



Starting Reception in September 2025

Information Pack



A warm welcome to Reception at Chesterfield Primary School—September 2025!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following your acceptance of a place for your child in our Reception Class starting this September 2025, we are delighted to extend a very warm welcome to your family from everyone here at Chesterfield Primary School! We take immense pride in our vibrant school community and are genuinely excited about getting to know you and your child soon.

We understand that starting Reception is a significant and exciting milestone for both children and parents. Our dedicated team is committed to making this transition into school life as smooth, happy, and positive as possible for everyone. To help achieve this, we operate a carefully planned gradual intake programme at the beginning of term. This approach has proven very successful over the years, allowing children the time and space to settle comfortably, familiarise themselves with their new surroundings, build confidence, and feel secure and happy at school from day one. Our priority is always the well-being and successful integration of every child.

To give you a flavour of life in Reception and answer some initial questions you might have, we've put together the enclosed information pack. It offers insights into daily routines, the curriculum, and practical matters.

Please also look out for other important documents and information included with this pack – we encourage you to take the time to read everything thoroughly.

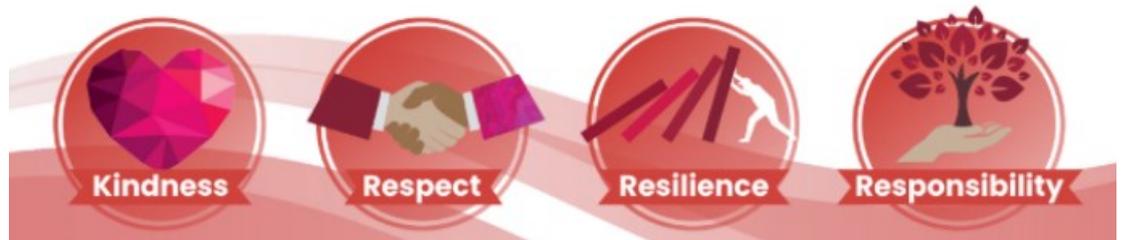
We believe strong partnerships between home and school are key. Should you have any questions, concerns, or simply wish to chat further about the transition, please don't hesitate to reach out to our Early Years team. You can contact them via the main school office at 01992 760678 or by emailing office@chesterfieldprimary.org.

You can also explore our school website for more general information: www.chesterfieldschool.co.uk

We are very much looking forward to embarking on this exciting educational journey with you and your child.

Warm regards,

The Reception Team Chesterfield Primary School



Reception Curriculum

The government framework for Early Years Foundation Stage describes the three characteristics of effective learning. In our Reception, our primary focus is the development of these; we encourage children to play and explore, think critically, and become active learners. To do this, observation and planning for children is broken down into 7 areas. Three of these are known as the Prime Areas: Communication & Language; Personal, Social & Emotional Development; and Physical Development. These are supplemented by four further areas, known as the Specific Areas. Below are some examples of what sort of skills and activities are included within each of the areas.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Learning about ourselves; talking about growth in relation to oneself; and caring for living things
- Settling in, routines, class rules, personal safety, feelings, losing things
- Developing independence in the classroom and learning
- Sharing thoughts on families and friends
- Understanding classroom rules and following these
- Nurturing relationships with other children in the environment
- Becoming familiar with, and trusting, known adults
- Regulating impulses and emotions
- Toilet training
- Awareness and independence of personal hygiene
- Development of skills required for daily tasks such as feeding and dressing themselves



Physical Development

- Travelling in different ways, speeds, directions and levels
- Responding to music through movement and gesture
- Development of ball skills and games
- Balance, posture, and body strength
- A range of 'big' movements (gross motor), particularly building strength and coordination
- Smaller movements, known as fine motor, that are controlled



Communication and Language

- Listening to stories and responding with questions and comments
 - Following instructions, moving from one-step to two-step
 - Communicate their wants and needs in English
 - Offer opinions and began to engage in paired or group discussion about things that interest them
 - Answering how and why questions about their experiences
 - Using past, present and future forms when talking about events or stories



Literacy

- Read, Write, Inc. - learning letters and sounds.
- Using writing to communicate ideas & using our sounds and looking at structure of sentences
- Forming all 26 alphabet letters correctly
- Using finger spaces and beginning to understand what a full stop is
- Writing short captions, labels and sentences independently
- Shared Writing
- Reading stories for pleasure, both independently and led by adults, including fairy stories such as Jack and Beanstalk, Beauty and the Beast, The Three Little Pigs. Reading aloud confidently, recognising rhyme and retelling stories based on our topics including space, pirates and fantasy fairy tales



