



Starting Reception at Kirton Primary School

September 2025





Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Information for Grown ups

- The EYFS is a framework which describes how our Reception team works with children to support their development and learning.
- The EYFS has seven areas of learning and development: Communication and Language; Physical Development; Personal Social and Emotional Development; Literacy; Mathematics; Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design.
- It is a play-based approach and its main principals are that: each child is special, individual and capable; children learn to build relationships and grow to be independent; their surroundings have an effect on their learning and children grow at different rates.
- Children at Kirton Primary School learn through play, by adults modelling, by observing each other, and through guided learning and direct teaching. Teachers organise enabling environments carefully for high-quality play. Children will have the opportunity to invent their own play as well as be guided by an adult.
- The EYFS ensures that Reception teachers work closely with you and keep you updated on your child's progress. Parent Evenings are offered three times a year to share a summary of Learning and Next Steps with your child's class teacher, looking at how we can work together to support the children. Your child will receive a report at the end of the year and you will have the opportunity to discuss this with the teacher.
- Learning can happen at any time and anywhere. You can support your child by sharing books together, playing games, singing songs, talking about what you see when you are out and about, and counting (for instance, up and down the stairs).



WELCOME

When your child comes to school, they will come in through the external Reception door for their class between 8:45am and 8:55am.

Please help them to find their peg which will have their name on, help them to hang up their coat and bag, and put their book bag in the box in their classroom.



Your child will then say goodbye to you and come in to meet our Reception team.

They will see Louis, the puppet, every day in their classroom. As part of transition into Reception, some children will have met Louis at their Nursery or Pre-school.



CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

At school, learning takes place through structured English, maths and phonics sessions each morning and through play during the afternoon. Learning takes place both indoors and outdoors within different areas:

Writing area

Maths area

Discovery area

Home corner area

Creative area

Painting area

Malleable area

Reading area

Role play area

Construction area

Mud kitchen area

Climbing area

Music area

Water area

Sand area

Small world area

There are plenty of opportunities to have fun!



Writing



Reading



ICT



Discovery



Maths



Role Play



Construction



Creative



Water play

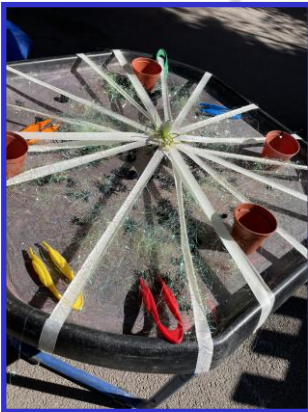
TOPICS

Each term, we choose a different theme as a starting point for learning, and your child can help their teacher decide on the activities they would like to do as part of this theme.

Here are some examples of the activities we have done during our topics:



We made a Chinese Dragon and performed a Dragon Dance with music to accompany our Chinese New Year topic.



We went on a hunt outside to see what we could find when we were learning about minibeasts.



We like to bake and have a go at making different types of food. Here we are measuring out ingredients in order to make bread.



We had lots of fun outside, exploring changes, during our spring walk.

We enjoy using our construction toys outside. We worked together to build a bear cave during our toys and bears topic.



We love sharing our experiences about birthdays during our 'Celebrations' topic. We learnt all about different birthday traditions and we gave Louis, our puppet, his own special birthday party.



We learnt lots about plants during our 'Let's Look Outside' topic. We watered them and measured how tall they grew.

Our topics throughout the year are:

Term 1: Everyday Life

Term 2: Celebrations and Festivals

Term 3: Toys

Term 4: Fantasy and Adventure

Term 5: Let's Look Outside

Term 6: Animals

PHONICS AND EARLY READING

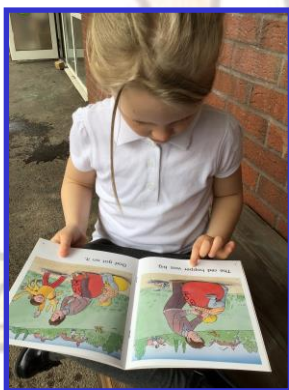
We follow the 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised' scheme to teach daily phonics sessions in Reception and Year 1. This systematic, synthetic phonics programme follows a clear sequence in order to support our children to learn how to blend for reading and segment to spell. We then provide opportunities for children to practise reading through child initiated activities.

We're teaching every child to read with Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised
A complete SSP validated by the Department for Education



We begin with learning the sounds and names of letters and then move onto blending the sounds to read words. It is important to say the sound softly.

We carefully match your child's reading book to their phonic stage using the 'Big Cat Phonics for Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised' books. Each week, our children are supported to develop skills in decoding, reading with expression and comprehension. We learn to read with carefully selected books that match the children's phonics level. Books are sent home and there is an opportunity to let your child's teacher know how they are reading at home by writing a comment in the reading record book.



We begin by reading words containing the first set of sounds that we have learnt s, a, t, p, i, n. Once we have looked at new sounds in school, the books will contain more words and we will begin to read simple sentences. It is important to bring your child's book bag to school everyday.

There will be a Phonics workshop in the Autumn Term where you can learn more about how your child learns how to read.

WRITING

We learn to hold our pencil properly.



The pencil rests between the thumb and the first finger. The next finger prevents the pencil falling down and the last two fingers are tucked away. The hand rests on the table, and the movement of the pencil is through the thumb and the first finger. It is important that the knuckles point outwards.

We learn to write our names. We use a name card to copy and practise, starting with a capital letter and then using lower case letters.



In the first weeks of starting school, we will practise writing the sounds we have learnt in phonics and we will practise writing our name. The yellow name card in your information pack can be used and reused with a drywipe pen to practise this at home.



NUMBER

We enjoy learning about numbers.



We learn to count carefully and how to read, write and order numbers.

