

We hope the information in this booklet is useful and answers many of your questions. If you have any further questions, then please come and see us. We also understand that many parents / carers work and are not always able to see us, if you would like to talk to us, please don't hesitate to telephone school before 8.30am, during lunchtime (12:30 to 1pm) or after school and we will do all we can to help.

Don't forget to keep looking on our school website:

www.eurekaprimaryschool.co.uk

There is a special class page for Adventurers which is updated throughout the year.



Here's to a fantastic time in Reception this year!

Miss Hurt, Mr Brazier and Ms Sherriff



Welcome to Reception!



Adventurers

2025 – 2026

Welcome to Eureka Primary School's

Adventurers Class

Starting school is a very important time for every child as well as for their parents / carers. We work hard to ensure that we provide a welcoming, happy and secure learning environment. Our aim is to develop the whole child by providing a broad play based curriculum which is appropriate to the age of the children, which meets individual needs and, above all, is fun!

In Reception (Foundation Stage 2), the children will be taught by Mr Brazier (teacher) and Ms Sherriff (teaching assistant).



Throughout the year we may also have other teaching assistants, students (on placement for teacher training or child care courses), volunteers and parent / carer helpers in the classroom with us.



Special Education Needs

If your child has any special educational needs or if you have had any concerns about your child's development or learning so far then please make these needs or concerns known to us on the forms provided. As a team we pride ourselves on our inclusivity here at Eureka and we have a wonderful SENDCO in Mrs White who will be at our induction meetings and is around school Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays if you wish to speak to her.



See you soon!

We are really looking forward to this year working with your child. We continually develop the curriculum throughout the year to include ideas suggested by the children. They often have a vision of where a topic should go and we embrace this, their ideas and this approach! We want to encourage questions from our inquisitive and engaged learners.

School Readiness Activities

It will really help the children and us if they are able to do the following things at home to complement our work in school:

- 1) Dress and undress independently, including doing up their own coat and shoes.
- 2) Help to tidy up.
- 3) Use the toilet and wash their hands independently.
- 4) Use a knife and fork.
- 5) Spend time sharing books.
- 6) Talk about everyday things.
- 7) Ask questions and be observant.
- 8) Recognise letters of the alphabet and the sounds they make.
- 9) Practise writing lower case letters.
- 10) Practise writing their own name.
- 11) Identify different numbers in the environment.
- 12) Count objects carefully such as toys, books, people and other everyday objects.



The Curriculum

In Reception, the children follow 'The Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework', which has to be followed in all early years' settings and enjoy a rich and engaging bespoke curriculum design from the ground up by the staff at Eureka that reflects the interests of the children. During the year, the children will be striving to meet the Early Learning Goals across seven areas of learning.



Play and exploration is fundamental in our Reception Class. It means that the children are able to choose activities where they can engage with other children, adults or sometimes play alone. During these activities, the children will learn by first-hand experiences; by actively 'doing' as well as through scaffolding and modelling by adults. There will be a variety of planned and prepared activities by the adults as well as allowing time for the children to initiate discussion around their current interests, whilst also taking into account their learning styles and stages of development.

The Learning Environment

The classroom is organised into different areas for the children to explore as they wish each day. Our outdoor environment is an extension of the indoor classroom and is available for the children to use every day, in nearly all weathers!



The Seven Areas of Learning

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This very important area covers self-confidence and positive attitudes to learning as well as the ability to get on well with others and to concentrate and persist. We have regular circle time, which allows the children to express their needs and feelings and to work together and help each other.



Communication and Language

This area covers speaking and listening as well as reading and writing. Speaking and listening are essential skills, which affect all areas of learning. We help the children to extend their vocabulary and teach them to express their ideas clearly.

There are role-play areas inside and outside, which are fundamental in helping the children to develop communication skills. Role-play also supports the children in acquiring new vocabulary and writing skills in a purposeful way.



Clothing

Please make sure that all your child's clothing is clearly named. The PE uniform, worn on PE days, is: plimsolls, black shorts and a white t-shirt and these should be labelled too. It would also be helpful if you could send your child with a spare set of clothes in case they have an accident and don't make it to the toilet in time! We do have spares but some children like to have their own clothes. If your child requires a specific type of clothing for an activity (such as Forest School) we will always let you know well in advance of the event.



