



EYFS

We are so pleased to welcome you and your child to our school community. Starting Reception is such an exciting milestone, and we are looking forward to working in partnership with you during your child's first year at school.

In Reception, children learn best through play, exploration, and real-life experiences. Everything you do at home makes a difference, and there are lots of simple, fun ways you can support your child's learning:

☀ **Talking and Listening** – Encourage conversations at home. Ask your child about their day, tell stories together, and let them share their ideas and experiences. This helps build confidence and develops important language skills.

📖 **Reading Together** – Spend a little time each day looking at books, talking about the pictures, and sharing stories. Don't worry if your child isn't reading words yet – enjoying books and developing a love of reading is the most important first step.

🖍 **Mark Making and Writing** – Give your child opportunities to draw, colour, paint, or 'write' their own notes and lists. This helps strengthen the muscles they'll use for writing.

🔢 **Early Maths** – Spot numbers around you (on doors, buses, or in shops), count everyday objects (stairs, fruit, toys), and play simple games like sorting or matching. Baking, building, and playing with puzzles are also great ways to practise early maths skills.

🧼 **Independence** – Encourage your child to practise putting on their own coat, shoes, and uniform, and to manage simple tasks like tidying away toys or washing their hands. These little steps help them feel proud and confident at school.

Most importantly, enjoy this special year together! Your support at home makes a huge difference to your child's learning and development. We are very excited to get to know your family and to share this journey with you. We would also like to encourage you to come to our Curriculum Afternoon on Monday 15th September after school to learn more about what we will be learning and the expectations for Reception.

Many thanks for your support

Mrs Smith & Ms Lyons

Curriculum Information

Literacy

This term, the children will be developing the early skills they need for reading and writing. We will begin by listening carefully to sounds in the environment and in words, playing lots of games to develop good listening and attention. The children will then start learning letter sounds through daily phonics sessions, beginning to blend these sounds together to read simple words and to segment them for writing.

Storytime plays a big part in our learning. We will share a wide range of stories, rhymes, and poems to build vocabulary, imagination, and a love of books. Children will be encouraged to talk about what happens in stories, predict what might come next, and retell parts in their own words.

In writing, the focus is on mark-making and giving meaning to their marks. The children will learn to hold a pencil correctly, form letters, and begin writing their own names and simple words.

All of this is taught in fun, practical

Mathematics

This term in maths, the children are learning to build strong foundations with numbers. We are focusing on recognising, counting, and comparing numbers to 5 and then to 10. The children will practise saying numbers in order, spotting numbers in the environment, and noticing when groups have more or fewer. We will also encourage them to "see" small amounts without counting (called subitising), which helps build number sense.

Alongside this, the children will be exploring shapes, patterns, and measures. They will have lots of hands-on opportunities to sort, match, and compare objects by size, weight, and capacity, as well as recognise and name simple 2D shapes.

All of this learning happens through play, stories, songs, and practical activities, helping the children to develop confidence and enjoyment in using maths in everyday life.

Communication and Language

One of the key areas of the Early Years curriculum is Communication and Language. In order to move towards achieving our Early Learning Goals, we will be listening to stories so that we can talk about them, ask questions and have back and forth conversations with our friends.

We will also be introducing new words to our learning areas, in order to develop our use of higher level vocabulary.

To support this at home, please continue to have meaningful conversations with your children about their day. You could also engage in lots of days out and walks to enable your child to learn specific vocabulary.



ways – through play, role play, songs, and activities that help children see themselves as confident readers and writers from the very start.			
Expressive Art and Design Our final term in Early Years will explore the use of materials and using tools and techniques safely. We will continue to explore with colour, design, texture, form and function. We look forward to the children sharing their creations with us and explaining the process to the class. Role play will continue to be a part of our structured busy learning, to enable the children to take on the personas of characters. In order to support this strand at home, continue to sing well-known nursery rhymes and songs.	Understanding the World We will be talking about past and present, the lives of people around us and understanding the past through books and storytelling. We will talk about our family and learn about different generations within a family. We will also learn about our local area and key events in history, including Bonfire Night & Remembrance Day. In science, we will be learning about our body and our senses.		
Physical Development In the Autumn term, we will practice our gross and fine motor skills. The children will learn to negotiate space and obstacles safely and demonstrate strength, balance and coordination. The children will take part in lots of BIG and <i>small</i> movements to support their development and strengthen their muscles and improve their mobility.  In order to practice at home, please continue to reinforce the correct use of cutlery when eating breakfast and dinner.		PSED (Personal, Social & Emotional Development) Finally, the children will be learning all about how to become more independent and learn all about themselves. The children will learn about their feelings and how to manage their feelings. They will learn some strategies to help them cope with big feelings. Things you can practice at home are: washing hands, getting dressed, choosing healthy foods and taking turns with others in games and conversations.	
Home Learning At Meadow Park Academy, we believe that home learning can provide valuable opportunities to consolidate and practice learning. We expect all children in EYFS to complete the following weekly:			
Reading The children will be sent home with a reading book matching their phonological knowledge so they can continue to practice their learning at home. They are expected to read 5 times per week. Please make a record of this in the children’s reading records.		Phonics As a school, we follow Read Write Inc phonics. Please continue to watch the Ruth Miskin videos to support your child’s learning at home. https://www.ruthmiskin.com/parentsandcarers/ 	
If you are struggling to access any of this homework, please speak to your child’s class teacher about alternative arrangements.			



