

Huby CE (VC) Primary School

Information for Parents of New Starters in Early Years



Huby CE (VC) Primary School

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Class Teachers: Mrs Emma Thompson and Mrs Adele Scanlan

Welcome to Huby CE (VC) Primary School!

Your child will soon be joining Robin Class at Huby School and we are greatly looking forward to them joining our school family. This booklet is intended to help you and your child prepare for this important step and give you the information you will need about the year your child will spend in Reception. It will also give you some ideas as to how you can support your child with learning at home.

At Huby School we aim to:

- create a welcoming and stimulating environment with a positive ethos where children feel safe, secure and have a sense of belonging
- encourage purposeful play with each other
- provide an environment where learning is fun
- enable children to share and care for each other
- work in partnership with parents to ensure that children achieve their potential.



The Curriculum for Children in Reception

Your child will be in Reception when they join Robin Class at Huby. This is the final year of the Early Years Foundation Stage, which lasts until the end of the school year in which they celebrate their 5th birthday.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is a planned programme of learning opportunities to help all children develop individually and make progress across all areas of learning. The curriculum is divided into stages of learning and development, eventually leading to a set of 'Early Learning Goals'. These particular statements incorporate knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes that we hope your child will achieve by the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is organised into 7 areas of learning. The 3 prime areas of learning are:

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

The 4 specific areas of learning are:

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

Underpinning the whole curriculum are 4 guiding principles which are:

- Every child is **unique**
- Children form **positive relationships**
- Children learn in **enabling environments**
- Children learn and develop in different ways and at different rates. Here are

some photographs of the provision areas in Robin Class



Teaching and Learning in Reception

Current research shows that young children learn most effectively through well-planned play activities. There are also times when a specific and direct approach is needed. Your child will experience both play-based learning and direct teaching during their year in Reception. Planned activities available in the classroom environment are appropriate to the different ages and levels of development and are based around the children's interests.

Playing Outdoors

Outdoor play is an important part of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. The children in Robin Class have access to an enclosed outdoor play area throughout the year and suitable activities are organised to support all areas of learning in this environment.



School Routines

All Reception children come to school full time from Tuesday 5th September. The school day starts at 8.55am. Children can be dropped off from 8.40am. The school day ends at 3.30pm.

Year 6 & Reception 'Buddies'

Every year we match up the Reception children with a Year 6 'buddy'. This will provide your child instantly with a friend who is very familiar with the school routines and should help your child to settle in quickly. The 'buddy' system has worked very well for several years and your child will meet his/her buddy when they visit school in July.

Registration



At Huby School, we have an open door policy from 8.40am. Children can arrive between this time and 8.55am when registration begins. Children in Robin Class arrive into school through the outdoor area. Coats and bags are hung on named pegs in their cloakroom. On arrival to the classroom, children enjoy 'free-flow' activities in the classroom until 8.55am.

Snacks

We provide fresh fruit for the children free of charge, and they eat this during the morning. We encourage children to drink water during the day throughout the year. Please provide your child with a named water bottle.

Lunch Time



The children in Robin Class eat their lunch everyday in the school hall before going to play outside. Initially, Reception children are supported by their buddies as they get their school dinner and they sit and eat lunch together.

School Dinners

Your child is entitled to a free school meal under the government funded Universal Infant Free School Meals Scheme. Our cook makes delicious hot meals on site. When your child has started school, you will receive a menu each term and you can decide with your child which days s/he would like to eat a school dinner.

Packed Lunches

Although the majority of Reception children take up a free school meal, if you prefer, you can prepare a packed lunch for your child to eat at lunch time. This must be brought to school in a suitable container clearly marked with your child's name. We encourage the children to eat healthy packed lunches and **it is against school policy to include any foods that contain nuts**, as we have children in school with severe nut allergies.

Home-time

Your child will be dismissed with the rest of the class from Robin's outdoor area at 3.30pm. Please come right up to the class gates so that we can do this safely.

Clothing and Belongings

It is important that you **clearly label all your child's clothing and belongings** with his/her name. Details of our uniform are in the school prospectus and are available to download from the school website. Our PTA will arrange a second hand uniform sale after school on transition days.

Children need to wear sensible, well-fitting shoes for school, especially as they have access to outdoor play throughout the year, in all weathers. Trainers are not suitable.

Dressing and undressing is easier for your child if fasteners are kept simple. Please think of this, especially when deciding on shoes and coats for your child. For health and safety reasons, the school policy is that jewellery is not worn at school.



PE Lessons

Your child will need a plain t-shirt and a pair of blue shorts for PE lessons. A navy hoodie and joggers can be worn in the colder months. S/he will also need a pair of pumps or trainers for outdoor games lessons. All clothing needs to be clearly labelled with your child's name. On PE days your child should come to school dressed in their kit. You will be advised of these days in September.



From May our outdoor swimming pool is used to teach swimming.

How You Can Help

As parents, you are the most important people in your child's life. Children benefit tremendously if you share an interest in their education and support the work we do in school.

You can help your child to settle more easily into school by encouraging early independence. It would be very helpful if you could teach your child to do the following things:

- Go to the toilet alone
- Wash and dry their hands by themselves
- Put on their own coat
- Look after their toys and keep them tidy
- Sit down and listen, even if only for short periods of time

Speaking and Listening

You can help your child to develop their language skills by simply talking together on a regular basis and encouraging him/her to share ideas and views. This will help your child to develop vocabulary and an understanding of language, which is important in learning to read and write.



Writing

- Encourage your child's early attempts at writing - send notes to each other, leave messages for people you know, make a shopping list.
- Please encourage your child to write the first letter of their name using a capital letter.
- Encourage your child to do pretend writing and ask him/her what it says. S/he will probably be able to tell you!

Reading

- Read storybooks
- Tell each other stories
- Learn Nursery Rhymes and songs
- Help your child to recognise and write his/her own name
- Do jigsaws and puzzles





Mathematical Skills

- Count out loud with your child
- Play board games
- Look for numbers in the environment
- Play ‘shops’ together with real money
- Look at sizes, shapes and colours of things around them, and begin to recognise patterns

Partnership with Parents

As your child starts in Reception, this is the beginning of a partnership between your family and Huby School. It is important that we work together to provide the best possible start to your child’s education. If you have not already done so, you will be asked to sign a Home-School Agreement. This states what you can expect from the school and what we expect from parents and children. Please talk to your child about this agreement.

We will keep you informed and involved in your child’s education through:

- Regular newsletters which are emailed to parents on a Friday
- Regular updates through Tapestry/Class Dojo
- Parents’ evenings
- Informal meetings

Once your child has started school, if you have any worries or concerns at any time, please discuss these with Mrs Thomson, Mrs Scanlan or Miss Cunningham

We are very much looking forward to your child starting school with us and we trust that we will be able to develop a successful partnership with your family.