Water Bottles and Snacks

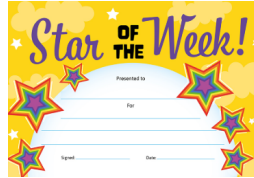
Please make sure your child has a named water bottle in school. Children learn best when they are well hydrated! If their water bottle becomes empty we can easily fill it up in the classroom.

Please only send water to drink throughout the day as the Government has stipulated we are not to provide juice for Reception aged children to try and counteract tooth decay.

We are proud to be part of the healthy school program and free fruit is provided each day for your child at break time. They may also wish to bring in their own, labelled, healthy snack (**nut free**) if they wish.

Rewards and Sanctions

All children will have the opportunity to collect stickers given by the adults in the classroom and other members of staff. They will receive a sticker for good work, trying their best and for being kind and caring to others.



In Reception, we have a behaviour system based on conversations and explanations. Teachers teach good behaviour and explain what it looks like and this good behaviour is rewarded through a lot of verbal praise, giving of stickers and the award of certificates each week for our Star of the Week and our Role Model of the Week. There are also specific certificates that the children can earn in their maths and reading by engaging with additional learning at home. Positive reinforcement is seen as the most powerful method of encouraging good behaviour at Eureka.

When children inevitably make a poor choice (as we all do at times in our lives) regarding their behaviour we take time to sit down with a child and explain why their behaviour isn't appropriate and ensure that they understand why our expectations are as they are. If a child continues to persist in this behaviour then there may be the need for a consequence such as a short period of time reflecting on their behaviour, again with an adult. Where appropriate, children will be asked to apologise to anyone that they have upset with their actions. If any poor behaviour choices persist then parents / carers will be informed by the class teacher and a meeting sought to discuss these behaviours.

At Eureka we celebrate positives at every opportunity. We encourage pride in the children and for them to take pride in what they produce, take pride in what they say and to take pride in their environment.

Literacy

In our school, we follow the Bug Club phonics teaching programme, which is a structured programme that enables the children to acquire the phonic knowledge and strategies they need for reading and writing. The children will be assessed after their first few weeks at school and be assigned a phase group. This allows the children to learn the skills at a level which is right for them. During the week, the children will have guided sessions to teach literacy skills. The children will then have the opportunity to apply these skills independently in the different areas in the classroom and outdoor area. We offer workshops for parents / carers to help them understand more about phonics and the way that it is taught at Eureka, as well as having information on our school website.



Mathematics

This area of learning includes counting, sorting, matching, recognising patterns and relationships and working with numbers, shapes, space and measures. Activities are practical and interesting, for example, the children might be building with 3D shapes or knocking down skittles of different values and calculating their score.



Understanding the World

In this area of learning, children are developing the important knowledge, skills and understanding that helps them make sense of the world. Through topic work and visits, children are given a wide range of opportunities to learn about the world around them. We do activities such as cooking and gardening and the children have daily access to the class iPads and computers. We love to use our wonderful school grounds as much as we can and have an outdoor classroom and Forest School area to help us do so.



Home Learning

In Adventurers we do not set formal homework—instead we simply request that you hear your child read, read together or read to them as often as you can throughout the week. Research shows that reading regularly has the most powerful impact on a child's life chances—more than economic background, social class or race. Reading really does change lives - little and often beats a lot in one go!

Although we do not set formal homework there are a number of activities and sites that can support your child's development—particularly within the specific areas of literacy and numeracy.

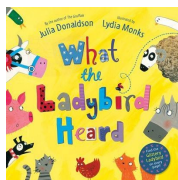
- 1) www.bugclub.co.uk - Online phonics games and digital eBooks targeted at your children's current reading ability. Logins will be stuck in reading diaries.
- 2) www.phonicsplay.co.uk (Login: eureka Password: passpass) a general phonics website full of games and activities, with printable resources as well. (As a general rule Reception access Phase 2 moving into Phase 3—Year 1 access Phases 3—5)
- 3) Spelling Shed—for games that support children's spelling, your child will have their own login.
- 4) Mathletics - your children will have a personal login in their reading diary.
- 5) White Rose Maths— 1 minute maths—A free app useful for supporting the basics of mathematics.
- 6) Oxford Owl (Login—thinkers Password - think) Free eBooks for all reading levels.
- 7) Board Games—any board games involving turn taking are great—even better if they involve dice and counting steps!
- 8) Walking and Talking—the best home learning there is—put the tablets away and take a good walk and talk together!

