

# New Reception Starter Information Evening

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2026

King's Academy Meadow Vale



# Leadership Team



Mrs Catherine Forrester  
Headteacher



Mr Ian Freeman  
Deputy Headteacher



Mrs Victoria Costanza  
SENCO



Mrs Zoë Galani  
Pastoral Lead

# Our mission statement



*In partnership with the whole school community and through enriching and inclusive curriculum...*



*...we aspire to nurture and empower every child to flourish through building their confidence, creativity and a love of learning.*



*We will encourage, inspire, champion and support them to achieve their potential so they become assured, considerate, resilient and active members of society.*

# One Reception unit with three classes

Whilst children participate in adult-led sessions in their separate classes, they share the learning space and make friends across the whole Reception unit during self-direct learning time (Choosing Time).

**Hedgehogs Class**



**Rabbits Class**



**Squirrels Class**



Our skilled and experienced teaching assistants supporting children within their own classes as well as work with children across the whole Reception unit delivering targeted interventions.

# Reception Daily Timetable

## Morning

Register and Fine Motor Activities/Name Writing

Reading Groups

Maths

Choosing Time (Indoors and Outdoors)

Tidy-up Time

Phonics

**Lunch: 11:30-12:30**

## Afternoon

Register and Write Dance Warm-Up

Handwriting

Choosing Time (Indoors and Outdoors)

Snack and Story Time

Assembly/Library/Literacy and Topic

Story Time

Home Time

# EYFS Curriculum Overview

## The 3 prime areas are:

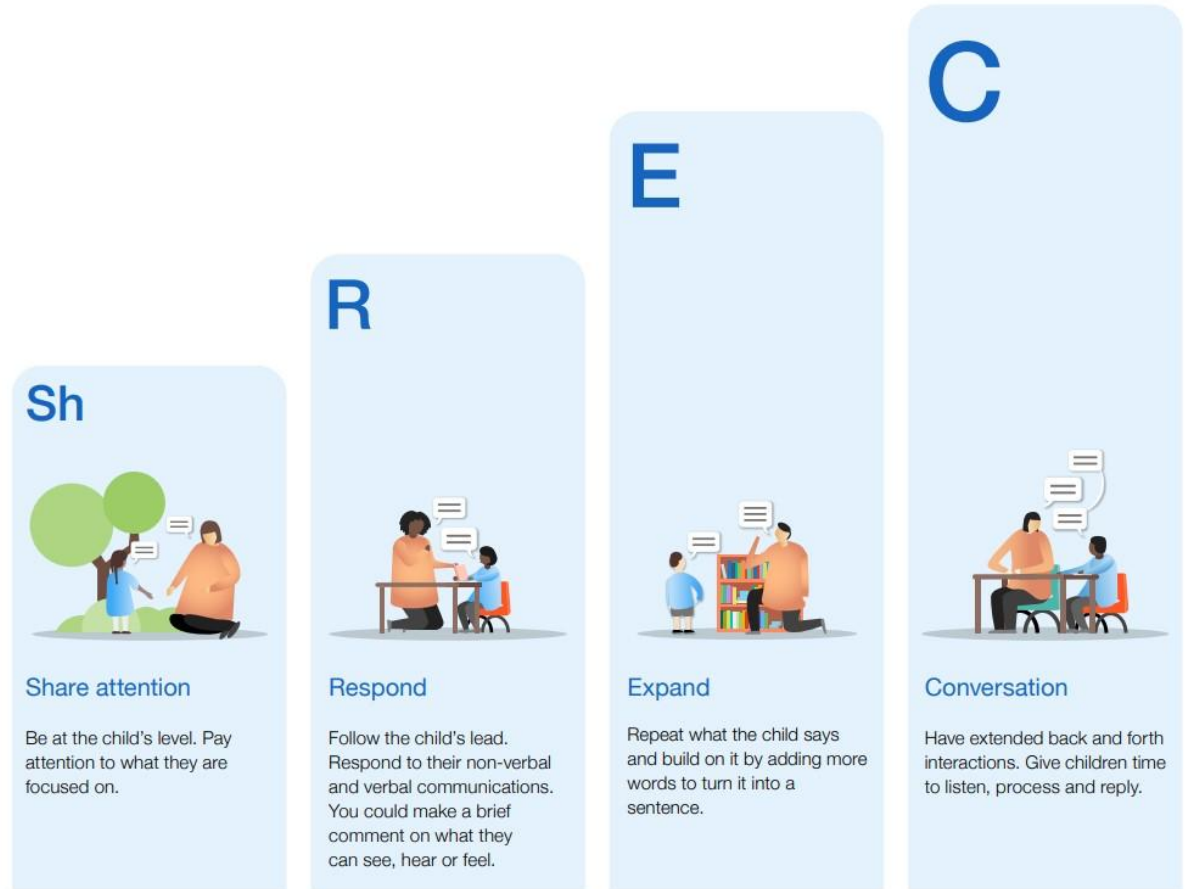
1. Communication and language
2. Personal, social and emotional development
3. Physical development

