



Welcome to  
Deerhurst and Apperley  
Church of England School  
Reception 2025- 2026

A fan of colored pencils, including red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple, arranged in a semi-circle on the left side of the page.

# What to expect in Reception?

The Reception class is about much more than colours and shapes, numbers and letters. This is the year that your child becomes 'school-ready'; developing their independence, confidence, resilience and curiosity. It's an exciting time, for children and parents, as their Primary school career begins.

As parents, we can feel anxious as our child begins 'big school' - how will they cope in a big classroom and in a large playground? Will they make friends easily? But very soon most children adjust to their exciting new environment.



# Starting Reception

Your child's journey to school starts at home.



## The definition: skills to practise before starting Reception:

New skills take time to learn. Practising at home will help your child move into school more easily and with confidence.

### Growing independence

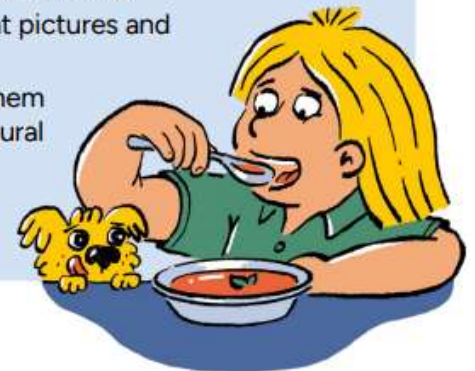


#### *Taking care of themselves*

- ☒ Putting on/taking off their coat and shoes
- ☒ Using the toilet and washing their hands
- ☒ Getting dressed with little help, e.g. after using the toilet or doing PE
- ☒ Using cutlery (e.g. fork and spoon, chopsticks) and drinking from an open cup
- ☒ Spending time away from you, learning they can be looked after by caring adults

#### *Play, creativity and curiosity*

- ☒ Taking part in imaginative play (e.g. role play)
- ☒ Drawing, painting, colouring and sticking
- ☒ Sharing story books, looking at pictures and talking about the characters
- ☒ Exploring the world around them (e.g. looking closely at the natural world, playing safely with objects at home)



At school your child will be meeting lots of new people and make new friendships. Some things to help them get ready include:

## Building relationships and communicating



### Being with others

- ✓ Practising sharing and taking turns with toys
- ✓ Talking to them about **how** they are feeling and **why**
- ✓ Looking at story books together and speaking about what characters are feeling is a good way to do this
- ✓ Beginning to recognise what others are feeling, e.g. understanding if a friend is sad
- ✓ Encouraging them to set boundaries for themselves and others (e.g. knowing how to say 'no')

### Communication and language

- ✓ Singing along with songs and nursery rhymes
- ✓ Talking happily to others about activities, experiences and the world around them
- ✓ Showing they need help by speaking clearly (in basic English or sign language)
- ✓ Recognising the pattern of their name (so they can find it on their coat peg or jacket)

### Listening and engaging

- ✓ Paying attention for short periods of time
- ✓ Listening to and following simple instructions
- ✓ Carrying on with a task even when it's difficult and bouncing back if things go wrong



## Physical development

### Getting moving for at least three hours a day

- ✓ Walking up and down steps (one foot at a time, using the wall for support)
- ✓ Climbing, running, jumping and playing
- ✓ Catching a large ball (most of the time)
- ✓ Doing simple puzzles and craft activities, strengthening their grip with cutting and sticking

