

Reception Curriculum Meeting 2026/27



‘Learning, growing and succeeding together’

Reception Team

Holly Class



Mrs Jennings

Early Years Lead

Teachers



Mrs Henshaw

Wednesday
all day



Mrs Smith

Art Lead

Ivy Class



Mrs Bowyer

Wednesday
afternoon

Teaching Assistants



Miss Gilfillan

Reception & Year 1
Midday Supervisor
After School Club
Manager



Mrs Reading

Reception & Year 1
Midday Supervisor
Breakfast & After School
Clubs



Mrs Fulton

Reception & Year 1
Midday Supervisor
Breakfast &
After School Clubs



Miss Shaw

Midday Supervisor

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

- The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) begins at birth and the final year is in Reception.
- The EYFS Framework (2021) sets the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to five. It is based on the recognition that all children learn best through play and active learning.
- The EYFS Framework identifies the key **‘characteristics of effective teaching and learning’** and **‘seven areas of learning and development.’**

Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning

When planning and supporting our children, we think it is important to consider the different ways children learn, and reflect this in how we teach and organise our learning environment to best support all of our learners.

- Playing and Exploring

We ensure that all children are engaged through exploring, finding out and having a go.

- Active Learning

Children should be motivated, involved and learn to persevere.

- Creativity and Thinking Critically

Children should have their own ideas, make links in their learning and choose ways to do things.

Effective Learning Behaviours

At Whitnash we have developed characters which are linked to the characteristics of effective teaching and learning.



Children receive a sticker or are chosen for an award in assembly when they demonstrate one of these effective learning behaviours.

Areas of Learning and Development

There are seven areas of learning and development:

The Prime Areas

These underpin everything.

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

The Specific Areas

The prime areas are essential to be able to access these areas.

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

Prime Areas of Learning

Communication and Language

The development of children's spoken language underpins all seven areas of learning and development.

- Children are encouraged to develop their conversational skills i.e. back-and-forth interactions.
- Build language with new vocabulary.
- Children will be read to frequently and provided with opportunities to use and embed new words through story-telling and role play.



Prime Areas of Learning

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children's personal, social and emotional development is crucial for them to lead happy and healthy lives, and is fundamental to their cognitive development.

- They will learn how to look after their bodies, including healthy eating, and managing their personal needs independently.
- We will encourage children to be independent and to play co-operatively as well as forming positive relationships with other children and adults.
- We will support children to manage their emotions, develop a positive sense of self and have confidence in their own abilities.



Prime Areas of Learning

Physical Development

Physical activity is vital in children's all-round development.



- We will support the children to develop their gross motor skills including core strength, stability, balance, spatial awareness, co-ordination and agility.



- Fine motor control will be developed through repeated and varied opportunities to explore and play with

- Small world activities
- Puzzles
- Arts and crafts



- Children will also practise using small tools including pencils and scissors to develop control and confidence.



Specific Areas of Learning

Literacy

Reading

- Our aim is to develop a life-long love of reading.
- We will talk with children about the stories and non-fiction books we read.
- Children will learn to link sounds to letters
- They will learn to decode printed words and recognise familiar words
- Read simple sentences.



Writing

- Writing opportunities will be provided in all areas of learning both indoors and outdoors.
- They will be encouraged to write recognisable letters and learn correct formation.
- Spell words by identifying the sounds in them.
- Write simple sentences which can be read by themselves and others.



Specific Areas of Learning

Mathematics

We will provide practical opportunities for children to:

- Count confidently.
- Develop a **deep understanding** of numbers to 10
e.g. the composition of numbers.
- Subitise (recognise quantities without counting) up to 5.
- Automatically recall some number bonds to 5 and 10 and some double facts.
- Compare quantities e.g. recognising when one quantity is greater than, less than or the same.
- Opportunities will be provided for children to develop their understanding of shape, space and measures.



Specific Areas of Learning

Understanding the World

This involves guiding the children to make sense of their physical world and their community.

- The children will listen to a broad selection of stories which represent our diverse world past and present.
- We will look at similarities and differences between themselves and others and among other families and traditions.
- Compare and understand things in the past and now.
- Encourage children to explore and investigate objects, materials, places and living things.



Specific Areas of Learning

Expressive Arts and Design

This encompasses art, design and technology, music, dance, role-play and stories.

- Explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques exploring colour, design and texture.
- Make use of props and materials in role-play when acting out stories.
- Invent their own stories and adapt familiar stories with their peers and teachers.
- Sing and perform a range of nursery rhymes and songs.



Daily Routine

8.45am Children welcomed into school and self-register

- Carpet time - maths focus
- Play and learn - indoors and outdoors
- Funky Fingers' session
- Phonics- Read Write Inc

11.45am- 1pm Lunch time

- Registration
- Carpet time - literacy focus
- Play and learn - indoors and outdoors
- Carpet time - PSED focus
- Story time

•3.15pm Home time

Forest School

In the summer term all reception children will have a six week block of forest school sessions with Mrs Henshaw, our trained forest school teacher.



Reception Baseline Assessment

What is the Reception Baseline Assessment?

- It is a short, interactive and practical assessment of your child's early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills when your child first starts school.
- It provides a starting point from which progress can be measured as children move through their primary school journey, from Reception to Year 6.

What does this mean for my child?

- **There is no pressure on your child.** The assessment is designed to be relaxed and age-appropriate.
- **There is no pass or fail.** It is simply a way of finding out what your child already knows and can do.
- **Your child's individual results are not shared with parents/carers or the school.** The assessment is used to provide a national starting point for measuring progress.
- It's an opportunity for your child to talk, play and show us what they can do.

Homework

- Phonics and reading is the main focus for homework in reception.
 - 10 minutes at least three times a week.
- To begin with your child will receive:
 - a reading for pleasure book
 - a set of letter sound flashcards
 - QR code links to the Read Write Inc virtual classroom
- Children will be given a reading book once they are ready.
- Shortly you will receive login details for our online reading diary 'Boom Reader.' **Please make sure you login by Wednesday 30th September.**
- We will also provide a fortnightly maths practical learning activity.



Pupil Premium – Please Check Your Eligibility

Although all Reception children receive free school meals, eligible families can help the school receive **Pupil Premium funding**.

This funding can be used for:

- Extra learning and teaching support
- Enrichment and educational experiences
- Wellbeing and pastoral support
- Resources and removing barriers to learning



Eligibility includes certain benefits, such as Universal Credit (household earnings £7,400 or less).

Check eligibility & apply:

[GOV.UK – Apply for Free School Meals](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-free-school-meals)

Applying is confidential and could benefit your child and our school.



Thank you

We would like to invite you to our phonics and
reading meeting on

Wednesday 14th October at 5pm