Mathematical Development

Number

- Have a deep understanding of number to 10, including the composition of each number
 - Subitise (recognise quantities without counting) up to 5
 - Automatically recall (without reference to rhymes, counting or other aids) number bonds up to 5 (including subtraction facts) and some number bonds to 10, including double facts

Numerical Patterns

- Verbally count beyond 20, recognising the pattern of the counting system
- Compare quantities up to 10 in different contexts, recognising when one quantity is greater than, less than or the same as the other quantity
- Explore and represent patterns within numbers up to 10, including evens and odds, double facts and how quantities can be distributed equally



Creative Development

- Observational drawings and painting, collages, exploring colour, textures, shapes, forms and space in 3D
- Developing confidence to sing, exploring sound and musical instruments
- Variety of role play experiences and imaginative play
- Imaginative expression through physical movement, music and drawing, painting, and sculpture



Understanding of the World

- Exploring senses, growing seeds, plants and flowers
- Cooking and tasting different types of food
- Finding out about different creatures and where they live
 - Looking at animals and mini-beasts
 - Exploring space, such as making robots
 - Going on treasure hunts, finding clues
 - Responding to stories and environment and making up own adventures
- Referring to events in their own lives that happened in the past
- Showing enquiry and awareness of historical periods and events
- Respect and knowledge about different cultures and religions



School Uniform

You can buy school uniform from <https://www.uniform4kids.com/collections/chesterfield> or from Lyons School Shop, 242 Hertford Road, Enfield EN3 5B . Please make sure it is all named. This is particularly important with school jumpers as they can easily get mixed up when children take them off. Please do not send your child in laced shoes until they are able to tie them themselves. Velcro school shoes are more appropriate for Reception. Please make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather – a waterproof, warm coat for the winter and sun hat and sunscreen for the summer. Children should also have a separate, named water bottle.

All Year Round

- Red school sweat shirt or cardigan with Chesterfield school logo
- Grey or black trousers or skirt
- White collared t-shirt with Chesterfield logo
- Black shoes (with Velcro fastening please)
- Plain coloured hijab



For Summer

- Girls: Red and white check or stripe summer dress or knee-length short trousers.
- Boys: Black or grey knee length short trousers



For PE—Active Uniform

We wear our PE kit to school on PE days

- Chesterfield branded red school jumper or cardigan
- Black shorts or black footless leggings and white t-shirts (long or short sleeved)
- Black trainers (with Velcro fastening)
- Blue or black plain track or jogging suit bottoms

Hair

For health and safety and practical reasons, long hair should always be tied back during the school day using simple ties bands or clips.

Sun Hats and Water Bottles

Please ensure that every day, and especially on hot sunny days, you send your child in with a named sunhat and a separate named water bottle as well as the drink in their lunchbox.

School Bag

Red Chesterfield book bag or backpack

General information

Times of the School Day

The school gates will open at 8.45am. Please enter the Reception playground through the wooden gate and your child's class teacher will be waiting at the door to welcome the children in. We ask that you make every effort to ensure your child is in the classroom straight away as they will be taking part in an early morning activity. Any child arriving after 9:00am will have to be taken to the office and will be marked as late. We ask that you try to get your child in on time as it can be disruptive to their learning if they are late. **School finishes at 3.15pm.**

Hometime

If someone new is collecting your child please make sure you tell the teacher in the morning or phone the school office and let them know the name of the person who will be collecting. We will not be able to release your child to someone we do not know. The minimum age for collecting a child is 18 years old.

Please do not allow your child or their siblings to play with outside play equipment or resources at the beginning or end of the day.

We would kindly ask that you are not on your mobile phone when dropping your child off or picking them up as the class teacher might need to speak to you.

It is very important that you ensure that you pick your child up promptly at 3:15pm and, if possible, that you pick them up before older siblings, as children can become distressed if they are the last one left in the classroom.

Medical

Medicine can only be given to children if it has been prescribed by the doctor and handed in to the office, where a form needs to be completed and signed by an adult. Your child must remain at home for 48 hours after the last time they were sick with vomiting or diarrhoea.

If your child is going to be absent from school for please phone the school early on the first day of illness and let us know. You will also need to bring in a letter explaining your child's absence when they return to school. Please call the school on 01992 760678

School meals and packed lunch

Your child is entitled to a free hot meal in Reception. You will be provided with log-in details to view the menus. Alternatively, you can provide your child with a healthy packed lunch.