## The 4 specific areas are:

1. Literacy
2. Mathematics
3. Understanding the world
4. Expressive arts and design

# Communication and Language

- ✓ Listening, Understanding and Attention
- ✓ Speaking



We use the ShREC approach to engage our pupils in high-quality interactions.

# Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- ✓ Self-regulation
- ✓ Managing self
- ✓ Building relationships



The three strands of PSED reflect and promote our School Rules:

**Ready**

ready to learn  
ready to listen  
ready to try hard

**Respectful**

respectful to all  
adults, peers and  
property

**Safe**

safe in and  
out of class



# Physical Development

✓ Fine motor skills

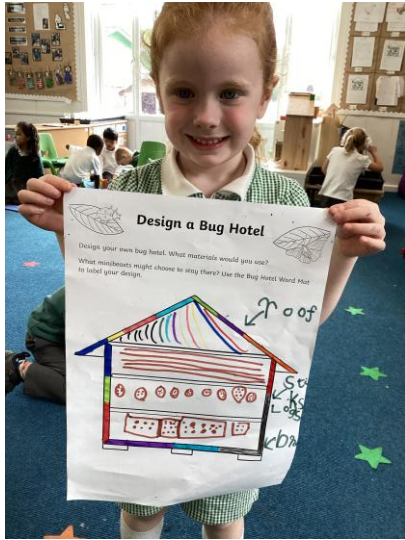


✓ Gross motor skills



# Our Curriculum

Whilst each half-term is based around a different key theme or question, our curriculum adapts to meet the needs of the children and to develop alongside their interests.



**Focus Theme: Our wonderful world...**

**Key Questions and Facts:**

What are the stages of a plant life cycle?  
I can talk about what plants need to live.  
I can identify parts of a plant.  
Who is David Attenborough and what are some of his great achievements?  
What is a habitat? I can give examples of habitats various minibeasts like.  
I know how to look after our environment.

**Key Vocabulary:**

Plant  
Seed  
Seedling  
Stem  
Leaf  
Flower  
Roots  
Germinate  
Compost/soil  
Habitat  
Minibeast  
Snail  
Slug  
Shell  
Tentacles  
Foot  
Environment

**Memorable Learning Opportunities:**

- Planting runner beans
- The sunflower challenge
- Design and build a bug hotel
- Earth Day
- Story Suitcase drama session
- Visits to school pond area
- Paint a minibeast pebble

**Related key texts:**

- Jasper's Beanstalk
- Sam's Sunflower
- The Tiny Seed
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar
- Mad About Minibeasts
- Superworm
- Little People, BIG DREAMS – David Attenborough
- Sam Plants a Sunflower



At Meadow Vale Primary School, we are committed to providing an enriching and memorable curriculum for our children. Below, are our curriculum promises. Your continued support at home is really appreciated.

