep us informed of any changes in phone numbers.

Reception Learning Timetable

- Phonics
- Literacy/Numeracy
- Child initiated learning
- Story time
- Lunch time
- Literacy/Numeracy
- Child initiated learning
- Story time, singing and circle time



What should my child bring to school?

Your child will need a full school uniform and a school bag so that they can bring home their reading books, homework and letters from school. A PE bag to hold their PE Kit would also be useful. Both school bags and PE bags can be purchased from the school office or a sensible bag of your choice can be used. We provide all the stationary items your child will need and aprons for creative activities.

We often work in the secure outdoor area, even in the winter, so please make sure that your child has a warm, waterproof coat, indoor shoes and wellington boots. In the summer, children will need sun hats. On hot days, sun cream should be applied at home before coming into school. Your child can also bring a water bottle to school to keep them cool on hot days.

Please make sure that all school clothes, indoor and out, are named.



New to Lunch in Reception



When the children move into Reception, a new part of their day will be lunchtime.

The Reception children will have several visits to the lunchtime playground without other children on it; will be shown where to go to the toilet and where to get a drink of water.



The lunchtime staff will be invited to visit the Reception children in the Early Years, ensuring that your child is familiar with the new staff that they will be engaging with. At the start of the year the children will have their own allocated space on the playground, before being integrated later in the year.

The reception teachers will stay with the children for the first fifteen minutes of the lunch break to ensure that they are settled.



All children in Reception are entitled to a free meal. The school expects all children to take up this offer of a hot healthy meal.

Every day there are two hot meals and a sandwich option to choose from. There is always a vegetarian option available.

In exceptional cases, the school will consider requests from parents for children to have a packed lunch instead of a school meal. The reasons for special considerations will be special dietary requirements or allergies.



Phonics

At Holywell the children are taught phonics using the letters and sounds programme. Phonics involves children learning the sounds letters make and blending them together to learn how to read and write. Phonics is taught in a fun, interactive and practical way to allow children to develop a love of reading and writing.

Throughout the year we will give you a number of opportunities to support your child with their phonics through homework, parent workshops and activities. Your child will also be given a reading book each week to practice their reading at home.

For more information about Phonics or how to support your child further with it at home please visit the following websites:

www.phonicsplay.co.uk

www.letters-and-sounds.com

To hear each phonics sound correctly visit:
www.getreadingright.co.uk/phoneme/pronounce-the-phonemes/4

Moving into Year One

In the Summer Term of Reception, your child will begin preparations for transferring into 'Year One'. Further information about the transition from the Early Years to Key Stage One will be shared nearer the time.



Your child's learning journey will be passed to the Year One teacher. In October, your child's teacher will pass the learning journey to you to keep as a record of your child's learning.



Learning in Reception



“Wow look this one has 6 legs too! I seen a spider in the park it was huge and hairy, my sister was scared but I wasn’t.”

These children were exploring the different insects using magnifying glasses. They were commenting on the similarities and differences between different insects and discussing which ones they had seen before in the park.

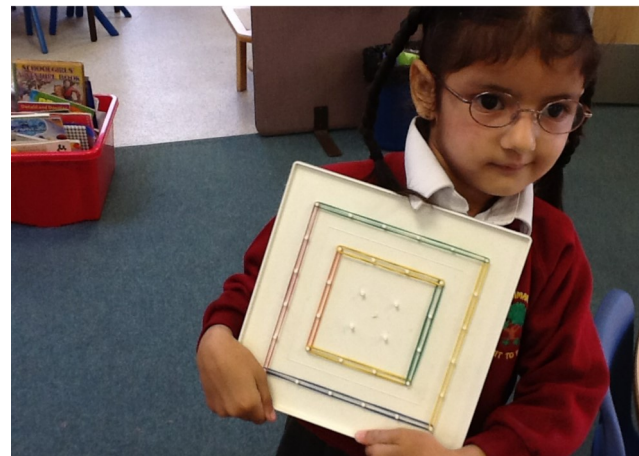


“ I made it the same on each side, it’s symmetrical!”

The children had been learning about symmetry in numeracy and this child decided to create his own symmetrical pattern using the Duplo pieces.

“ I made two squares, a big one and a little one.”

This child decided to use the geo-boards and elastic bands to create shapes. She used her fine motor skills to stretch the bands across the board into the shapes she wanted—squares!



“ I made a card for my mummy because it’s her birthday.”

This child decided to find her own resources to create a card for her mum’s birthday. She used her phonics to write each word and formed each letter accurately with beautiful pictures.



“I’m going to help the plants grow really tall!”

These children were working collaboratively to water the plants on a very hot day. They experimented with different objects to pour the water and decided the spray bottle was the best.



“Hello Adam can you hear me?”

A group of children decided to use the large plastic dominoes as walkie-talkies. They used their understanding of technology to pretend to press the buttons and then talk to one and other through their ‘phone’.

“ Okay, you can be the vet and I’ll bring my poorly dog to see you.”

These children were working collaboratively to assign roles in an imaginative vets game. They then created a narrative of a lady taking her dog to the vet showing a good understanding of different jobs.

