



WELCOME TO ADSWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tel: 0161 483 5003



RECEPTION INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

A message from our Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Adswood Primary School. We hope your child will settle happily and enjoy their first experience of school.

Our school vision is 'Enjoy, Believe, Achieve' - to learn and grow together, the whole school community working in harmony towards the best future for everyone. We will provide the best possible education for the children of Adswood within a supportive setting, thus enabling them to feel a sense of belonging and worth.

We aim to do this by:

- Promoting such values as honesty, trust, mutual support and respect, encouraging everyone to adopt a caring attitude towards each other, each other's belongings and our school.
- Providing equality of opportunity within a safe, secure, positive, happy and stimulating environment where adults and children alike can share in the joy of teaching and learning.
- Having high expectations of everybody in relation to work and behaviour, encouraging perseverance and taking pride in own and others achievements throughout school.
- Working in partnership with children, parents, governors and other supporting personnel and agencies for the benefit of individual pupils, groups, families and the school.

While it is my priority that the education your child receives here with us will enable them to achieve their academic potential and progress confidently into the next phase of their education, it is also part of my vision that all our children are filled with positive experiences, that they are aware of the endless possibilities that await them and that they are nurtured in order to develop within them, a confidence to embrace whatever comes their way. Underpinning the above, is my relentless commitment to ensuring that the children of Adswood Primary School possess the values that enable them to live well in society and that the children are prepared to deal effectively with the challenges that the modern world presents.

All of my staff share this vision and recognise children as unique individuals with specific talents and needs. They work tirelessly to provide a varied and engaging curriculum and a positive school experience. You'll find our classrooms to be hives of activity and full of creativity and learning, making Adswood Primary a special place for children.

We believe every child deserves the best possible start in life to fulfill their potential. A child's experience in the early years has a major impact on their future life chances. A secure, safe and happy childhood is important in its own right and it provides the foundation for children to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up. We know that when parents choose our school they want to know that the provision will keep their children safe and help them to thrive.

In the Foundation Stage - Reception and Nursery - adults work with children, providing experiences and supporting them in developing a positive sense of themselves and others, respect for others, social skills and a positive attitude towards learning.

The statutory Early Learning Goals establish expectations for most children to reach by the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). They provide the basis for planning throughout the EYFS, so laying secure foundations for future learning. All activities in the Foundation Stage are underpinned by sound educational theory. The Foundation Stage staff are very professional and experienced in Early Years education and care. Our team are very approachable and are always happy to talk with you about your child.

We recognise that children learn in many different ways and we draw on a range of teaching strategies and knowledge of child development. We encourage the children to play, talk, observe, test, plan, question and reflect on their experiences.

Finally, thank you again for your interest in our school. We hope that this is the start of a long and happy association between your family and our school. If you require any further information then please do not hesitate to contact us.

'We work in partnership to achieve success because everybody matters'.

Please visit our school website for further information about our school, our policies and photographs and footage of our EYFS setting.

Yours sincerely,

Michelle Smart
Headteacher

Welcome to Reception

Transition Stay and Play Sessions - July 2025

The Reception team provides all children with a safe, positive and vibrant environment, through which they can imagine, create and explore experiences and opportunities. We nurture and support children in becoming happy, confident and resilient learners. The transition to Reception whether it be from home, childminder or nursery is extremely important and we aim to make this transition as smooth and as enjoyable as possible for all children.

To support this transition, we will be having a number of 'Stay and Play' sessions in July. Our first session is for you to attend with your child and during the second session your child will experience our setting without the presence of their parent.

Please bring your child's completed 'Pupil Information pack' to the session. During the session we will also have school uniforms and book bags to purchase. (cash only)

Session 1: Tuesday 1st July - 1.30pm - 2.15pm

(Parents attend session 1 only)

Session 2: Wednesday 9th July - 1.30pm - 2.15pm

On your child's first day Wednesday 3rd September 2025:

- Our School gates open at 8.40am and close at 8.50am. The team will greet you and your child at our Reception classroom door. Please enter our EYFS playground via the Junior playground.
- Children will go into the classroom and be shown where to hang their coats and they will have individual lockers for their book bags.
- Throughout this day we will be learning names, playing games and getting to know one another.
- Please arrive to collect your child at 3.10pm. Staff will call for your child upon seeing you. For the first few days please be patient as we learn your faces!

School Uniform

Please ensure all uniform, coats and lunch bags are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Children must wear school uniform. The basic colours are red, grey and white.

