

Headteacher
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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to Reception at Ducklington C.E Primary School! We are called the Ducklings class.

Staffing

The **Ducklings** class teacher is **Mrs Rippin** and the teaching assistants are **Miss Mortimer** and **Mrs Heritage**. **Mrs Davis** works in the classroom on a **Monday and Friday afternoon**. We work really well as a team. Mr Campbell will teach music once a week too. (On a Tuesday morning)

We have been very impressed with the children's smooth transition to school and look forward to helping them explore their interests, develop new skills, and become independent, creative learners. Thank you for encouraging your children to become independent by coming in by themselves. They are all really proud of themselves and have just been amazing.

Our Curriculum

When planning in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) we base our topics on the needs and interests of the children. Although we recognise each child's different starting points, attached are some of the key aspects of a child's development that we would be encouraging through child-initiated learning and in our adult led sessions, this term. We hope our curriculum map supports you in encouraging your child's learning at home too.

(Copies of the class creative curriculum map can be found on the website.) If you have any questions about our curriculum, please do not hesitate to ask.

In Foundation, the focus is on the way children learn which is known as the Characteristics of Effective Learning. They run through and underpin the seven areas of learning and development, as detailed in the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework. They describe learning processes that occur throughout every day activities and experiences. They also support the child to remain an

effective and motivated learner. Through focusing on the Characteristic of Effective Learning the children will be encouraged to become aware of how they learn, and when to use the language to explain the learning skills.

Here is a summary of the different characteristics

Playing and Exploring

- Finding out and exploring
- Playing with what they know
- Being willing to have a go

Active Learning

- Being involved and concentrating
- Enjoying achieving what they set out to do
- Keep trying

Creating and Thinking Critically

- Having their own ideas
- Making links
- Choosing new ways to do things

In class we have three toy dinosaurs which we relate to the characteristics of learning. The children may soon come home saying that they have been an Explorasaurus (**Playing and Exploring**), or a Tryasaurus (**Active Learning**) or a Thinkasaurus (**Creating and Thinking Critically**),

Phonics

We have started to learn our phonics sounds and how to form some letter sounds.

Term 1 & 2 RSHE Content for Reception

During our Relationships, Health and Sex Education consultation, we indicated that we will be keeping parents regularly informed about content to be taught in the term ahead.

This term, your child will have the following Jigsaw topics:

Term 1	Being Me in My World- self-identity, understanding feelings, being in a classroom, being gentle and rights & responsibilities
Term 2	Celebrating Difference- identifying talents, being special, families, where we live, making friends, standing up for yourself.

Please see the RHSE curriculum page of our school website for further information.

Reward system

Ducklington C.E Primary School is a values based school, where we encourage the children to 'dare, discover and do' and our core values are respect, perseverance and friendship. Alongside these values, we use the 'Proud cloud' chart. Children move up leaves on a beanstalk, to eventually reach the 'Proud cloud' at the top where they receive a special sticker and round of applause to recognise their efforts.

WOW Sheets

If your child has something special, they would like to share with us, from a family day out to an achievement outside school, please complete a WOW sheets. Once completed, please return to class. The form will be shared with the class, displayed on the achievement board and then filed in your child's learning journal.

Items from home.

To avoid lost or broken items we would request that no toys are brought into school. We will have days when topic related items can be brought in. If it is your child's turn to 'show and tell' an item of their choice they will bring home a bag to put their 'show and tell' in. This is an opportunity for your child to talk about items of interest to them and answer questions from their peers about their item.

P.E.

The children will bring home their PE kits before each holiday. PE in foundation stage will consist of both some whole class sessions when the children get dressed for PE and some small group sessions in the outdoor area. The children will change for P.E. on Fridays. If your child has pierced ears, they must be able to take out earrings on their own as teachers are unable to assist them. Long hair will need to be tied back. Please refer to the uniform policy for details.

Water bottles

We ask that children bring in a water bottle daily. They are able to drink their water throughout the day and refill it. This ensures they are hydrated throughout the day.

Milk

Each child receives free milk until their 5th birthday, once they turn 5 this will stop unless you register for it. If your child would like to be taken off the milk register before they turn five please inform Cool Milk.

Snack

In Reception, we receive free government fruit each day. We will be eating this in the mornings. Please provide your child with a piece of fresh fruit or vegetable and they will eat this in the afternoon (please cut up grapes!).

Reading

Your child will eventually come home with a book for you to share with them. Please encourage your child to talk about the pictures and what is happening. Please always put the book back in your child's book bag to keep it safe. Please record in their reading record book.

Birthday celebrations

As part of our healthy school approach, we no longer are able to hand out sweets, cakes or gifts to the class from the birthday girl or boy. We will still mark the special of their birthday with a special sticker to go home with.

Reminders

Please could your child leave a pair of named wellington boots in school. They also need a jumper/cardigan and coat daily. A spare set of clothing, in particular socks and pants, left in your child's bag is essential. It would also be very helpful if all personal items including drinks bottles, shoes and coats are named

If your child is having a school dinner your child's food request form must be filled out by the Thursday of the previous week.

Medicines and Allergies

Please ensure any allergies or suspected/possible allergies are known to the school. We will eat food we have cooked within school time. Therefore, it is important that we know of any potential issues.

Non-prescription medicines (including calpol) are **not** allowed to be administered at school. If your child requires prescription medication this must be taken to the school office in a labelled box with your child's photo with a completed medicine form.

If your child uses an inhaler, please ensure that you bring it to the school office in a named container along with the prescription requirements - please complete the form.

Communication to your class teacher

Please send any communication to the school office and this will be passed on to the class teacher.

Collection at home time

If your child is being picked up by someone other than yourself, please ensure that you have emailed the school office.

Please leave as promptly as possible when you have collected all of your children. Many thanks for your help with this.

All of the children have settled in really well and we are looking forward to the rest of the term. We will endeavour to keep you regularly informed about topics and information to support your child's learning but please do come and see us if you have any concerns or need more information. We are always here to help you in any way we can.

Kind Regards,
The Early Years Foundation Stage Team