



ADVENT 2026

# Reception Newsletter

Welcome to The Good Shepherd and to Reception! We hope you have all had a fantastic summer.

We are delighted to meet your little ones and we are so excited for the year ahead!

## Our team

Your Reception team is: Mrs Whittle, Mrs Bickle, Miss Farrelly, Mrs Jordan, Miss Passarelli and Mrs Rowntree.

## Our Curriculum



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

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 enable them to be confident learners.



**PE will take place on Monday afternoons** 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 sports logos please.
- Please remove earrings on PE days and tie back long hair.



**Follow us on social media:** we post updates and photos on our social media accounts so consider following us to stay in the loop.

You can find us on Facebook and on Instagram.

## Behaviour

We are very proud of our children and the way in which they behave. Our behaviour management is routed 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 of children to manage their own behaviour, feelings, and aspects of their learning in different situations.

Over the next few weeks, we will be establishing our class expectations and routines. We believe these are very important as they help 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', which will appear on your Dojo app. If your child does something super at home, please fill in a 'WOW moment' and send it into class so that they can celebrate with their teacher and peers.

## Reminders

- We do lots of outdoor learning. Please bring in a **named pair of wellies and an all-in-one suit** for your child at your earliest convenience. These will stay in school.
- Please **label all belongings** 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 register for Class Dojo (RAW-Mrs Whittle's class and RMB- Mrs Bickle's class).
- 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).
- Your child will not need to bring a bag to school, as we do not have space on their pegs to store these. We do however ask, that you bring labelled spare clothes in a disposable carrier bag to be stored in school.

## Helping your child at home

- Reading (daily – 10 mins per day): Please ensure that your child's reading books and organisers are in their folder and brought to school every day (these will be given out shortly). Remember to sign/comment in the organiser every time you have heard them read. We will change your child's books and hear them read in school once a week.
- Phonics (weekly- 10 mins): Practical phonics-based activity linked to the learning in class. Please look out for weekly golden tickets.
- Maths/topic related activity (half termly).

## Diary dates

- Friday 18 September: After School Foam Party: Tickets on Arbor /school shop.
- Tuesday 22 September 3.45-4.15pm, Reading workshop.
- Tuesday 8 December 10am and Thursday 10 December 2pm – Reception Nativity.