Please do not send nuts or food containing nuts, including Nutella/chocolate spreads, as we have several children in the school with severe nut allergies.



Attendance and Punctuality

Our expectation is at least 96% attendance for all our students

Around 99% Attendance - Excellent Attendance

Around 97% Attendance - Good Attendance

Around 95% Attendance - Below average attendance

90% Attendance or below - Cause for concern. Your child is a persistent absentee from education

We operate a soft start from 8:45am and lessons start at 9:00am

Our Attendance Officer is Lorraine Lewis. She is available for you to discuss attendance matters in confidence. Lorraine can be contacted on 01992 760678

Getting your child to school really matters!

Did you know?		
If your child's attendance during the school year is	Your child would have lost approximately	Or they would have missed approximately
95%	9 days from school	50 lessons
90%	19 days from school	100 lessons
85%	29 days from school	150 lessons
80%	38 days from school	200 lessons
75%	48 days from school	250 lessons

Our school attendance target is 96%



My child is unwell, should I send them to school?

Sometimes it is difficult to know whether to keep your child off school or send them in. Always try and send your child to school if they are a little 'under the weather', for example, with a runny nose, headache, mild tummy-ache. The school will always contact you if your child is unwell, which is why it is vitally important that we have your correct contact details. HOWEVER, please do not send your child to school if they have any infectious illnesses like Chicken Pox, Measles etc. If your child has been vomiting or is suffering from diarrhoea, then they must stay away from school for 48 hours from the last bout of illness. This is to ensure that any infection does not spread through the school.

Please do contact the school office if you need any additional advice or support and we will be happy to help.

The NHS has a handy guide to the most common childhood illnesses and what you should do.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Reading and Phonics

Reading

Please read at home with your child on a regular basis. At the start of the year, encourage your child to tell their own story from the pictures. Ask your child questions about the story and try to find the sounds we have learnt in school within the book. We encourage daily reading at home and children will be given books to take home.

Phonics

What is Phonics?

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read quickly and skillfully.

They are taught how to:

- ✦ Recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes
- ✦ Identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make (e.g. /sh/)
- ✦ Blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word
- ✦ At Chesterfield, we use the Read Write Inc programme



Phonics Books

Your child will learn new sounds each week. They will bring home a phonics book which will match the level that they are at in the RWI program. Read these with your child every day at home and comment and sign in their reading record book.

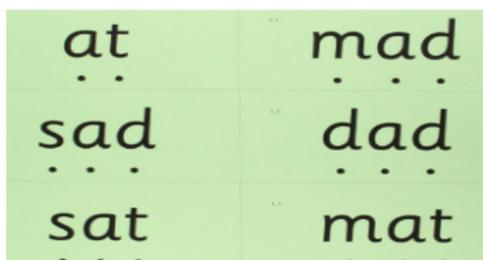
Your child will be sent home letter formation sheets that correspond to the sounds they have learnt that week for your child to practise at home.

You can also play games such as I-spy to help reinforce the sounds.

Phonics

Set 1 sounds

These sounds are introduced in Nursery and taught daily in Reception. The children will begin to learn to blend and segment to help them with reading and spelling. This will begin with simple words e.g. at, on, am, mat, sit, pot (Word Time lessons).



Read Write Inc. Phonics Desktop Speed Sounds Chart

Speed Sounds Set 1

m	a	s	d	t
i	n	p	g	o
c	k	u	b	f
e	l	h	sh	r
j	v	y	w	th
z	ch	qu	x	ng nk

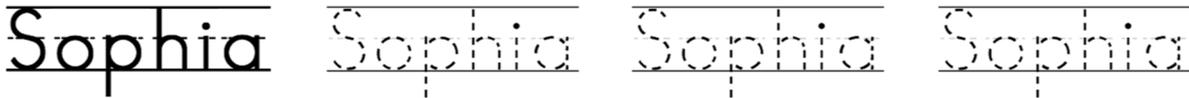
Summer holiday activity ideas

Holiday Activities to do with your child starting Reception in September

Here are some activities to complete many times to help your child to get ready for school in September. Some of these activities might be a bit difficult. If you "have a go" for 10 minutes each day, this will help your child enormously for September.

Name Writing

It would be great if your child could read and write their name by September. We only use capital letters at the beginning of the name. Support your child with holding a pencil correctly.