It consists of:

- White shirt or polo shirt
- Grey / black trousers / skirt / pinafore dress (no jeans or tracksuits)
- Red sweatshirt / cardigan / jumper (These items with our school logo can be purchased from our school office)
- Black shoes (no heels or trainers)
- We provide fleeces and splash suits for our outdoor areas and a PE kit.

Please find our uniform policy on our website.

Breakfast Club and After School Club

At Adswood Primary School, we offer a before and after school club facility for our parents/carers who require child care.

Our Breakfast Club is open from 7.45am- 8.40am each day. We provide children with a breakfast including bagels, cereals, fruit and milk/water. There is a range of activities available for them to enjoy. The club is led by school staff.

Our After School Club is open Monday to Friday between the hours of 3:15pm and 5:45pm during term-time only. The Club is held in the school hall and runs various structured fun activities!

The cost of the Breakfast Club is £3 per session and After School Club is £10 per session paid weekly, in advance.

Please visit the school website for more information.

P.E. Kit

We provide all children with a P.E. kit consisting of a t-shirt and shorts. Pumps/trainers will be needed in the Summer term.

Snacks

Children have access to water and milk throughout the day. If you would like your child to have their own water bottle, please label it and we advise water only.

Your child can bring a healthy morning snack to school. The children only have limited time to eat so please only send in one snack and name them if possible. We are also a nut free school so please check the ingredients in your child's snack. Please do not send your child in with chocolate or crisps.

School Dinners

Children in Reception qualify for a free universal school meal and these can be ordered via Parent Pay.

<https://www.parentpay.com/>

You will receive instructions on how to set up a ParentPay account within your child's first few days of school. Please make us aware of any dietary requirements that your child may have so we can accommodate their requirements.

Please also apply for a 'Free School Meal' and complete the form in the Pupil Information pack. If you are eligible, the school will receive *additional* funding. Please contact our School Business Manager if you have any questions.

You may wish for your child to have a packed lunch. Please ensure that lunches are nut free.

Please speak to the team if your child has any other allergies.

Our Learning Environment

Our Reception classroom is an open-plan learning environment and is updated each half-term to reflect our theme. It provides children with exciting and engaging opportunities to develop their learning. We have an open-door policy within our setting which enables children to access both indoor and outdoor provision. We are passionate about outdoor learning and have two vibrant outdoor areas for children to access.



Our Learning

Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside. We carefully select topics to ensure that we provide children with exciting, stimulating and purposeful experiences.

There are seven areas of learning and development that must shape our provision in Reception. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. None of the areas of learning can be delivered in isolation from the others. Our children's learning experiences enable them to develop competency and skills across a number of learning areas. They require a balance of adult led and child-initiated activities in order for children to reach the levels required at the end of Reception.

Three areas are particularly important for building a foundation for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, forming relationships and thriving in our setting.

The three Prime areas are:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Staff will also support children in four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied.

Specific Areas:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Reception pupils participate in daily phonics sessions. We teach phonics and early reading using the 'Read Write Inc' programme. The children will learn how to 'read' the (Phonemes) sounds in words and how those sounds can be written down (Graphemes). This is essential for reading, but it also helps children learn to spell well. We teach the children simple ways of remembering these sounds and letters. Children will then be taught how to blend sounds together and once the children have learnt to blend accurately, they will start to read with fluency.

Writing is taught based on our half-termly themes, where children learn a story or a piece of text and then using taught skills, draw pictures and write labels, captions and sentences. We encourage mark making and writing throughout the whole of the Early Years Foundation Stage environment.

Through our daily maths curriculum, children will develop a secure understanding of number and develop the necessary building blocks to excel mathematically. Children will learn to subitise and develop a good number sense. They will develop a deep understanding of the numbers to 10, the relationship between them and the patterns within those numbers. By providing opportunities to build and apply this understanding, using manipulatives such as pebbles for counters and ten frames for organising counting: children will develop a secure base of knowledge and vocabulary from which mastery of mathematics is built. In addition, it is important that the curriculum includes rich opportunities for children to develop their spatial reasoning skills across all areas of maths including shape, space and measures. It is also important that children develop positive attitudes in maths and are willing to have a go and take risks. Children will be encouraged to look for patterns, make mistakes and to talk to adults and peers to explain their mathematical thinking.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

We ensure that our environment and delivery of the curriculum incorporates the three characteristics of effective teaching and learning:

Playing and exploring

Children will have opportunities to investigate and experience things, and 'Have a Go'.

