



# Welcome to Foundation Stage Two Reception class



at  
**Tankersley St Peter's Primary School**  
*"A Love of learning developed in a Christian Environment"*

**Who will be working with my child?**

## **Meet the Reception class practitioners**



**Class Teacher  
EYFS Co-ordinator**

**Melanie Hartley**



**Teaching Assistant**

**Sally Morgan**

## What will my child be learning?



### The Foundation Stage Curriculum

Throughout the year, the children will learn new skills, acquire new knowledge and demonstrate this through 7 areas of learning and development. The 7 areas are split into 2 sections, the prime areas and the specific areas.

**The prime areas are the most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning. They are:**

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

**As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in 4 specific areas. These are:**

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

**The areas above are taught through play. The children will learn by playing and exploring, through being active and through creative and critical thinking. All of these things will take place both indoors and outdoors.**

## How will my child learn?

Some of the work is organised in topics. However, we believe that wherever possible children should lead their own learning at this stage. During their time in school some of the children's learning will be structured play as it is in the Nursery. There will also be periods of teacher directed learning.

The time spent on this more formal learning will increase through the year to ensure that children are ready for Key Stage One.

### Carpet time

During carpet time the children come together as a whole class. They might listen to a story, sing songs or be introduced to the next session. Carpet time

gives children the opportunity to come together as a class and it helps children to develop their concentration.



### Small group time

Children will also learn when working in small groups. Children work on adult led activities to meet their needs and develop their skills.



### Child initiated learning

This is when the children choose what activities/resources they want to explore. During this time children will access continuous and enhanced provision, enabling them to learn through play. It is during this time that adults observe and take time to extend the children's skills and knowledge, based on their individual interests.



### Phonics

Once the children are settled, each day they will take part in a phonics session to meet their reading needs. Children will be grouped according to their reading abilities and the group will learn new sounds, learn to segment and blend words with sounds that they already know. They will learn to use some sounds to spell words. We follow the Read Write Inc phonics scheme. A parent/carer workshop usually takes place in the Autumn term.

## The daily routine



### What do I do in the morning?

The Early Years playground gates will open at 8.35am for Nursery parents and children (due to Nursery opening at 8.40am). Nursery families will need to line up on the left hand side and will be greeted by Mrs Terrell at 8.35am. At this point, Mrs Terrell will take families up to the Nursery building where parents will say goodbye at the Nursery cloak room. At 8.45am Reception parents and children will need to line up on the right side. You will be greeted by Mrs Hartley at 8.50am. At this point, you will be able to walk up with Mrs Hartley to the Reception classroom, where you can say goodbye to your child. Once inside the class, your child will place their belongings (coats, water bottles, PE kit and lunch box) in the appropriate places, put their book bag in a classroom box, sanitise hands and self-register, before joining the carpet for whole class registration at 8.55am. If you are late (after 9.00am) please bring your child to the school office.

### What does my child do at lunchtime?

Children may bring a packed lunch or have a school dinner (this is free for all Reception children). You will be given details of the school meal website so that you can select school meals with your child at home or alternatively your child can select once in school. Children have a daily choice of either a traditional meal, vegetarian option, or a jacket potato with various fillings.

**What do I do at home time?** The school day finishes at 3.30pm and you may wait for your child on the right hand side at the Early Years playground gate where you waited for Mrs Hartley in the morning. The children will be given to the appropriate adult and any news from the day will be discussed. If anyone other than the usual adult is going to collect your child, please notify your child's teacher verbally, in writing or in the case of emergencies, through the school office. There is a form available for you to list friends / relatives (and a password), for other adults that you permit to regularly collect your child. We will not hand your child over to anyone unless these procedures have been followed and there has been authorisation by yourself.





## Uniform and PE kit

### What uniform do I need to get for my child?

The children will need to have shoes and outdoor coats that they are able to fasten and unfasten themselves. We encourage independence at all times.

Children are not allowed to wear jewellery, make up or nail varnish at school and children with long hair should wear it tied back.

Please ensure **all** of your child's belongings are named with their **full name**. Uniform is available from School Trends and My Clothing, which are online retailers and Windsors Shoes in Barnsley where our uniform is available in store. Further details or leaflets of these suppliers can be obtained from the school office. Please see the link on the school website.