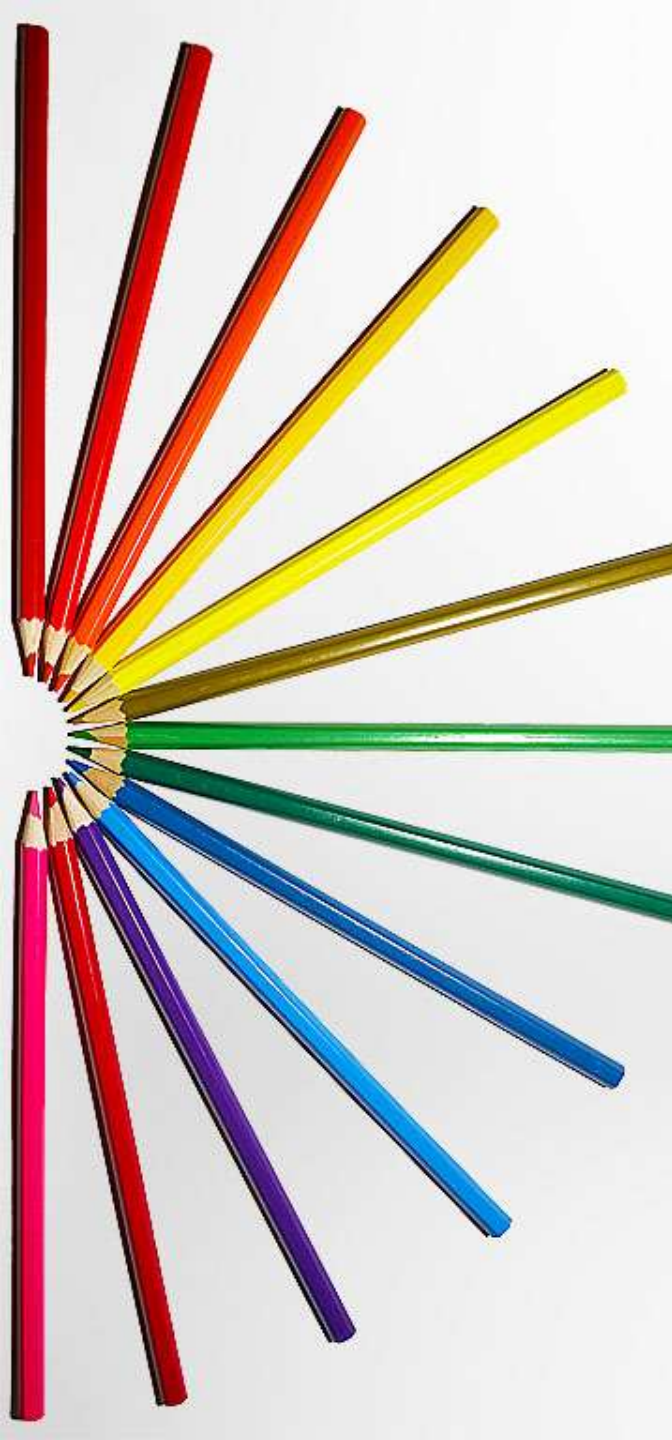


## Healthy routines

- ✓ Going to bed around the same time each night, waking up in time to get ready for school
- ✓ Limiting screen time to the recommended daily amounts (see advice)
- ✓ Eating a healthy diet and trying new foods
- ✓ Brushing their teeth with fluoride toothpaste twice a day (you'll need to supervise this until they are at least 7)







