



"Shining brightly together"

Welcome to Reception at Rockcliffe First School



Miss Towers
Class Teacher



Mrs Tooke
Reception TA



Mrs Trousdale
Reception TA



Mrs Duggan
Early Years Lead

Welcome to Reception

We are delighted to welcome you and your child to Reception 'Starfish' Class at Rockcliffe First School.

The information in this booklet is designed to give you a guide as you join our school.

You will find key information about the Reception day, what your child will be learning, and how we support them as they continue their time within the Early Years Foundation Stage.



Children may attend breakfast club from
8.00am.

Gates open at 8.30am

School starts at 8.45am

11.45am – 12.45pm Lunch

Gates open at 3.00pm

Home time is 3.15pm

Children may attend Kids Club from
3.15pm – 6.00pm

Contact Information

Reception Telephone Number:

0191 607 6484

Address:

Grafton Road, Whitley Bay, NE26
2NR

School Email:

office@rockcliffeschool.org.uk

Website:

www.rockcliffeschool.org.uk

Head Teacher:

Mr Tom Jones

The Foundation Stage Curriculum

There are seven areas of learning and development which shape provision in early years settings. All areas of learning are important and inter-connected.

Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, building their capacity to learn and to form relationships and thrive. These three areas, the prime areas, are:

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

Early years settings must also support children in four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are:

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

Each area of learning and development is implemented through planned, purposeful play and through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activities. The activities that we carry out both in and out of Reception are carefully constructed to ensure the children's progress across all of these areas. Play is essential for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, to solve problems and to relate to others.

Communication and Language

Communication and Language are at the heart of young children's learning. In Reception, we feel it is vital to provide a range of opportunities for the children to talk and listen; on a one-to-one basis, in small groups and in whole class situations, in order to develop their speaking, listening, attention and understanding. This involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment and by engaging them actively in stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems to provide them with the opportunities to use and embed words in a range of contexts. Children are helped to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations; through conversation, storytelling and role play. Through support, modelling and sensitive questioning that invites them to elaborate, children become comfortable using a rich range of vocabulary and language structures.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

At Rockcliffe, we feel very strongly that that successful personal, social, and emotional development is vital if children are to lead happy and healthy lives and succeed in other areas of learning.

We want your child to feel safe, secure and valued, so that they may develop confidence, independence and self-belief. We shall help them establish effective relationships with their peers so that they may become sensitive to the needs and feelings of others and learn to work together in a relaxed, supported atmosphere.



Physical Development

Physical Development is vital for children's overall development, enabling them to lead happy, healthy and active lives. Children join Reception with a wide range of physical skills and we provide daily opportunities, both indoors and outdoors, for them to practise existing skills and develop new ones.

Through active play, children develop their core strength, balance, co-ordination, stability, spatial awareness and agility. These gross motor skills provide the foundation for healthy bodies, confidence and social and emotional well-being.

Children are also encouraged to develop their fine motor skills through activities such as small world play, puzzles, arts and crafts and the use of a range of tools and equipment. These experiences help to build hand-eye co-ordination, control and confidence, supporting children's independence and early writing development.



Literacy

At Rockcliffe, we promote a lifelong love of reading. Children and adults share and enjoy books together daily, helping to develop language, listening skills and vocabulary through stories, rhymes and meaningful conversations. Children are given opportunities to take part in a wide range of activities that support early reading skills. We also encourage children to experiment with mark making and early writing in a variety of meaningful ways, both indoors and outdoors, and on a range of scales, which will develop into independent writing by the end of Reception. Children have access to a rich variety of reading materials, including books, poems and other texts, designed to spark curiosity, imagination and a love of literacy. Children will develop their ability to listen, hear rhymes, and have conversations about books, developing their vocabulary. By the end of reception, children will have developed their ability to read independently.



Maths

Children will develop positive attitudes and interests in maths, looking for patterns and relationships, spotting connections and having a go. We aim to develop a strong grounding in numbers to excel mathematically. Overtime they will develop a deep understanding of numbers and numerical relationships. Children will also develop their use of spatial reasoning skills across all areas of maths including Shape, Space & Measures.

A range of opportunities such as water play, singing, role play, puppets, ring games, outdoor play and cooking are all used to help develop mathematical understanding and skills such as problem solving, counting, pattern, sorting, matching, sequencing, shape and number recognition.



Understanding the World

'Understanding the World' covers the children's scientific, geographical and historical learning. We ensure that all children are given the opportunity to experience activities that encourage exploration, observation and discussion. Working outdoors is a vital part of the Foundation Stage curriculum, therefore the children are offered the opportunity to work outside most days. Children will make sense of the world around them and their community. Opportunities and experiences will give children a chance to build important knowledge and vocabulary to understand our diverse world.



Beach School

Living on such a beautiful coastline, we make the most of our local area through regular Beach School sessions at Cullercoats Beach, Jakey's Beach and Browns Bay. These sessions encourage children to explore their environment, develop curiosity, ask questions and describe what they see around them. Through hands-on experiences, children begin to notice changes in the natural world and build an appreciation of their local coastline.

