

Reception learning at Asterdale



Welcome to Reception at Asterdale



The Reception year is about much more than numbers, shapes and letters. Although, very important, they are not the only thing your child will learn about. During the year they will develop independence, confidence, resilience, new interests, new knowledge, new skills and new vocabulary just to name a few. It's an exciting time for your child and marks the start of their journey at school.

Reception is all about learning through play as well as being guided by the team of adults. Our classroom looks different to the other classes. We don't have as many tables to sit at because we're so busy 'doing' in our areas.

We have several different learning areas; a role play area including a home corner where we can pretend to be different people; a construction area where we can build imaginative models; a reading area where we can read our favourite books and apply our learning in phonics; a maths area where we can practice our number work and solve problems; a creative workshop where we can make pictures and where we might get a little messy; a mark making area where we can practice making marks using a range of drawing tools... as well as our outdoor area. Your child uses many of these areas every day and so they may come from school very tired!

In reception we continue to follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework, which was begun in nursery.

Our curriculum has been carefully planned and learning will be sequential and progressive. Children learn holistically and therefore, most of the time they may be learning from all 7 areas of the EYFS curriculum at the same time!

Your child may have areas of the classroom where they spend a lot of their day, for example the sand.

There is no need to worry though as they may be learning about shapes, amounts, volume, creating imaginative worlds, textures and even developing their motor skills and strength which in turn supports readiness for writing!

Most of our resources will be accessible to your child all the time: this is our Continuous Provision. However, we will 'enhance' areas following the interests of the children or to develop specific skills or themes.

What can you do to help your child during their Reception year?



1. Read!

Read to your child and encourage them to read to you/ Read anything and everything, not just the reading scheme books. Your child will bring home a library book, you can share this with them as well.

Encourage your child to talk about the pictures in books, or make predictions about what will happen next if it is an unfamiliar story. Talk about how the characters are feeling and how they know this. It's important for your child to enjoy reading and not feel like it's a chore.

Encourage your child to look for and recognise print in the environment – when you are shopping, on the bus or at the park. I bet they can recognise and tell you what the 'Golden Arches' of McDonalds mean!

2. Help with phonics

Once the children have settled into school, usually after a couple of weeks, we begin our phonics journey. At Asterdale we follow Little Wandle for phonics. Initially the lessons only last around 10 minutes and gradually increase to around 30 minutes later in the year.

Please have a look at the parent section of the Little Wandle website:

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

Talk to your child about individual letters and the sounds they make. Your child will bring home small flashcards each week with the phonemes (sounds) we have learnt during the week. Singing songs and nursery rhymes supports learning in phonics.

3. Talk numbers

There are all sorts of ways to encourage number recognition. Try to involve your child in using numbers at home by singing number rhymes and songs or encouraging them to recognise and read numbers when you are in the car or out and about. When shopping ask your child to select the number of apples or bananas you need – they're helping you too. Encourage them to set the table for meals – this encourages 1:1 correspondence – checking they have enough knives and forks for everyone that needs one.

4. Getting dressed independently

We understand how frustrating this can be when you are in a rush and need to get out of the door but you are developing life skills and independence. Please support your child so they can dress themselves, including fastening zips and buttons. They will be getting changed into PE kits at school and it helps if the children can take their own clothes off, put them back on and turn them the right way round! Of course we will still help them if they find it tricky.

