

A Day In The Life Of Reception

All parents wonder what their children get up to at school. It is only natural. Reception is the beginning of a child's education and we all want to know what goes on. Many parents will receive similar responses from their children when they ask how their day was and what they did. "I don't know, nothing, I can't remember, I just played and it was good" will be heard by most parents. More worryingly for you, when you ask them who they played with, they will often answer "no one".

Here's a little insight for you, because after all, who knows what happens in Reception other than your child? Let's break down a typical day in Reception.



Our EYFS school day timings are: 8:45-3:20

Start of the day

Children are greeted by Mrs Elphick outside Foundation. Our Foundation Stage gates open at 8:45 and close at 8:55am.

The children are encouraged to say goodbye to their adults on the playground and come inside the classroom. Independence is an important skill, we encourage this in our Reception class by allowing the children to put their water bottle, bag and coat away neatly. The children prepare for their day by changing their shoes and then settle down for a morning activity in their group areas.



After we have taken the register, we take time to talk to our friends and adults about how we are feeling. Phonics is usually the first subject that is taught in the morning. The children are ready to focus and are excited to learn new letters and sounds. They build their segmenting and blending skills to encourage reading and writing skills.

Leading on from our phonics lesson the children will complete a range of short adult led focus activities in their groups. These include Dough Disco (accessed until Christmas) where children strengthen their fingers and hands in preparation for writing. A daily handwriting lesson, this is usually pattern work to begin with and progresses into letter formation. We also access a spelling session linked to our phonic learning where children learn to segment, write and learn to spell tricky words.



Learning through play is an important part of Reception. The classroom is designed to be accessible, engaging and fun for all of the children to play, explore and experiment independently, or with their friends. There are lots of different areas within the classroom which have accessible and interactive activities for the children to play within the free flowing environment. There is a mix of adult guided and child led activities throughout the classroom. These cover all areas of the curriculum. Please read more about the curriculum and framework in our other poster.

Throughout the morning children will plan and lead their own 'provision exploration' time, work in small groups linked to mathematics or literacy and complete guided writes 1:1 with an adult.

Snack and chat

After a busy morning we take some time to regain some energy and have a snack. We use this time to encourage healthy eating habits and table manners. All children have the option to have a carton of milk or their water bottle and a piece of fruit provided by school. We use this time to enhance social skills and listen to stories or sing nursery rhymes.



What's next?



All children access a 'Mastering Number' session on the carpet. There are also more opportunities to explore, enhance and develop learning in 'provision exploration time'. Adults will continue to support your child in provision, small groups and 1:1 guided play inside and out.



Lunch Time!

After a full morning of learning it's time to eat. The children are encouraged to make healthy food choices and to use their knife and fork correctly. The children will go to the dinner hall, line up and collect their tray and lunch. After lunch, the children walk back to class supported by our friendly and kind Year 6 children and members of staff. The children will then enjoy a 'lunch break' outside in the foundation play area with exciting resources on offer.

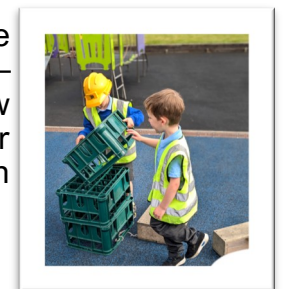


Afternoon activities



After a fun filled lunch and time spent outside we change our shoes, complete our afternoon register and enjoy some 'Welton Wellbeing' time to feel calm and ready for our afternoon of learning. This includes a 'story massage' completed by the children on each others back with calming music, breathing exercises and sometimes some mindful meditation or yoga.

Topic time is something we do in the afternoon. We usually have an adult led input linked to a specific area of learning – Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design. There is often a follow up activity where children will have the opportunity to practise new skills. Our afternoons are topic based and these change every half term. Provision exploration continues inside and out.



This helps build on skills they already have and promotes a curiosity approach to learning. Activities range from playing 'Doctor's Surgery' in the role-play shed, hedgehog house junk modelling in the creative area or carefully observing eggs and chicks in the curiosity area. Adults will play alongside children, listen to children read and carry out 1:1 and small group work.

Time to go home

At around 3pm we have our final snack of the day. This is typically a piece of fruit provided by school and only our water bottle. We will often all sit together and have a story or singing session. Children are then encouraged to collect all of their own belongings ready to take home. We talk about what we have enjoyed and learnt that day so that we are ready to share news with our families at home.



Our foundation gates open at 3:20. Carers and parents are politely asked to wait on the foundation playground and the children's names will be called as we see each adult.