### School uniform is:

#### GIRLS

White Polo Shirt/blouse  
Red School Sweatshirt/Cardigan  
Grey Skirt or Pinafore Dress and grey tights /white socks  
Red Summer School Dress and white socks  
Grey Trousers  
Black sensible school shoes

#### BOYS

White Polo Shirt/shirt  
Red School Sweatshirt  
Grey Trousers  
Grey School Shorts for the summer  
Grey/dark socks  
Black sensible school shoes

### Children will need a PE Kit

This should be brought to school on a Monday and taken home for washing on Fridays.

Black or red Shorts

Plain White T-Shirt or Polo shirt

School PE Bag

PE pumps

**EVERYTHING MUST BE NAMED CLEARLY**

### Book bags

Children will need a book bag; these can be purchased from the school office. It is important that this is brought to school daily so that the children can take home their reading books and any letters that are sent home. In a morning, book bags will be left in the 'book bag box' inside the classroom.



## Water bottles

Please make sure that your child has a water bottle that is freshly filled each day. We will encourage children to drink water throughout the day. Water bottles need to be clearly named with your child's full name and will be kept on the cloakroom trolley.

## Will my child need a snack?

We provide a healthy snack each day in the Reception class continuing the practice of the Nursery. The fruit and vegetables are provided under the 'School Fruit and Vegetables' scheme introduced by the government, which provides a piece of fruit or vegetable for each child in Foundation Stage and KS1 free of charge.



## Can my child have milk?

The children have the opportunity to have a milk drink in the morning. If your child does not want milk, they can have a drink of water. Please order your child's milk through the website [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com)

## Healthy Snack Shop

On a Friday, the children will have the opportunity to buy a healthy snack. If you want your child to have one of these snacks, please send them with a maximum of 30p in a named purse or envelope, each Thursday. They will need to place their purse or envelope in the container (situated on the name writing table).

## Piggy Bank

In the Foundation Stage and Key Stage One classes we ask for a voluntary contribution of 50p per week. This is used to buy dressing up clothes, play dough, cooking ingredients, vegetable seeds, compost etc.



# How can I help my child at home?

## Reading

### Phonics

Children learn to read by segmenting the sounds in a word. Children will take part in a daily phonics lesson. You can encourage your child to work out words by looking carefully at the sounds.

### Reading books

At the end of each week, your child will bring home a book that matches the sounds that he or she has been learning in class, during their RWI lessons. It is expected that they should be able to read the book quite confidently and it is being sent home to show parents how well they can read it. Children enjoy re-reading stories they know well. It improves not only their fluency but also their self-esteem. In order to reinforce the children's phonics learning we also send home a second book which is called a 'Book Bag Book'. These books correspond to the RWI Storybooks. They reinforce children's learning of phonics, helping them to make even faster progress in reading. These new books will be sent home every Friday and we ask that they are returned along with the reading record on the following Monday, as well as being brought to school each day. It is crucial that the books are returned promptly as they are needed for the delivery of RWI lessons. We must ask that you take care of the books and send them back to school in the new RWI plastic book bags. Reading should be an enjoyable and positive experience for you both. We encourage children to read frequently at home so they become confident readers and enjoy books. In addition we also have a home-school reading incentive whereby the children will be rewarded for reading at home. This will be monitored using the home-school reading journals, where you can write comments each time you hear your child read.

### Reading in the environment

Remember that words are not just in books! Encourage your child to take notice of words on cereal packets, at the shops, in the streets, on the bus etc.

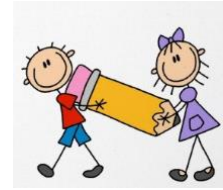
### Sharing books

As well as the reading books that the children bring home it is important to share a range of different books with your child. Books are fun and can help your child to learn new skills and words. As well as writing about the books we send home you might also like to tell us about other home books that you enjoy reading together. Jot these down in your child's home/school journal.





## How can I help my child at home?



### Writing

#### Phonics

As well as learning to read during phonics lessons children will also learn to spell words using the sounds that they know. You can support your child to spell words using the sounds that they know by playing different games. For example children might want to spell words using fridge magnets, words blocks, sponge letters in the bath.

