



James Peacock
Infant & Nursery School



Reception

A handbook for
Parents and Carers

2024-2025

Welcome to Reception!

Welcome to Reception, the next step in your child's Early Years Foundation Stage and their official start to school.

Our aim is to ensure that your child is part of a secure, caring and happy environment, where their learning can flourish.

We believe in a strong partnership between home and school to encourage your children to become confident, enthusiastic and articulate learners. We welcome the opportunity to work with you to support your child's development and learning.

All about Reception

The reception team are warm, caring and friendly with a wealth of Early Years training and teaching experience. We aim to provide a nurturing, supportive environment in which our children learn and grow. Curiosity is encouraged and we are passionate about enabling the children to explore and learn about their own interests, developing their independence and confidence.

Timings

The school day starts at 8.40am. In the morning, you will enter the school to the far right of the main school entrance. The classroom doors all open at 8.35am. There is a bike shed on the main playground where you're welcome to leave scooters and bikes during the day should you wish to.

Children get one hour for lunch, where they eat in the hall then go outside to play. All children in reception are entitled to a universal free school dinner, at present we have the choice of a main hot meal or a jacket potato. You may choose to provide a packed lunch instead. Menus will be available on the school website and also on our weekly Peacock Post newsletter.

The school day ends at 3.10pm and children will be dismissed by their class teacher from the class door/gate.

Our learning

Each day we do a variety of directed activities, sometimes as a whole class, sometimes within a group and sometimes one to one with an adult. These activities are carefully planned for by the teachers using the EYFS Revised Framework. We recognise and value the importance of child-initiated learning, so as we get to know your children, we adapt our planning and teaching in order to include and develop their interests.

In addition to directed activities, we also spend a considerable amount of time 'choosing' our learning each day. We operate a free-flow system, where children are able to access the indoor and outdoor spaces deciding how they wish to spend their time. Activities are carefully chosen and resourced in order to provide quality

opportunities across the 17 areas of learning. During this time, the adults scaffold and extend the children's learning and play, helping them to become confident, independent learners.

As the outside area is accessible every day, whatever the weather, the children need to be dressed appropriately, so please keep an eye on the weather forecast and if possible please leave a named pair of wellies in school.

At James Peacock we follow the Read Write inc (RWI) phonics programme. During their year in reception, children will take part in daily phonics sessions. Children will also have a daily story/text shared in class and there will be multiple reading and writing activities available to them during choosing time.

For Maths, we use a combination of the NCETM Mastering Number programme and White Rose Maths. A minimum of 4 taught sessions are delivered each week, in addition to daily maths activities and resources available in the learning provision. Children have access to Numbots to practise their maths skills at home.

We follow our whole school curriculum for the foundation subjects, which continues right through to Year 2, ensuring a progression of knowledge and skills for the children on their James Peacock' school journey. Class topics will be shared with you throughout the year via Class Dojo in the form of a curriculum map.

Physical development is a particularly important part of Early Years child development, so in addition to regular daily access to our outdoor provision, we also have a sports coach delivering weekly PE sessions. We have plans in place to continue to develop our outdoor provision over the next year.

Throughout the year, your children will get to take part in some special celebration assemblies, including our weekly PROUD assembly and singing assembly, as well as a range of enrichment and whole-school events.

There will be much more information on the specifics of learning in reception when we send our "Welcome to the Year Group packs" in September.

Class Dojo

Children benefit significantly from talking about what they've done at school with you at home. Therefore, we will share some photographs, observations and notes relating to 'wow moments' with parents via Class Dojo. We use Class Dojo as a communication tool to keep you informed of any upcoming events and news. Please look out for a letter inviting you to join Class Dojo in the future!

Clothing and belongings

Children are expected to wear school uniform. Please see the website for links to our provider and our second-hand clothing shop.

All children will need a named water bottle and wellies in school every day (wellies can stay in school). We participate in physical play and education daily, so please choose suitable footwear for running and climbing in, preferably without laces. Children will also need a PE kit, consisting of a white t-shirt, black jogging bottoms, leggings or shorts and trainers.

Please do name everything as this makes it much easier for us to return lost property to owners!

Milk and snack

Children are entitled to free milk until their 5th birthday. After this, you have the option to pay for daily milk from Cool Milk via their website.

We offer a carton of cow's milk (until 5th birthday) and a healthy snack (free for all infants Reception – Year 2) each day. Sadly, schools are not yet provided with milk alternatives, so if you would like to send in a milk substitute such as soya or coconut milk, please label this with your child's name and we'll keep it in our school fridge.

Allergies, medicines and special requirements

Please advise us of any individual needs you know your child has by completing the 'All About Me' form and the 'Pupil Information Form,' as well as keeping us informed of any changes and developments in person. Communication between school and home is really important and it's vital that we're aware of any medical conditions, allergies or circumstances that affect your child. All information is stored securely and is only shared with relevant staff. For specific requirements, we may ask you to complete a Health Care Plan with us to ensure information is shared between home and school effectively.

If your child has to have medicine in school, including an inhaler or epi-pen, it has to have a prescription label and you will need to complete a form from the office detailing the dosage and administration. Most medicines can and should be taken outside of school, however there are medicines for which this is not possible. Please speak to the office for more information on this.

Illness

If your child is not well enough to come to school please do let the school office know by phone in the morning before 9am. Children of statutory school age are expected to be in school daily unless they are unwell or if there are special circumstances that have been discussed with the headteacher. For episodes of D&V, please note that they can not return to school until they have had 48 hours clear of symptoms.

If your child is unwell at school we will do everything we can to make them comfortable. We will contact you or your named emergency number so that arrangements can be made for you to collect them. Please ensure that your contact numbers are up to date at all times.

Accidents

If your child bumps their head at school, we will send a standard bump text to you so that you are aware. We will also send your child home wearing a red wristband to indicate they have had a minor head bump. If they have a serious head bump, we will of course contact you by telephone.

We have many staff in school who are paediatric first aiders and a first aider is always in place at playtimes and lunchtimes to manage any accidents.

Peacock Club

In addition to school hours, you may want your child to access our wraparound care service. Peacock Club is open to all children at our school. We offer breakfast club from 7.30am – 8.30am and after school club from the end of the school day – 6pm. Peacock Club is run by Ace Sports and bookings need to be made via their online booking system. For more information, including prices, please visit the Ace website www.acesportscoaching.co.uk

Useful information

For enquiries relating to absence, medicines and general admin records please contact:

Mrs Gajree; School Business Manager
Mrs Deakin; Administrative Assistant

School telephone number: 0115 9144225
e-mail: office@jamespeacock.org.uk



Safeguarding: At James Peacock we encourage a vigilant safeguarding culture. We have posters up around school to signpost you where to go with a concern, if in doubt pop in and we will be happy to talk it through with you.

Our school SENDCo is Miss Rathbone. If your child has Special Educational Needs, Miss Rathbone will be able to support you alongside your class teacher. Your class teacher is always your first port of call.

Welcome to our James Peacock family, we look forward to getting to know you!