



Reception Booklet

Welcome to Prior Heath.

We very much look forward to welcoming you and your child to Reception. Our classes are called Chestnut and Willow.

During the first few weeks in school, your child will be adjusting to a new phase of life and will find this an exciting but tiring new adventure. He or she will be getting used to a group of new children and learning new routines and expectations. In our experience, children generally take this in their stride and learn as individuals, in small groups or as a class.

This booklet will guide you through the curriculum taught in Reception.

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 (we call this continuous provision). Through well-planned continuous provision 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.

Assessment

Throughout your child's first year at school staff will carry out assessments to build up a profile of your child. We use an online learning journal called Tapestry to record your child's achievements. You will have access to your own account so that you can contribute to your child's learning journal.

Whilst at Prior Heath, your child will be assessed regularly, beginning with the statutory baseline in September 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 March. However, should you have a concern about your child at any time, please do not hesitate to email your child's class teacher at the following address:

willow.class@prior-heath.surrey.sch.uk or
chestnut.class@prior-heath.surrey.sch.uk

Prime Areas of Learning

Communication and Language

Speaking

The children will be learning to use new vocabulary and to talk in clear, full sentences. They will begin to use the appropriate tenses and have opportunities to speak in different contexts.

Listening, Attention and Understanding

The children will learn how to listen and respond appropriately. Through discussion, they will be encouraged to listen to and value the opinions of others. They will learn to follow multi step instructions.

How can you help?

- Read a variety of different books together and encourage your child to talk about the pictures and the story.
- Sing nursery rhymes and songs to help with language development and memory.
- Play rhyming games, make up silly words or use puppets to act out stories.

Physical Development

Gross motor skills

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 come to school on their allocated P.E. days dressed in their P.E. kit. If your child has pierced ears, please ensure that he/she does not wear earrings on P.E. days for safety reasons. We do not allow the use of tape to cover earrings during P.E. lessons.



Children have continuous access to the outdoor classroom to further develop their gross motor skills. They will also have the opportunity to use the adventure playground, trim trail and climbing wall during P.E. lessons and at playtimes.

Fine motor skills

Children will strengthen their fine motor skills and learn how to hold a pencil effectively in a tripod grip as well as a range of small tools such as scissors, paintbrushes and cutlery.

How can you help?

- Be active and provide opportunities to run, jump and climb!
- Involve your child in food preparation and talk about the importance of healthy food choices.
- Dance and move to the music!

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Self-regulation

Children will learn about their own feelings and those of others and begin to regulate their behaviour.

Managing Self

Children will learn to be confident to try new activities and show independence. They will manage their own basic hygiene and personal needs, including dressing, going to the toilet and understanding the importance of healthy food choices.

Building Relationships

Children will learn to work and play cooperatively and take turns with others. They will learn to form positive attachments to adults and friendships with peers. Children will learn to show sensitivity to their own and to others' needs.

How can you help?

- Develop social skills by playing games that involve turn taking and co-operation.
- Encourage emotional understanding by discussing feelings in books, role-play scenarios and during everyday conversations.
- Foster a sense of self and confidence by continuing to celebrate all achievements and positive attributes.

Specific Areas of Learning

Literacy

Regularly sharing stories at home and fostering a love of books are very important ingredients in helping your child to learn to read.

At Prior Heath, we follow the 'Unlocking Letters and Sounds' accredited scheme to teach phonics (the letters and the sounds that they make) daily.

Each week, children in Reception will bring home two books to read to you that are matched to their current phonic knowledge and understanding. The children will read each book three times at home, once for decoding (sounding out and blending), twice for fluency (adding speed) and thirdly for developing prosody (adding expression). Every week the children will also bring home a story sack containing a book for you to read **to** your child and activities related to the text for you to enjoy completing together.

Once a week, your child will read in school with their teacher. Using a stamp, this will be recorded in your child's yellow reading record so you know your child has read in school that day.

Comprehension

Children begin to experience reading by discussing pictures and verbally creating their own stories. Children will demonstrate understanding of what has been read to them by retelling narratives using their own words and recently introduced vocabulary.



Word Building

Children will learn to say a sound for each letter in the alphabet and at least 10 digraphs (a combination of two letters representing one sound). They will learn to read words consistent with their phonic knowledge by sound-blending. Children will learn to read aloud simple sentences and books that are consistent with their phonic knowledge, including some common exception words.

Writing

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 print letters as they are taught the grapheme (letter) in their phonics lessons. Children will learn to spell words by using the phonemes (sounds) they know.

How can you help?

- By reading at home with your child **every day** and discussing the content.
- By drawing your child's attention to words all around them e.g. on signs, packets, in shops etc.
- Give your child the chance to use writing and colouring materials.
- Encourage your child to be involved in simple writing at home, e.g. shopping lists, birthday cards etc.
- Model the correct pencil grip to your child and ensure that they are using it.
- Model writing in **lower case** printed letters.
- Use **lower case** letters when writing labels or names i.e. Peter, not PETER.

Mathematics

At Prior Heath we teach Maths daily and children in Year R develop an in-depth knowledge of numbers up to 10. We follow the NCETM Maths Mastering Number Scheme alongside White Rose Maths.

Number

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 10. Children will learn to have a deep understanding of numbers to 10, including the composition of each number. They will learn to subitise (say an amount without counting) to 5 and recall number bonds to 5.

Numerical Patterns

Children will learn to verbally count beyond 20, recognising the pattern of the counting system. They will compare quantities up to 10 in different contexts, recognising when one quantity is greater than, less than or the same as the other quantity. Children will explore and represent patterns within numbers up to 10, including evens and odds, double facts and how quantities can be distributed equally.

How can you help?

- Make your child aware of all the numbers around them, e.g. house numbers and provide opportunities for writing numbers, e.g. on shopping lists etc.
- To play counting games, e.g. how many strides to the door, play simple games using dice, counting forwards and backwards.
- 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, R.E., History, Geography and Computing. The children have access to tablets (Learn Pads) and laptops as part of the curriculum. In Year R, they will learn about past and present, people, culture and communities and the natural world.

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. At Prior Heath, we are fortunate to have a specialist music teacher who teaches the children once a week.

Additional Information

Home Time

At home time, Reception children are not allowed to leave the classroom until the teacher can see the appropriate adult waving. 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.

- Be on time for drop off (8.40am) and pick up (2.50pm)!
- Say your goodbyes **outside** the classroom door so your child can start the day independently.
- Name all items of clothing, including shoes and socks as well as P.E. kit.
- Buy clothing that your child can manage alone, for example shoes with Velcro fastenings or buckles instead of shoelaces.
- Do not let your child bring toys or other treasures to school, unless asked by the teacher to do so.
- Check your child's book bag for letters each day.
- If you do need to change your normal collection arrangements, please contact the office by email: 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 our 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 to attend.