

The EYFS Team

Class Teachers: Mrs Whittle, Mrs Dickinson and Miss Kendrick

Teaching assistants: Mrs Bramley, Mrs Newcombe, Mrs Jordan, Mrs Smart and Mrs Meadows

Music Teacher: Mr Walters

Welcome to EYFS- Reception



Advent 1 2023

In Reception, we provide a broad and balanced curriculum where the children lead the learning and their needs and interests are the heart of everything we do.

For the first half term, our wonder question and line of enquiry will be: **I wonder what makes us so special?** This will relate to the topic: **All about marvellous me.**

The big picture - We will be looking at families, friends and transition into school. The children will talk about who they live with, where they live and the community, and who cares for them and how. We will be discussing school routines and our behaviour curriculum, as well as exploring the classrooms and outdoor area. They will be selecting their own resources and developing their playing skills to allow them to be confident learners.

R.E. Each term has three Come and See (Religious Education) topics. These are:

Autumn	Spring	Summer
Myself	Celebrating	Good News
Welcome	Gathering	Friends
Birthday	Growing	Our World

Availability and Communication

There are a variety of ways that we like to keep in touch with you. There will be a half termly EYFS- Reception newsletter, a regular school newsletter and the school website, <http://www.goodshepherd.notts.sch.uk/> plus Twitter @thegsaprimary.

Please encourage your child to become more independent by encouraging them to empty their bag every day and show you pictures, hand you letters and share their reading diary.

At least one member of staff will be available, when you drop your child off in the morning and collect them at night, to take a short message at the classroom doors – **please let us know if someone different is due to collect your child.** If you need to speak to us at length, we ask that you make an appointment with us and we will arrange a convenient date and time with you.

Any messages can be sent via the office or the child's organiser and these will be passed on to the relevant member of staff.

Please email
office@goodshepherd.notts.sch.uk

Dates for your diary

- PTA Reception parents' coffee morning in the hall – Friday 15th September 9am-10am in the school hall
- Meet the Teacher session - Tuesday 19th September 3.30-4.30pm
- Parents' Evening Tuesday 17th October
- Break up for half term (2 weeks) Friday 20th October

More information to follow for the above events.

Please note there may be some additional dates and information sent to you via the Arbor app or email, which you provided when you filled in the starting school forms.

We are SO proud...

of how well your wonderful children come into school each day. They have settled in beautifully and are our shining stars!

P.E.

P.E will take place on a Friday morning for both Reception classes.

- Please make sure that your child comes dressed in their PE kit and that all items of clothing are labelled. They can wear trainers (preferably Velcro, if they are unable to tie their own laces). This helps your child's independence, as well as reducing the risk of lost uniform.
- For warmer weather, children's PE kit will consist of a white polo top and navy shorts. For colder months, navy joggers, a navy sweatshirt and a white polo top. No logos please.

Please remove earrings on P.E. day and all long hair must be tied back. Only stud earrings may be worn on non-P.E. days.

Behaviour at the Good Shepherd Academy

We are very proud of our children and the way in which they behave. Our behaviour management is rooted in love, forgiveness and the Gospel values. Through our nurturing approach, we encourage the children to see themselves as unique individuals made in God's image and we seek to accentuate the positive in each child.

In Reception, we will be focusing on developing children's self-regulatory skills, which can be defined as the ability to manage their own behaviour, feelings and aspects of their learning in different situations.

We will be spending a lot of time over the next few weeks establishing our class expectations and routines. We believe these are very important as it helps to create an environment in which every child can feel secure and able to develop at their own pace. We try and live by our school values of:

being joyful, showing respect, serving others, achieving our best, showing mercy, being courageous, being generous and showing gratitude.

These are often rewarded with 'mission merits' throughout the school day, which will appear on your Dojo app.

If your child does something super at home, please fill in a WOW moment and send it in to class so that they can celebrate with their teacher and peers.



Home Learning

• Reading

Please ensure that your child's reading books and organiser are in their folder and brought to school **every** day (these will be given out shortly). Remember to sign/comment in the diary every time you have heard them read. We will change your child's books and hear them read in school once a week. Please try and hear them each night at home.

• Phonics

Phonics work is key to developing your child's ability to read and write and this is why we focus, at first, on teaching the children letter sounds rather than the letter names. More information will be given at the 'Meet the Teacher' evening.

• Home Learning

Our focus for this half term is reading. Please also try and complete the weekly 'golden ticket' with your child as this will consolidate their learning in school.

Reminders

- We do lots of outdoor learning. **Please bring in a named pair of wellies for your child at your earliest convenience. These will stay in school.** Thank-you ☺
- Please ensure **all belongings** are labelled with your child's name, so if lost they can be easily returned to you. Children must bring a named drinks bottle to school each day, filled with **water only**.
- Please ensure to complete GDPR form provided in the initial pack and return to the school office as soon as possible.
- Pick up arrangements from now onwards: Mrs Whittle's class from the prayer garden and Mrs Dickinson's class from the classroom door.
- Please only come into school via the main school drive for drop offs and pick-ups, and not via the gate at the bottom (this is our Nursery entrance). However, you may exit via the bottom gate.