Reading Books

All the children will be bringing reading books, phonics resources, letters, words and number flashcards home to share with you. We send home one decodable reader each week (a book that your child can read with little or no support), a sharing book (a book for a grown up to share with your child) and they will have access to a selection of decodable books via our online reading platform Bug Club. Mr Brazier and Ms Sherriff also share story books via Tapestry (our online learning journal). We provide children with logins for other supplementary online books from sources such as Oxford Owl and the Booktrust.

Your child will be heard reading by an adult in school on a regular basis (we aim for at least once a week individually, once a week in whole class reading and twice a week in guided reading) but all children need to practise daily at home as well. This practise is essential in helping your child become a fluent reader.

Each week, all the children will take part in whole class reading sessions. During these sessions the children will be taught basic book skills. They will also take part in a Guided Reading session for them to apply their decoding and basic books skills, with the support of an adult, as well as daily phonics sessions to learn about the relationship between letters and sounds, which will help them blend and segment words. To further develop children's love of books, we share lots of stories with the children as well as linking a lot of their learning to the quality texts that we have shared.



Physical Development

The area of physical development is about improving the skills of co-ordination, control, manipulation and movement. It includes 'gross' physical skills like running, jumping and climbing as well as 'fine' skills such as pencil or brush control, using scissors or joining pieces of construction kits. There are also two PE sessions a week where the children will get the chance to practise and apply these skills through dance, gymnastics, games or athletics.



Expressive Arts

This area includes art, music, dance, role-play and imaginative play involving toys and small worlds. The role-play areas are changed regularly to fit in with current topics to stimulate the children's imagination and reflect their interests. The children have opportunities to work with a wide range of resources to create 2D and 3D art work.



Partnership with Parents / Carers



We know that our children's best interests are met when we work in partnership with yourselves. We welcome parents / carers into our school and greatly value your support and practical help, for example, when we go on visits or to hear readers etc.

We keep you updated with regular newsletters that provide information about what is happening in school and suggestions on how you can help at home, forthcoming events and any other news. Parents' evenings are held in Autumn and Spring terms and you will receive a written report on your child's achievements at the end of the school year.

During the year, the staff will keep an electronic record of your child's proud moments. This includes photographs, observations and work completed. We use the online programme 'Tapestry', which you can access at your leisure via an app or web page. Importantly, you can also contribute to this online record, posting photographs and videos from home for us to see, comment on and share in school. The children love showing their photos and videos to the whole class during show and tell.

Photographs are also displayed in the classroom and in the corridor and these are updated regularly.



The School Day

At 8.40am an adult will unlock the EYFS gates and you will bring your child to the classroom door. The children are encouraged to be independent by putting their water bottle, snacks, book bags and coats in their designated places.

8.45am: We expect all of the children to be in the classroom ready to learn. At this point we all join together for the register on the carpet.

9:00am: We close the register and start our daily learning.

We start each morning with our Phonics Lessons—following the Bug Club programme—your children will have a login to the online learning platform associated with this and also for Phonics Play which we use in lessons.

9:30: We start our second session (on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesday's this is English and on Thursdays and Fridays this is Maths). As soon as Mr Brazier has completed his teaching input the children have free access to the provision supported by the teaching assistants.

10:15—Breaktime

10:30—The children return to class for their 'Mastering Number' session. This is a scheme provided by the National Centre of Excellence in Teaching Mathematics—designed to ensure a secure understanding of number and number systems.

10:50—Year One children start their further maths sessions and EYFS children enter the provision for 'Discovery Time' - free flow play with their peers supported by the class teaching assistants—guided groups also happen at this time with a teacher or TA—completing activities linked to maths and literacy.

12:00pm: Lunch

1:00pm: The afternoon session begins with a lesson input from Mr Brazier, the children then re-enter 'Discovery Time' whilst adults are hearing readers, facilitating learning and setting challenges.

2:00pm: We have an afternoon break with Thinkers.

2:15pm: The second afternoon session begins with a short input from Mr Brazier, 'Discovery Time' resumes, with the adults hearing readers, facilitating learning and setting challenges.

3:13pm: The main school gates are unlocked.

3:15pm: The school day ends for the children and they are collected at the Adventurers classroom door by their parents / carers.