

Welcome to Reception!

At our school we are known as Class 1 and our teaching team is made up of caring and experienced staff who have a passion for Early Years. Miss Mitchell is the class teacher and Mrs Knowles is the High Level Teaching Assistant. Children also benefit from weekly sessions with experienced sports coaches from NUFC and enjoy swimming lessons in the Summer term.

At Greenhead School we aim to provide the highest quality care and education for all our children therefore giving them the strong foundation for their future. We aim to ensure that all our children develop into independent and lifelong learners.

During our time in Reception class we learn the importance and joy of being part of our school community, by joining in with school routines and events. By the end of the year we are confident, independent and firmly established within school life.

Our Reception classes follow the curriculum as outlined in the [Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage](#). The EYFS is based on seven key features of effective practice as set out in [Development Matters 2020](#). Please see the attached EYFS Policy (*add link from website*) for further information regarding our curriculum.

Our EYFS policy will also provide you with information regarding:

- inclusion
- assessment
- transition
- health and safety and safeguarding
- home/school links

Our Topics 2021/22

Possible themes/interests/lines of enquiry – these may change due to children's interests and needs.

Cycle A	
Autumn 1	Me & My Community topic Elmer Exploring Autumn project Halloween
Autumn 2	Once upon a Time topic Sparkle and Shine project Bonfire Night Diwali Christmas
Spring 1	Starry Night topic Winter Wonderland project Chinese New Year
Spring 2	Dangerous Dinosaurs topic Puddles and Rainbows project

	Pancake Day Easter Spring
Summer 1	Sunshine and Sunflowers topic Lifecycles Shadows and Reflections project
Summer 2	Big Wide World topic Africa/Stories from other cultures Splash! project

How can parents help?



Phonics

At Greenhead we follow the song of sounds programme. Lots of useful information and resources can be found at <https://www.songofsounds.co.uk/>. This explains clearly how the song of sounds programme works and we would encourage you to have a look.

Reading

Reading is ever so important and highly valued. We encourage you to share books with your child as often as possible. This helps your child in so many ways including:

- improvement in cognitive and language skills
- developing vocabulary
- developing listening skills
- improving attention span
- learning life lessons
- improving speech and language
- developing creativity
- social and emotional development



Your child will also be sent home with a school reading book along with a reading record. Please encourage your child to read daily if possible. Please record each time you read with your child. This can just be a page or two. It is really beneficial for your child to read the book several times during the week before it is changed. Please send your child's book and reading record into school each day so we can also read with your child.

All children will start with a picture book. Please talk to your child about what is happening in the pictures. You can ask questions about the story such as:

What do you think might happen next?

What happened first, next, last etc?

What characters were in the story? What names would you give them? What did the characters do?

What happened in the story?

How were the characters feeling?

Word books will be given when we have practised our first few RWI phonics sounds and have practised lots of blending and segmenting in class. Children will be practising how to say each sound (not the letter names) and then blend the sounds together to make words.

Children can also enjoy practising reading by using [Reading Eggs](#). Log in details and more information is sent home at the beginning of the academic year.

Writing

- Encourage and celebrate all mark making e.g. this could be a shopping list your child has 'written' which you can chat about together or a picture of a recent outing.
- Please encourage correct 'pinchy pinchy' pencil grip and letter formation.
- Children can practise writing their name using correct letter formation.
- Practise fine motor skills activities (these are activities that strengthen the muscles in your child's fingers in order for them to be able to have the finger strength and pressure to write).



Maths

In Reception we use the Mastery approach to teach maths. Mastering maths means pupils acquire a deep, long-term, secure and adaptable understanding of the subject. Everyone is a mathematician.

Make the most of real-life situations to practise maths with your child e.g. counting boxes at the supermarket, measuring ingredients, looking for numbers and shapes in their environment, laying the table. Sing lots of number songs. Play number games – practising matching, sorting, 1:1 counting, ordering.

We invite parents in for information meetings at the beginning of the school year to further explain how we teach phonics, reading, writing and maths and to show you how you can support your child at home with this.



School 360 – Busy Things

Children will be introduced to this wonderful resource at school and log in details and further information will be sent home at the beginning of the academic year. Busy Things provides a whole host of activities which your child will love and which will support them with their learning and development.

Rewards and sanctions

There is lots to learn in Reception and we are all about positive reinforcement. We praise and celebrate all that is good. This might be verbally, by giving a sticker (which the children love!), a bit of extra playtime, a class round of applause, School 360 points etc. Each week we have a Star of the Week. This is celebrated in our school newsletter and the child receives a certificate and can choose a prize from the box. This can be given for all sorts of achievements e.g. being a great friend, helping to tidy up, super listening, a super piece of work...

In Reception we have a smiley face system. Everyone starts each day on the green smiley face and this is where we aim to stay. If a child is behaving in an unacceptable way we talk it through with them. If they continue with their behaviour then they go down to the orange face with another verbal warning and then onto the red face if the behaviour continues. Once we have a good understanding of school rules and if we hurt our friends physically we go straight to the red face. If we are on the red face we have to stand by the member of staff on duty at playtime and miss five minutes play. We spend lots of time in Reception discussing, learning about and practising acceptable behaviours. We enjoy lots of circle time activities which encourage us e.g. to share, listen to others opinions, play together...

Northumberland School Readiness Passport

If your child has already attended a pre-school setting in Northumberland you may already be aware of the passport which is used to gather information about key events in a child's early life. In Reception we continue to use this system to monitor and document your child's developments and to ensure they are on track.