# What will my child do in Reception?

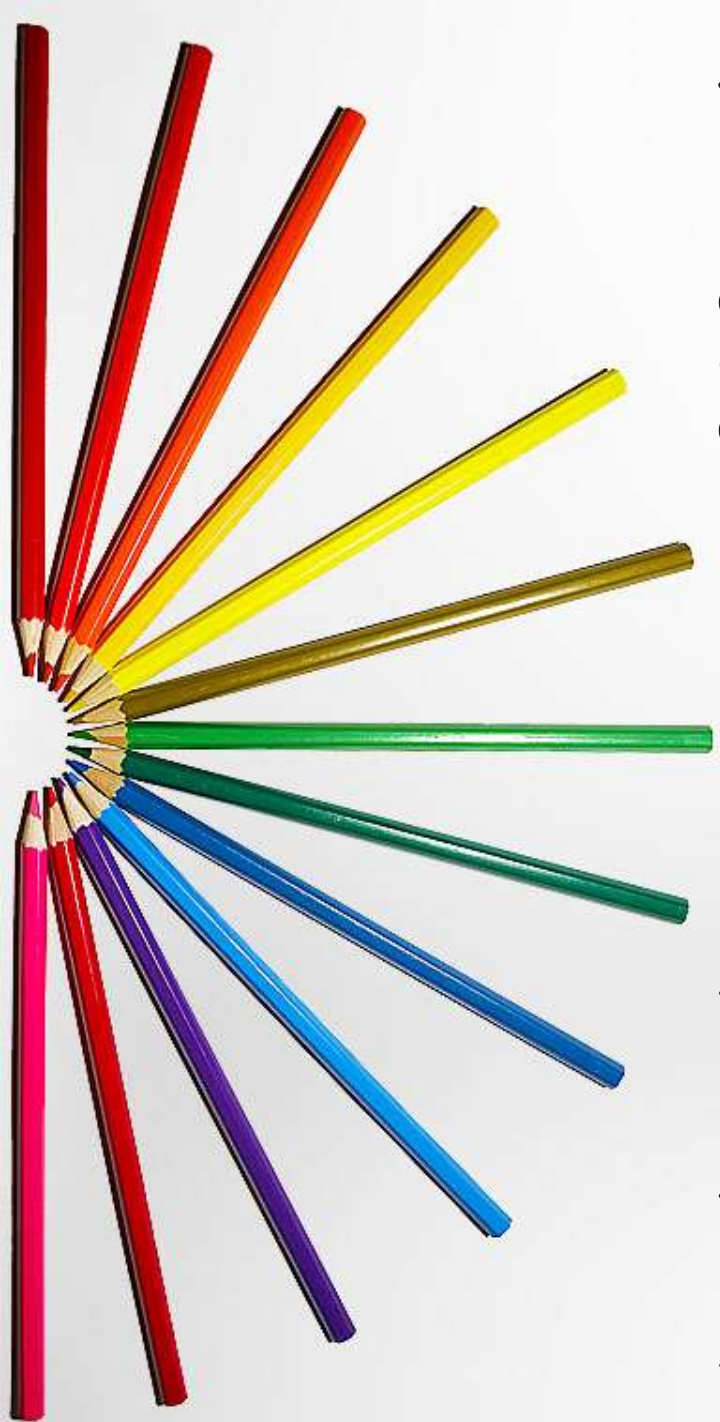
This year your child will continue to learn by doing things for themselves, by exploring and investigating, watching and listening, talking and discussing, creating and communicating — in other words — playing. Play is children's work and playing hard is very tiring! Your child may be really exhausted and perhaps a bit grumpy when they come home! If they don't want to talk about their day straight away, don't worry, they will gradually let you into their new world as time goes by.

Play can also be very messy as your child will be learning both inside the classroom with sand, water, paint, but also in the outdoors with mud, leaves etc. so you can expect some mucky clothes at the end of the day!

# Why is the Reception class so important?

- Research shows that pupils have the biggest rate of learning from 3 - 6 years.
- Children who do well in Reception go on to achieve well throughout school.
- High expectations





Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development.

Children should mostly develop the 3 prime areas first.

These are:

1. Communication and language
2. Physical development
3. Personal, social and emotional development

As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in 4 specific areas.

These are:

4. Literacy;
5. Mathematics;
6. Understanding the world;
7. Expressive arts and design



# Speaking and listening

Speaking is a vital part to a child's development. It will help them make friends and ensure their needs and wants are met. Within the EYFS many aspects that children will need to achieve to meet their milestones have a focus around the ability to use language associated with the subject rather than showing a particular skill.

Remodel misuse of  
language,  
encouraging full  
sentences

Collaborative play such  
as board games  
encourage conversation  
and turn taking

Conversation time

Memory games

Singing and nursery  
rhymes





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# What can you do to help?

