



# Reception Booklet

*Welcome to your child's first class at Prior Heath.  
This year group is called Reception and the classes  
are Chestnut and Willow.*

*During the first few weeks in school your child will  
be adjusting to a new phase of life and may find this a  
tiring experience. He or she is getting used to a  
group of new children and learning to deal with a  
great many new situations. Children take this in their  
stride, but are not always good at explaining things  
to you.*

*The children will work as individuals, in small  
groups or as a class.*

# The Curriculum

The Reception year is part of the Early Years Foundation Stage. This curriculum has a distinct identity for young children from birth to the end of the Reception year. It offers a wide range of educational experiences and opportunities for learning.

The curriculum is planned under three prime areas of learning:

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

There are also four specific areas through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. These are:

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

Children of this age learn best through first-hand experience and play, both indoors and outdoors. Through well-planned play children can practise ideas, concepts and skills taught, think creatively and learn to communicate with others.

Information about the EYFS curriculum, including half termly overviews and end of year expectations, can be found in the Curriculum section of the school website: <http://priorheathinfant.co.uk/curriculum/reception/>

## Assessment

Throughout your child's first year at school staff will carry out assessments to build up a profile of your child.

Whilst at Prior Heath, your child will be assessed regularly and there will be opportunities for you to discuss the progress made during the year.

Parent interviews, when you can make a personal appointment to see your child's teacher, are usually offered twice a year in October and

February. Of course, should you have a concern about your child at any time, please ring or email the school office.

## **Communication and Language**

### **Speaking and Listening**

Most children come to school with an excellent vocabulary. They will be learning when it is appropriate to speak and when to listen. Through discussion they will be encouraged to listen to and value the opinions of others. They will learn to follow instructions.

### **Physical Development**

All children are encouraged to participate in physical activities and to take part at their own level, as both performers and observers. The children will be working in the hall and outside so will wear suitable shorts, T-shirts and plimsolls. If your child has pierced ears, please ensure that he/she does not wear earrings on PE days for safety reasons. Children will also be taught to handle tools, objects and construction materials safely and with control.



Children have continuous access to the outdoor classroom to develop these skills. They will also have the opportunity to use the Adventure Playground, Trim Trail and Climbing Wall during PE lessons and at playtimes.

### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

This is critical for every young child and it gives them the foundation for success in all the other areas of learning. Children will be given opportunities through games, circle time, discussion and play to develop their confidence and concentration. They will learn to work in a group, take turns and share with others, to behave appropriately and to understand what is right and wrong. They will learn to develop respect for their own culture and those of other people.

# Literacy

## Reading

Children begin to experience reading by discussing pictures and verbally creating their own stories. In the Autumn term we begin to teach letters and sounds and blending these to read simple words. As the children progress at their own pace, we will assess them on our school structured reading programme.



Paired reading at home is a very important ingredient in helping your child to learn to read. By taking five or ten minutes every day to read with your child from the books brought home, you will be encouraging a life-long enjoyment, comprehension and critical awareness of literature. Please ensure that you make a record of each book that you share with your child at home in their reading record book.

## Writing

Correct letter formation and the sounds that the letters make are important. By learning these at this early stage, the children are soon able to write independently, using their own spelling. The confidence to write develops naturally through play activities, e.g. writing a shopping list in the house and sending invitations to an imaginary party. At Prior Heath the children learn to write cursively (when every letter starts on the line).

### ***How can you help?***

1. By reading at home with your child every day and discussing the content.
2. By drawing your child's attention to words around them on signs, packets and shops, etc.
3. Give your child the chance to use writing and colouring materials.
4. Encourage your child to be involved in simple writing at home, e.g. shopping lists, birthday cards to Grandma, etc.
5. To help your child use the correct pencil grip.
6. Please model cursive writing.

7. Please use lower case letters when writing labels or names, i.e. Peter, not PETER.
8. Try to give your child different experiences to stimulate discussion and enhance vocabulary, e.g. a museum trip or a visit to the countryside.

## **Mathematics**

This area of learning includes number, counting and calculating, shape, space and measures and problem solving. Children will become familiar with numbers and recognise numerals. They will learn through songs, rhymes and various practical activities. These may include games using dice, dominoes and number lines to consolidate numbers to 20.

### ***How can you help?***

1. Make your child aware of all the numbers around them, e.g. house numbers and give opportunities for writing numbers, e.g. on shopping lists - 3 oranges, etc.
2. To play counting games, e.g. how many strides to the door, play simple games using dice, counting forwards and backwards
3. Singing counting songs, e.g. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 once I caught a fish alive

## **Understanding the World**

In this area children develop the crucial knowledge, skills and understanding that help them to make sense of the world. This forms the foundation of later work in science, RE, history, geography and computing. The children have access to tablet computers in class.

## **Expressive Arts and Design**

This area includes art, music, dance, role-play and imaginative play. These areas are a vehicle for creativity and expression. Children will learn to work individually, in pairs and as part of a group. We are fortunate to have a specialist music teacher teach the children once a week.

## **Lunches**

The Government currently funds free school lunches for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. School meals are freshly prepared and cooked on-site by Twelve15 (previously known as Commercial Services) part of Surrey County Council. There are two choices of meal every day: a main (usually meat) option and a vegetarian option. The menus for the Autumn term 2020 will be available on the school website. The children choose their meal on arrival in the morning. Therapeutic and religious dietary requirements are supported and considered on completion of a special diets request form which is available from the school office.

We encourage the children to try a little of everything, but they are not made to eat any food that they do not like. We expect them to remember their table manners. The children use a knife and fork for eating school lunches so practise using these implements would be beneficial. We try to make lunchtime a quiet, civilised occasion.

We hope that the majority of parents will take up the option of a free school meal for their child. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact the office.

## **Snacks & Milk**

Children are encouraged to bring in a named bottle of water to drink throughout the day. The school provides children with a healthy snack (e.g. fruit or vegetable) each day. We have a school milk scheme which is run by Cool Milk. Once registered, children under 5 are able to receive a free carton of semi-skimmed milk every day. Milk is subsidised for pupils aged five or older at around £15.00 a term.

## **Home Time**

At home time Reception children are not allowed to leave the classroom until the teacher can see the appropriate adult waiting. If you need to change your collection arrangements please notify the teacher by letter or contact the school office. In the first few weeks we will be asking you who you are collecting as we get to know you and your child.

## How can you help?

Here are some of the ways in which you can ease your child's entry into school. Some may appear very obvious and trivial to you but, through experience, we have learnt that they make all the difference in giving your child a happy start to school.

1. Be on time!
2. We ask that you say your goodbyes outside the classroom door so your child can start the day independently.
3. Name all items of clothing, including shoes (where possible) and PE kit.
4. Buy clothing that your child can manage alone, for example shoes with Velcro fastenings or buckles instead of shoe laces.
5. Do not let your child bring toys or other treasures to school, unless asked by the teacher to do so.
6. Check your child's reading folder and bag for letters each day.
7. If you do need to change your normal collection arrangements, please contact the office by email: [info@prior-heath.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:info@prior-heath.surrey.sch.uk) or telephone: 01276 25546 during the day.

We hope that your child will be very happy at Prior Heath and will enjoy playing and learning in this stimulating environment. There are many opportunities for parents to visit and take part in school life, and we hope to see you whenever you are available.