**Summer 1:**

<p><b>Memorable Experience</b> Planting runner beans. The sunflower challenge.</p>		<p><b>Parental Engagement:</b> Go on a minibeast hunt in the local area – notice different minibeasts habitats and the creatures that occupy them.</p>		<p><b>Conversations to have:</b> What do plants need to live? What parts of a plant can you identify?</p>	
<p><b>Books to read:</b> The Tiny Seed Mad About Minibeasts Little People, BIG DREAMS – David Attenborough</p>		<p><b>Creative challenge:</b> Design a bug hotel.</p>		<p><b>Something to investigate:</b> Where do minibeasts live? Explore various types of minibeast habitats.</p>	



# Our School Day begins at **8:50am** and ends at **3:20pm**



**No mobile phones**

Children are dropped off at their classroom door. Please wait for the school bell on the lower playground before opening the gates and making your way through Reception garden.

Children are collected directly from the classrooms. Please wait on the lower playground until 3:20pm, when the school bell announces the end of the school day.

# Phonics and Reading

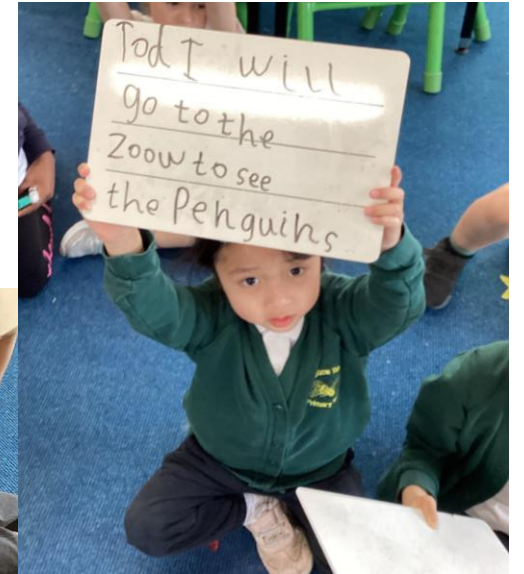
Our school has chosen *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised* as our systematic, synthetic phonics (SSP) programme to teach early reading and spelling.



## The three reads

Each session focusses on a different reading skill:

- **Decoding** the text and understanding new vocabulary
- **Prosody** reading with meaning, stress and intonation
- **Comprehension** to understand the text



# Literacy


Our literacy sessions are based on a wide range of stories and children's own experiences, which ignites the children's interest and promotes a life-long love for reading and writing for purpose.





# Maths




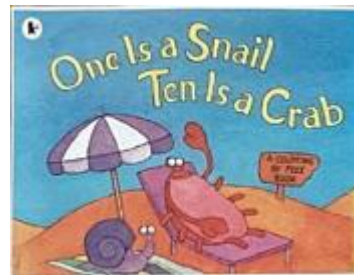
I Can  
**MASTER**  
Maths!

 By explaining it.

 By drawing it.

 By showing it in different ways.

 By teaching it.



# PE

Children come to school wearing their PE kit.



# School Library

Each class visits the library at least once a week.



# Outdoor Learning

Reception children enjoy a wide range of carefully planned, exciting and hands-on activities that bring learning outdoors and further promote their physical and mental wellbeing.





Please send a water bottle to school with your child each day. Please note the bottle should be filled with water, not juice.

## Lunches in Reception

Children have the option of a school dinner or packed lunch.

School dinners consist of 3 options meat, vegetarian or jacket potato.

Meals are free for all Reception children.

We encourage a healthy, balanced packed lunch and no nuts please.



Every day, all children will be offered a healthy snack. This is either fruit or vegetables. You are welcome to send in your own named snack instead but this must also be a piece of fruit or vegetable. Please make sure this is precut if required, e.g. grapes cut in half.