## Read, read, read

Read to your child and encourage them to read to you. Read anything and everything, not just the reading scheme books. Real books, with pictures, rhyme and enjoyable stories are crucial here. Try to encourage your child to talk about the pictures, or to make predictions about what will happen next.

It's most important for your child to enjoy reading above all, so try to relax, and stop when either of you begins to feel pressured or anxious.

# Reading

Establish a daily reading time before starting school where you read them stories, get them to look at the pictures and tell you what they think is happening.

Talk about the book and the story after reading. Did they like it or not? Why?

Try and foster an enjoyment of reading. Books, magazines etc

Run your finger under the words as you are reading.





[Starting school or nursery: 5 top tips and 10 books to try | BookTrust](#)

[Great Books Guide 2024-25 | BookTrust](#)





# Physical

Physical development involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive; and to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement. Children must also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity, and to make healthy choices in relation to food. Both gross (large muscle movements) and fine (small movements) motor skills contribute to physical development.

## **Large muscles develop before small muscles.**

Muscles in the body's core, legs and arms develop before those in the fingers and hands. Children learn how to perform gross motor skills such as walking before they learn to perform fine motor skills such as drawing.

**The centre of the body** develops before the outer regions. Muscles located at the core of the body become stronger and develop sooner than those in the feet and hands.

**Development goes from the top down**, from the head to the toes. This is why babies learn to hold their heads up before they learn how to crawl.





## Getting dressed independently

It is really useful if you can encourage your child can have a go at dressing themselves at home so that they can do it themselves during the school day during PE and outdoor sessions.

# Writing

Linked very closely to the development of the physical skills, until they have these secure they will find the act of writing challenging. Before starting school we do not expect children to be able to write lots. It is more important for children to be making marks and being able to talk about what they have drawn or tried to write.

It would be helpful for them to be able to recognise their name and to attempt writing it.





# Maths

In Mathematics, the biggest focus is on developing mathematical language and being practical using manipulatives to help with their understanding.

You can help to promote mathematical language such as – heavy, light, empty, full, long, short, big, small in relevant contexts

How many cars can you count, how many doors or what numbers are on the doors?

What shapes can you see in the house?  
What colours are there?  
Can you notice any patterns?

Maths can be done in very simple ways daily. Counting steps as you walk down the road or up the stairs.

Look at your home environment to develop language, especially positional words – small object in front of big object, behind, in, on





# Our typical day for Reception Class

School gate open from 8:40 am

8:45 am: Registration

9:00 - 9:15: Phonics

9:30-10:30: Literacy activities and continuous provision

10:30-10:45: Break time

10:45-11:45: Maths activities and continuous provision

11:30-12:15: Guided Reading and continuous provision

12:30 - 1:30: Lunch time

Afternoons - mixture over the week of topic, science, music, R.E, computing and PE

Short teacher led input and continuous provision activities before the end of the school day finish from 2:50 pm - 3:00 pm

## Transition in September

All Reception children starting school will start school on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025**.

Children can be brought to the school gate from 8:40am and ready for Registration at 8:45 am where there will a range of soft entry activities.

**Week 1 - 8:40am - 12:00pm**

**Children attend school for mornings only**

**Week 2 - 8:40am - 1:00pm**

**Children attend school for the morning and stay for lunch**

**Week 3 - 8:40am - 3:15pm Children to attend school for the full day**

Date for diary: **New Class invitation Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 3.15-3.45pm**- this will be to have another opportunity to visit school and know more about the learning and expectations of the class and for you to ask any questions.







- Talk positively about school, but don't over talk!
- Bring it up naturally if they ask or speak about going to school.



If they ask something you don't know the answer to, please email or call. Maybe we can help find the answer.



Children will take their cues from you, the more positive, enthusiastic you are, the more likely they will be excited about starting school. Being nervous is normal!



# Welcome to The Library Challenge!

Go Green, Get Reading, Get Rewards!

There are lots of different interactive and fun challenges that you can complete! You can do activities by yourself or ask friends or family members to help too.

**This year is all about THE NATURAL WORLD**