Other information

School Uniform

All children should come to school in the correct school uniform,

which is:

- Meadow Park sweatshirt
- Plain white polo shirt
- Plain grey or white socks
- Grey trousers
- Grey skirt
- Black, sensible shoes (no heels)



PE Kit

Children may come to school wearing their PE kits on their PE days. Our PE day is:

Monday

Our PE uniform is:

- Meadow Park black shorts
- Meadow Park emerald green T shirt
- Plimsolls, trainers or bare feet (for indoor PE)
- Trainers with good grip and support for outside sport (different to indoor trainers)
- Plain grey or black tracksuit bottoms and top (optional)
- Hairband to tie long hair back

We will have weekly outdoor learning so please make sure you send in a change of clothes suitable for the weather.

Our designated outdoor learning slot is in Summer 1.

Any issues?

In the first instance, please speak with the class teacher at the end of the day. If you are unable to be there on collection, please contact the school office to arrange a time to meet with the teacher.

Lunchtime

Our delicious lunches are provided by Educatering, formally known as Crumbs.



Lunches must be ordered by **midnight on Tuesday**, to ensure that your child has lunches for the **following** week. As the lunches are cooked to order, there are usually no spare lunches.

You can place your lunch orders through MCAS.



Snacks and Water Bottles

Please make sure your child has a clearly labelled water bottle in school, so that they can stay hydrated. We also welcome the children to bring in a healthy, nut free snack to enjoy at playtime.



Key Dates for your diary

Tuesday 1st September 2026 – School closed for all children (staff INSET)
Wednesday 2nd September 2026 – School open for all children – welcome back!
Friday 4th September 2026 – Coffee morning for all parents at 9am
Monday 7th September 2026 – Clubs begin (booking on MCAS app)
Monday 14th September 2026 – Curriculum afternoon in classrooms 3:30pm – 4:00pm
Tuesday 15th September 2026 – Individual Photos
Thursday 17th September 2026 – Flu Immunisations
Monday 21st September 2026 – EYFS & Y1 phonics information evening for parents – 3:30pm
Monday 21st September 2026 – Wednesday 23rd September 2026 – Y6 residential
Monday 28th September 2026 – Multiplication Check Meeting for Y4 parents – 3:30pm
Thursday 1st October 2026 – Non uniform day for Harvest Festival
Friday 2nd October 2026 – Harvest Festival performances (times TBC)
Tuesday 6th October 2026 – Divergent Drama Workshops for Y1 & Y2
Wednesday 14th October 2026 – Ancient Egyptian Escape Room for Y4
Thursday 15th October 2026 – Butser Ancient Farm for Y3
Friday 16th October 2026 – Wear Red against Racism
Friday 16th October 2026 – Last day of Autumn 1
Monday 19th October 2026 – Friday 30th October 2026 – Half Term (2 weeks)
Monday 2nd November 2026 – School open for all children – welcome back!
Friday 6th November 2026 – Turn Tilehurst Red
Wednesday 11th November 2026 – Remembrance Day
Thursday 12th November 2026 – Paddington the Musical for Y5
Friday 20th November 2026 – Children in Need
Friday 27th November 2026 – Non uniform day for Christmas Fair (details TBC)
Friday 4th December 2026 – Christmas Fair (3:30pm – 6pm)
Wednesday 9th December 2026 – Watermill Theatre for Y5 & Y6
Thursday 10th December 2026 – Aladdin at The Hexagon for Y3 & Y4
Friday 11th December 2026 – EYFS Xmas Performance (times TBC)
Monday 14th December 2026 – Friday 18th December 2026 – no clubs
Tuesday 15th December 2026 – Aladdin at The Hexagon for R, Y1 & Y2
Friday 18th December 2026 – Last day of term (finish at 1:30pm)
Tuesday 5th January 2026 – School open for all children – welcome back!

All the above dates can be found in your calendar section on the MCAS app. This will also show your child's PE day. Any changes in dates will be sent via the MCAS app.



Meadow Park Academy
Termly Newsletter
EYFS – Autumn Term