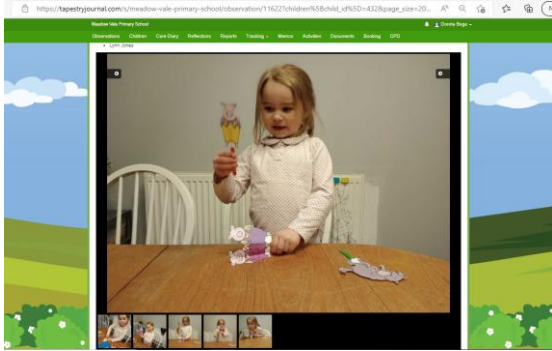
# Outdoor Play and Learning

## The OPAL Primary Programme



Play is fundamental to children's physical and mental wellbeing. At Meadow Vale Primary School, we are following an initiative called OPAL, which promotes the vision that every child in every school enjoys high quality play during breaktimes every day.





We use **Tapestry** (an online journal) to share our learning and communicate important messages. You can upload photos and videos from home to share your child's learning and achievements.



There are many opportunities to volunteer in Reception. If you would like to get involved, please contact the school office.

# Home-School Links



**Your contribution and support are always very much appreciated!**

Oakleaf: 12th June 2026

Menu W/C 15th June - Week 1

[New Menu](#)



**A message from Mrs Forrester**

**Early Years Foundation Stage**



**Oakleaf**, our Weekly Newsletter, provides important information from across the whole school. The EYFS section ensures that you are up to date with what your child has been learning and offers ideas for how to further support their learning at home.

# Homework




## Reading practice book (sent home every Friday)

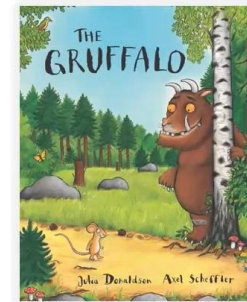
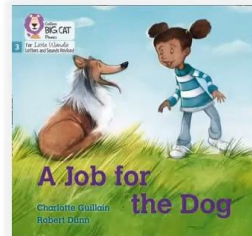
- Matched to the children's phonics stage
- Fully decodable
- The aim is to celebrate the child's achievement and further develop fluency (95% words)

## Reading



### Why read 20 mins a day?

Pupil A	Pupil B	Pupil C
		
20 mins	5 mins	1 min
1,800,000 words per year	282,000 words per year	8,000 words per year
Scores in the top 10% of standardised reading tests	Scores in the 50% range of standardised reading tests	Scores in the bottom 10% of standardised reading tests



## Library book(sent home once a week)

- Reading for pleasure
- To be shared with your child
- The goal is enjoyment as well as developing vocabulary and discussion skills

## Curriculum Promises

### **Parental Engagement:**

Go on a minibeast hunt in the local area.



## Reception Weekly Newsletter

*Ideas for supporting your child's learning at home...*

# School uniform

- White long or short-sleeved polo shirt (with or without a school logo)
- Bottle-green Meadow Vale sweatshirt or cardigan
- Black trousers/shorts, pinafore dress or skirt
- Green and white gingham summer dress (summer term only please)
- White or grey socks or tights (no trainer socks)
- Black school shoes with a sensible heel height
- No items of jewellery should be worn in school, apart from small stud earrings that must be removed for P.E.

## **PE uniform:**

- White round neck t-shirt (with or without the school logo)
- Black shorts, skirt or tracksuit bottoms
- A black jumper or long-sleeved zip up top for sessions outside in cooler weather (with or without the school logo)
- Plimsolls or trainers

Book Bags, Backpacks, drawstring sports bags and caps are also available to purchase online.

# Expectations

- Promote independence
- Label ALL your child's belongings. It is very difficult to match up un-named items with the correct child
- Punctuality – 9:00am the gates close and 3:20pm is the end of the day
- Reporting all absence to the school office
- Sickness and diarrhoea – **48hrs (2 days) before returning to school**
- Tapestry - share any learning at home
- Reading to and with your child daily
- Open door policy

# Dates and reminders

## Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July

Stay and Play session from 9:30-10:30 for Reception children with parents

## Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September

INSET Day – school closed for all children

## Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September – Morning only

Your child will attend from **8:50-11:15** and will not have lunch at school on this day.

## Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – Morning + Lunch

Your child will attend from **8:50-12:15** and will be having a packed lunch on this day.

## Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September

This is the day when most children when start their full-time hours from **8:50-3:20**

Thank you!

