



Reynolds Academy

Welcome to Early Years Foundation Stage





A Very Warm Welcome to you all...

Here at Reynolds Academy, we work in partnership with parents and carers to encourage independent, happy learners who thrive in school and reach their full potential from their various starting points.

We hope that you and your child enjoy being in our Early Years Foundation Stage Unit as together we strive towards high standards in education.

The staff are here to help and guide the children during their time at Reynolds Academy, not only in an academic sense but in areas of social development as well. We hope positive attitudes will be fostered within a caring and disciplined environment.

We have created indoor and outdoor environments to support children's individual learning needs, providing opportunities for children to achieve and reach their full potential in all seven areas of learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

The Foundation Stage Curriculum

In Early Years Foundation Stage, we focus on seven Areas of Learning. These include:

The Prime Areas of learning

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

The Specific Areas of learning

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





We have a child-centred curriculum based upon wow experiences and topics which engage the children.

We encourage active learning to ensure they are motivated and interested. We take time to get to know children's interests and likes to support learning.

All areas of the EYFS curriculum are followed and planned for to ensure there is a broad, balanced and progressive learning environment and curriculum.

The children will learn new skills, acquire knowledge and demonstrate understanding through the seven areas in the EYFS curriculum.

Daily guided activities are set up and planned that cover different areas of the EYFS curriculum and allow children to develop their next steps in learning.

Areas of need and next steps are identified for all children to ensure good progress is made.

There are also a range of stimulating and engaging activities which the children can access independently and

a variety of opportunities for child-initiated play.

In planning and guiding children's activities, we reflect on the different ways children learn in our practice.

Children in EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place indoors and outside.

Our outdoor area is used all year round and in all weather conditions.

Staff in EYFS make regular observations of the children's learning to ensure their next steps are met.





Parents as partners



We understand the importance of having good partnerships between home and school, as you play a key role being your child's first educators.

We believe engaging in, and supporting the following, will help your child's learning in school.

Throughout the year there will be opportunities for you to come into school which will include:

- **Stay and play half termly sessions.**
- **Craft workshops.**
- **Information workshops to support Bug Club Phonics and White Rose Maths**
- **Parents' evenings.**
- **Class assemblies.**
- **Other occasions we will celebrate in class e.g. Christmas Plays, Easter Parades and End of Year Celebrations.**
- **Being active on Tapestry.**

Completing weekly home learning challenges sent through Tapestry with your child. We enjoy seeing and sharing all the amazing work you do at home with your child.





Tapestry



TAPESTRY
ONLINE LEARNING JOURNAL



Bug Club Phonics

We follow Bug Club Phonics for reading.

Children in Early Years have daily phonics sessions and activities to apply new knowledge and skills.

We work on providing children with a language rich environment and inspire a love of reading from their very first day in Early Years.



Bug Club Phonics



We use Tapestry to record children's learning journeys and achievements.

We communicate and encourage parents and carers to share special times and moments from home and these successes are celebrated in school.

Every term, we encourage children to further develop their understanding by setting them challenges through Tapestry. This also keeps parents updated on learning what is happening in Early Years.



Books can be found in all areas of our classrooms and cosy and calm reading areas provide opportunities for children to read for pleasure during independent learning time.

In Early Years Foundation Stage, staff assess children against the Well COMM communication tool.

This is a speech and language toolkit that is designed to assess children's speech and language skills; not how they talk but how they understand language and grammar.

Alongside this, all staff are trained in Makaton and support children who are developing communication and language skills. Labels and new sounds are taught weekly and provide children with different ways in communicating with their peers.

Mathematics



We follow the White Rose scheme of work for Mathematics. Daily sessions are taught with the emphasis on children having a greater depth in understanding numbers and patterns around them.

What will your child need for September?

- A warm waterproof coat - we play outside in all weathers!
- A book bag with names clearly written on it.
- **Full school uniform. Reynolds Academy has a uniform policy.**

This includes...

- Navy blue sweatshirt with embroidered logo.
- Navy blue cardigan with embroidered logo.
- White shirt or blouse, (no polo shirts from Reception Class upwards).
- Grey trousers or skirt.
- Sensible black shoes - no high heels or boots. Please see our school website for examples of suitable shoes for boys and girls.
- White, grey or black tights for girls.
- Grey or black socks for boys.





Our school day



At the start of the day, teachers will greet children at our Early Years door on Reynolds Street at **8.45am for Nursery children** and **8.50am for Reception children**.

Your child will come into the setting independently and will be supported in preparing for the day by our team.

Whilst lining up and waiting to come into school, please ensure your child stays near to you and we ask they don't climb on the school railings.

Please be aware that our routine is subject to change

Timetable

- 8.45/8.50am Children are welcomed into school.
- 9.00am Registration and check in.
- 9.10am Wake up shake up and daily calendar.
- 9.20am Bug Club Phonics.
- 9.40am Independent Learning Time inside and outside including snack time.
- 11.20am Maths or Literacy carpet time with activities.
- 11.50am Lunch Preparation.
- 12.00pm Lunch time.
- 12.45pm Register and wake up shake up activity.
- 1.00pm Maths or Literacy carpet time with activities.
- 1.20pm Independent Learning Time inside and outside including topic-based activities.
- 2.50pm Story and singing time.
- 3.15/3.30pm Home time.

At the end of the day, you will collect your child from the same entrance at 3.15pm for our Nursery children and 3.30pm for Reception children. Your child will be dismissed by a member of the team.

Please note we will be unable to release children if the person that is collecting is not on the collection list or you have not informed us prior to home time.



How can you help prepare your child for starting school?

We encourage the children to be as independent as possible right from the start. You can help us by:

- Allowing your child to practice getting dressed into their school uniform independently, taking on and off shoes and jumpers. This will really help with changing for PE in the Spring Term (PE kit is only needed for children in Reception Class).
- Encouraging your child to put on and fasten their own coats.
- If your child is going to have a packed lunch, ensure they can open the packets and wrappers.
- Sharing books and stories. Once in Reception, children are encouraged to read at home every night.
- Singing number rhymes and play counting games.
- Playing games to encourage your child to read and write their names.
- Playing turn taking games.
- Encouraging your child to tidy up what they have been playing with.



And finally, the Early Years Team are here to support and help you. Please do not hesitate to see us if you have any concerns or questions.

- Reminding them to wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating a meal.
- Dough disco (www.doughdisco.com). This will support fine motor development and strengthen fingers in readiness for early writing.
- Encouraging children to use a knife and fork at meal times.





Reynolds Academy

Reynolds Academy Early
Years Team

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