Shapes

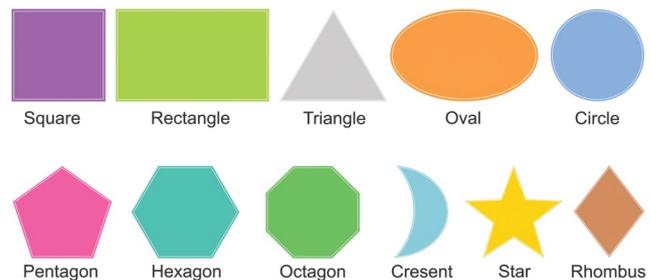
Can your child name these shapes? If they can, then ask them some questions about the shapes.

How many sides does the shape have?

How many straight sides?

How many curved sides?

How many corners does the shape have?



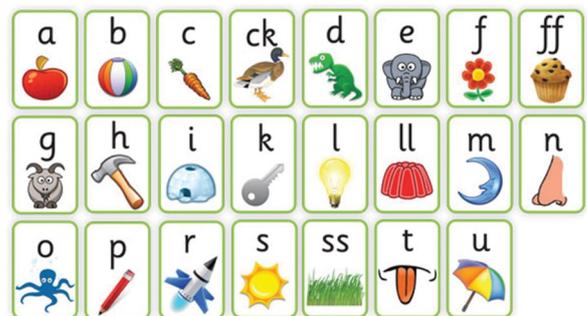
Numbers

Does your child know the number names? If they don't know any concentrate on numbers 1-5. If they know them all, can they put them in order and write them?



Sounds

Children will learn sounds in September to help them with Reading and Writing. If they can recognise some and write some, this will help them. It will also help if they can hear sounds at the beginning of words, (e.g. Sssss, at the beginning of Ssssnake).



DON'T FORGET ...

It is important to mix learning with other learning activities.

For example:

- Making cakes together (lots of Maths involved);
- Playing with a ball in the park (believe it or not this also helps handwriting);
- Going to the park and play on equipment;
- Go and visit the local Library where you can share books for free!
- Sing Songs! (e.g. 5 little ducks, 5 little speckled frogs). Go to the Google search engine on the internet and/or go to

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is about protecting children from abuse or neglect.

At Chesterfield Primary School, the safety and well-being of our children is of the utmost importance and we are all responsible for the safety of all children. We ensure that we are doing all we can to protect the most vulnerable members of our society. All staff believe that our school should provide a caring, positive safe and stimulating environment that promotes the social, physical and moral development of the individual child.

All staff receive annual safeguarding training and our school is fully compliant with guidelines published by the Department for Education: 'Working together to safeguard children', 'Keeping children safe in education' and 'Safeguarding children and safer recruitment in education'.

We support children's development in ways that will foster security, confidence and independence, and provide an environment in which children and young people feel safe, secure, valued and respected, and feel confident, and know how to approach adults if they are in difficulties, believing they will be effectively listened to.

We provide a systematic approach to monitoring children known or thought to be at risk of harm, and ensure we, the school, contribute to assessments of need and support packages for those children. We have a structured procedure within the school which will be followed by all members of the school community in cases of suspected abuse.

All staff working within our school have been checked as to their suitability, including verification of their identity, qualifications, and a satisfactory Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) check (according to guidance) and a central record is kept for audit.

Please note that It is NOT the responsibility of the school to investigate suspected abuse. Parents should be aware that where there is suspected abuse, the welfare of the child is paramount. In the interest of the child, staff may need to share information with other professionals. Please be aware that the school staff may also need to speak with you if a child discloses information that concerns them.

Chesterfield Primary School

Safeguarding Designated Staff



Sarah Roberts – Headteacher / Safeguarding lead



Androulla Georgiou Deputy Safeguarding lead /Child Protection lead



Julie Phillips Deputy Safeguarding Lead /Child Protection Deputy



Emma Fowler Deputy Safeguarding lead



Jon Simms Safeguarding Governor

Please contact Julie or Androulla, if they are unavailable then please contact any member of SLT if:
Any child discloses information that causes concern You see any unexpected marks on a child's body
if a child displays any worrying behaviour

Please record on Cause for Concern form and send to Julie Phillips and cc Androulla Georgiou

Steps to starting school

Build your child's confidence so that they start school confident, curious and ready to learn.

Access more great advice, tips and downloadable resources are available on our dedicated webpage on our school website: <https://www.chesterfieldschool.co.uk/>



More top tips:

- ★ Get your child ready for their new routine by switching their meal times to match those of the school day
- ★ Encourage your child to explore new environments and interact with new people
- ★ Talk to your child about what they are most looking forward to at school
- ★ Let your child practise putting their new school uniform on and taking it off
- ★ **And remember**, every child is different and starts school with different abilities