#### Writing at home

Young children start mark making with pens and pencils as their first step to writing. They will begin by drawing pictures and then as they learn some sounds they may attempt to form letters. This progresses to trying to write their own name. Let your child see you write by slowly forming letters. He or she will begin to understand that there is a correct way to form them. Children find it easier if you show them the lower case letters at first. You can also support children to write their own labels, notices, cards etc. Some children find holding a pen or pencil difficult. Their fine motor skills may develop later. Give them lots of opportunities to use their arms with activities such as climbing or throwing balls, and using toys such as puzzles, pegs/boards and play dough which will help too. You can help by giving children different real life reasons to write e.g. writing shopping lists, birthday cards, postcards etc. Children should be encouraged to 'have a go' at spelling words, rather than becoming reliant on asking for spellings. They should use the sounds they know to make their own attempts.

#### Letter formation

a b c d e  
f g h i j k  
l m n o p  
q r s t u  
v w x y z



## How can I help my child at home?



### Maths

Maths is used in lots of everyday situations. You can support your child's mathematical development in different ways:

#### Stories

Lots of stories involve numbers, you can discuss these with your child e.g. Snow White, The Three Little Pigs etc.

#### Rhymes

There are lots of number rhymes that you can sing or find on the internet. Talk about the numbers in the rhyme or song. Some good examples include; 'One, two, three, four, five,' 'One, two, buckle my shoe,' 'Five currant buns,' 'Five little speckled frogs.' There are lots more!

#### Games

Many games involve using numbers. Children often practise recognising numbers and saying them aloud through games such as snakes and ladders. They also practise counting and recognising a number through games such as dominoes. Many children's games also involve shape. You can even invent your own games to play!

#### Everyday Maths

Talk about maths wherever possible. Playing in the sand, water, role-play and imaginative play all provide opportunities for maths. You might want to count as you lay the table or put biscuits onto a plate. You can also look at the numbers on houses or on a computer keyboard.

#### Writing numbers

When your child is ready they can be shown how to write numerals. Children can trace the shape of the numerals and create them in different places e.g. in the sand. It is important that numbers are formed correctly from the start to ensure that children don't get into bad habits.



## How can I help my child at home?

To ensure that your child is ready for school you can make sure that they can:

- Use the toilet independently.
- Get dressed and undressed themselves.
- Tidy up after they have used something.
- Recognise their own name.
- Share toys and equipment.
- Handle a pencil.
- Listen to others, looking at the person who is talking.
- Follow simple instructions.
- Practise counting to 10 and beyond.

Where possible, encourage children to be independent. The more prepared they are to eat their food independently, get dressed independently and generally help themselves, the more confident they will feel and hopefully this will help the settling in process.



## **Other information**

### **Absence from school**

Please make sure that you inform the school office if your child is unable to attend school due to illness. After a bout of sickness or upset tummy, your child should remain at home for 48 hours. We do not authorise holidays during term time.

### **Medication**

If your child has a medical condition, e.g. asthma, please obtain a consent form from the school office that will detail when prescribed medicine should be given. For other illnesses that arise, we are limited as to the medicines that we can give in school and where possible we encourage medication to be given at home. If you feel that your child does need to be given prescribed medicine throughout the school day, then you will also need to complete a consent form, which can be obtained from the school office.

### **Breakfast club**

We run a breakfast club at Tankersley. This is a before school childcare provision which opens at 8.00 am in the school hall.

### **After School Clubs**

There are a number of after school clubs on offer. Information about these and how you can sign your child up, will be sent out via letters or the school website.

### **Visits and outings**

During the year we will go on school trips and have visitors into school. Information about trips will be sent out to parents prior to each trip.

## How can I get involved with my child's school?

We are always looking for parent/carer helpers and feel it is a very valuable experience for all. During school time we appreciate parents/carers coming in to either read with children or support with small groups. If you could spare a couple of hours each week please let staff members know. We also have a Reception class lending library which is run by Reception parents once a week. If you are interested in supporting this, please see any staff member of the F2 team. We will help with the DBS process. You may also be interested in getting involved with the 'Friends of Tankersley'. This is a group of parents and other members of the community who organise fundraising and other events.

## What should I do if I am worried about my child?

If you have any worries or concerns please do come and see the class teacher. Problems are better dealt with quickly. If you cannot resolve the issue with the class teacher then appointments to see the head teacher can be made via the school office.



If you have any questions about the information here, or any other matter, please ask a member of the Foundation Stage Two team and we will be more than happy to help. 😊