The focus of each visit is led by the children's interests, imagination and discoveries.



Expressive Art and Design

Creative development is an integral part of our Reception curriculum. Children have daily access to a wide range of experiences designed to develop their imagination, creativity and self-expression. Through activities such as painting, printing, collage, malleable materials, junk modelling, dance, drama, singing and storytelling, children are encouraged to explore colour, texture, shape, sound and movement in both two and three dimensions.

We value the creative process as much as the finished outcome and encourage children to experiment, take risks and develop their own ideas and interests.

Whenever possible, we enrich our creative experiences by working with local artists and visitors. In the past, children have collaborated with performance artists, scientists, poets, dancers, visual artists and musicians.



The Reception Day

Staff will meet the Reception children on the Early Years yard at **8.45am** each day and will aim to take them inside around **8:50am** - the door we enter via will be closed shortly after.

At the beginning of each morning, the Reception children are greeted on the yard by members of the Reception team, there is a space in the yard indicated by a starfish on the ground, where the children can make a line ready to start the day. We kindly ask that parents drop their child in the line and then move back to the tyre area, so staff can safely account for each child as we move inside.

We encourage families to arrive as close to the start time as possible so that sessions can begin promptly. Children are encouraged to develop independence within Reception routines, including hanging up their coat and bag, and completing their self-registration.

If you arrive after the door is closed, please take your child to the main entrance where they will be admitted into school via the office.

On Wednesday mornings, Mrs. Duggan will provide cover in Reception during Miss. Towers' planning and preparation time out of class

At the end of the school day, the Early Years gate will open at **3:00pm**. Whoever is collecting your child should wait in the Early Years yard and collect their child from the external classroom door. The school day finishes at **3:15pm**, and children will be dismissed through the external classroom door into the yard. The classroom door will remain open until **3:25pm**. We ask that you arrive as close to the door opening as possible to reduce anxiety at home time. If a child has not been collected by **3.25pm**, they will be taken to the school office and a parent or career will be contacted. If you know that you will be delayed, please contact the school office as soon as possible.

What do I need...

What I need to bring each day...

1. A suitable coat (named)
2. A named water bottle
3. A book bag

We are kindly asking that all children bring a pair of wellies to stay in school, this will allow us to use our outdoor area in more wet weather conditions.



School Lunches

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a universal infant free school meal. School lunches are provided by our catering partner **Dolce**. The menu is on a three week rotation and you will need to pre-order your child's meals in advance. The menu and information on how to order is included in your pack.

Packed Lunches

Some children may choose to bring a packed lunch, please note we are a nut free school to keep our children safe who have allergies. Please ensure that all packed lunches contain nut free items. Please be mindful of items such as Nutella, peanut butter products and some cereal or snack bars, including certain Nakd bars.

Whether your child is on packed lunches or school provided dinners, lunch time is a meaningful and important part of our Reception routine. It provides valuable opportunities for children to develop independence, social skills and positive eating habits within a calm and supportive environment.

Milk and Snack

Children are entitled to free school milk up to the age of 5, after this, parents are welcomed to pay for their child's milk. Each day, as a snack, all children are given a piece of fruit or a vegetable.

(You must register via the Cool Milk website www.coolmilk.com)

Assessment

In EYFS, assessment is carried out daily, with practitioners playing alongside children and making regular observations of what they do and say. Assessments may include photographs, observations, annotated pieces of work and practitioners' knowledge of each child's individual progress. This information is used to inform future planning and learning opportunities.

We keep relevant evidence in individual online learning journals and share these with parents through the Seesaw app. Observations and assessments are shared regularly via Seesaw, as well as during Parents' Evenings, which are held in the autumn and spring terms.

During the first six weeks of your child starting Reception, they will take part in the Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA), which is a statutory assessment set by the Department for Education (DfE).

Written reports are prepared for parents and your child's Reception teacher in the summer term to support a smooth transition to school.

Absence

If your child is unwell, please contact the School Office on 0191 607 6573 on the first day of absence. In cases of sickness or diarrhoea, children should remain at home for 48 hours after their last episode before returning to Reception. This helps to reduce the spread of infection and protect the health of all children and staff.

Communication

Letters and other school communications are shared with families via email and the School Gateway app. You will be able to download the School Gateway app once your child has started with us in September as it provides the easiest way to stay up to date with school news and information. The app can also be used to make payments for trips and other school activities.

Please follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with news and events.

Working Together

We believe that strong relationships between home and Reception are essential in helping children feel happy, secure and ready to learn. If you ever have any worries or concerns, no matter how small they may seem, please speak to a member of the Reception team. We are always happy to listen and work together to support your child and family.

Open communication is very important to us and we encourage parents and carers to share any information that may help us to support their child's wellbeing, learning and development.

We hope this booklet has been useful in building a picture of life in Reception at Rockcliffe First School. All of the Early Years staff very much look forward to working with you and your child and aim to make this transition into Reception as smooth as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact school and speak to a member of the Reception team if you have any further questions.