Children can learn about counting and numbers at home in fun activities with you such as cooking and shopping.

In school, we learn about numbers using different objects and games. We also learn lots of number rhymes.

SHAPE AND MEASURE

We learn how to recognise and talk about flat and solid shapes. We also learn about patterns.



We learn how to compare objects by size, length, height and weight.

UNIFORM

We hope that your child is looking forward to coming to school and wearing their new uniform. Our school uniform is available locally and online.



School Uniform



PE kit

Please remember to put your child's name in all their school clothes, including their coat and shoes.



Suitable footwear for school

We are very fortunate to have an exciting outdoor learning environment. Because of this, we advise suitable waterproof footwear is worn during the day. For example,



Please make sure that your child can take their own shoes off and fasten them back on, (shoe laces are not recommended).

Please label your child's footwear with their names.

All children will need wellies, particularly in the winter when it is wet and muddy. Also, we try to get outside as often as we can and have great fun playing in the snow!

Wellies should remain in school.



During indoor PE, the children have bare feet. For outside PE, children wear trainers. Plimsolls are not required as they do not offer enough support during physical activity.



GETTING READY FOR SCHOOL – CHECK LIST FOR YOU TO DO WITH YOUR CHILD

Can you do these things already? Put a tick next to the picture when you can.

☐

Wash and dry my hands.

☐

Put my coat on and do it up.

☐

Put my shoes on the correct feet.

☐

Use a tissue to blow my nose.

☐

Hang up my coat and bag.

☐

Eat my lunch nicely.

☐

Dress and undress myself.

☐

Use and flush the toilet.

☐

Recognise my own name for self-registration and choosing activities.

Grown ups

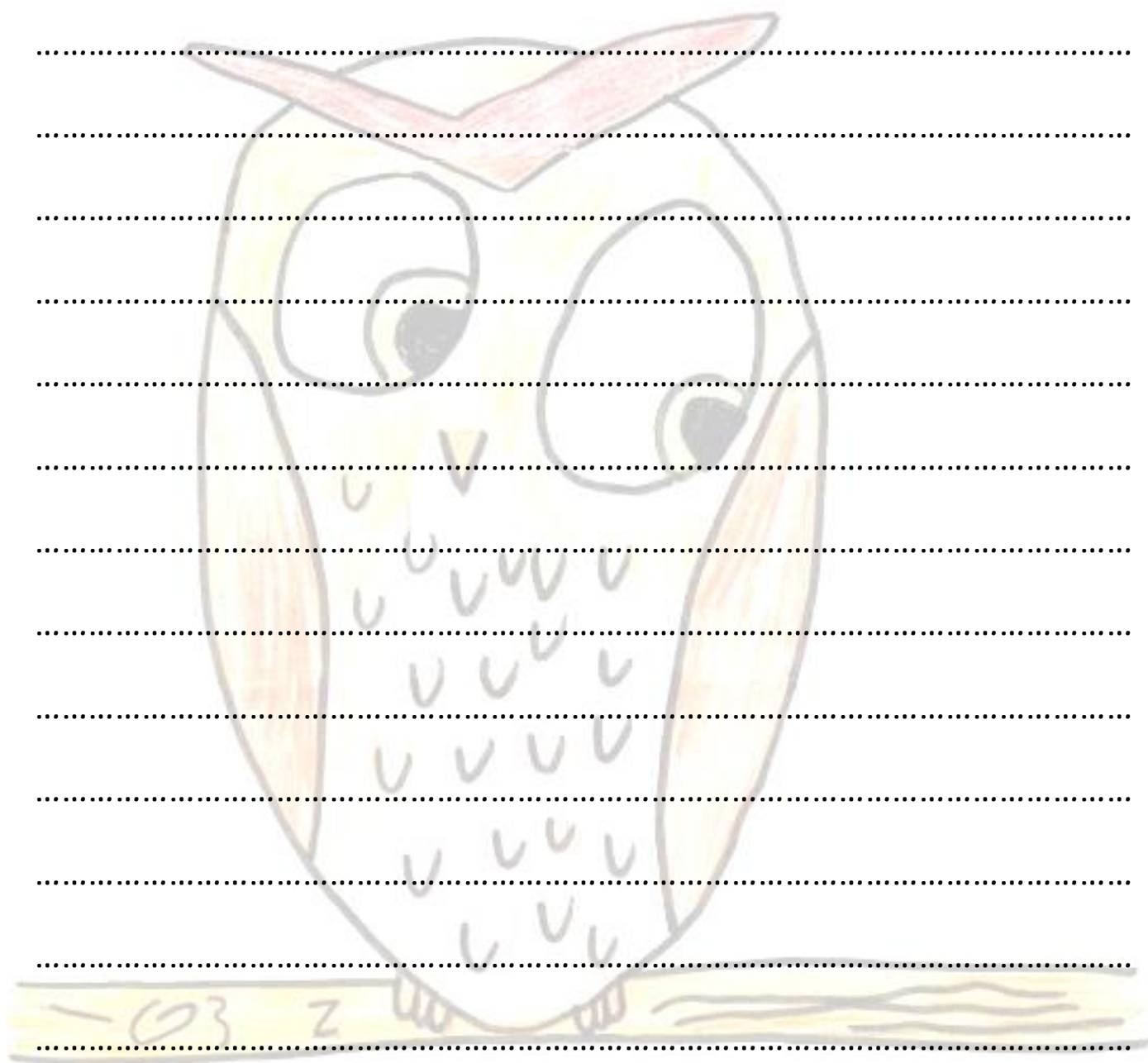
Please encourage your child to be as independent as possible at home to help them get ready for starting school.

We look forward to meeting you. It is fun to make new friends, learn and play inside and outside at school.



See you in September!

Please use this page to make any notes:





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