'Children's play reflects their wide ranging and varied interests and preoccupations. In their play children learn at their highest level. Playing with peers is important for children's development. Through play, our children explore and develop learning experiences, which help them make sense of the world. They practise and build up ideas, learn how to control themselves and understand the need for rules. They have the opportunity to think creatively alongside other children as well as on their own. They communicate with others as they investigate and solve problems.'

Active learning

Children will have time and space to concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy their achievements.

'Children learn best through physical and mental challenges. Active learning involves other people, objects, ideas and events that engage and involve children for sustained periods.'

Active learning occurs when children are motivated and interested. Children need some independence and control over their learning. As children develop their confidence, they learn to make decisions. It provides children with a sense of satisfaction as they take ownership of their learning.

Creating and thinking critically

We encourage and support children to have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

'When children have opportunities to play with ideas in different situations and with a variety of resources, they discover connections and come to new and better understandings and ways of doing things. Adult support in this process enhances their ability to think critically and ask questions.'

Children should be given the opportunity to be creative through all areas of learning. Adults can support children's thinking and help them make connections by showing interest, offering encouragement, clarifying ideas and asking open ended questions. Children can access resources and move around the classroom freely and purposefully to extend their learning.

How we assess

Within Reception we carry out ongoing assessments by observing children as they play and learn and based on our observations we will set next steps to make sure that children are being challenged at the appropriate level. We very much encourage parents and carers to be involved in our assessment process by telling us about the wonderful things that they do at home. All children in Reception take part in the statutory Reception Baseline Assessment within their first six weeks. The assessment is a short, interactive and practical assessment of your child's early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills when they begin school, using materials that most children of your child's age will be familiar with. At the end of Reception teachers must complete an EYFS profile for each child. The assessment must take place in the summer term of the academic year in which a child reaches age 5 years. Each child must be assessed against the Early Learning Goals.

Communication



You will receive communications from school via our Seesaw app. This may be newsletters, general notices for parents/carers, photographs and videos of your child's learning. In addition, each week there will be a Reception Blog, which will provide more detail of our weekly learning. Talking to children about what they have been learning helps them to make connections, reflect and develop their communication skills. Seesaw is also a great way for you to share your child's learning at home by sending a picture or video to share with the class!

Within this welcome pack you will find a Seesaw consent form. Please complete this and return back to the class team or school office so that we can set up your login details.

Attendance Matters - Moments Count!

Excellent attendance is vital to ensure the children have the best possible education, ultimately enabling them to have greater choice later in life. Therefore, we take attendance seriously and do all we can to support excellent attendance from all of our children.

The school has the following motto for attendance: H.E.R.O: Here, Everyday, Ready to learn and On Time. Classes are monitored on a weekly basis and the class with the highest attendance wins our H.E.R.O monkey for the week and extra play!

You must contact the school before 8.30am, through the school spider app or by phoning the absence line on 0161 483 5003. Please state your child's name, class and reason for absence. Please note that you will need to contact us every morning of your child's illness.

If a child is not in school and we do not know the reason why, the school is required to contact parents or carers to make sure the child is safe and establish the reason for absence. This is called first day calling.

Safeguarding

The school is completely committed to ensuring the safeguarding of all the children. The school complies with all the requirements. These include Health and Safety, Safer Recruitment, Risk Assessments on trips and visits, entrance and exit arrangements, supervision levels, Managing Medicines in Schools, Fire Safety and Child Protection.

All staff receive the appropriate training. All staff are trained in Child Protection and Prevent. The school has Designated Safeguarding Leads for Child Protection - Mrs Smart and in her absence, Mrs Lennon, Mrs Gee, Mr Clarke or Miss Hulmes.

First Aid

Staff in Reception are paediatric first aid trained. A record is kept of any accidents and first aid treatment given. If you have any concerns about the health and well-being of your child (for instance if they are feeling unwell or taking medication) then please contact the school immediately.

It is vital that we are kept informed of where you can be contacted in an emergency, especially if you go out to work during the day.

Intimate Care of Children

During their time at Adswood Primary School your child may need intimate care. This can be when cleaning up a child after they have had a toileting accident or helping them to change clothes when wet. Staff follow our Intimate Care Policy and recognise that there is a need to treat all children with respect when intimate care is given and no child should be attended to in a way that causes distress or pain.

Our intimate care policy can be found on our school website.

At Adswood Primary School children always come first. Their happiness and well-being is our top priority. We aim to ensure that all children, staff and parents/carers embrace and live our school vision, 'Enjoy, believe, achieve'. We hope that you have found this information pack useful for any further information please take a look at our school website or please ask a member of our team. Thank you for choosing Adswood Primary School for your child and we look forward to our journey together.

The Reception Team

