

Early Years - Newsletter

September 2026

Welcome to Early Years!

Welcome to the new school year. It is lovely to see the familiar faces back again and to welcome several new children who have joined us. We are looking forward to getting to know everyone and their families.

The first couple of weeks of term are all about settling in, exploring the facilities and resources and getting used to the Foundation Stage routines and our expectations. Our topic and focus for this half term will be "My family". We will be thinking about our family and feelings, and sharing favourite stories. We want to make sure everyone has a really happy start in Early Years. On top of this, we will also be thinking about Harvest Time and Autumn. We will be reading stories such as, Going on a Bear Hunt, The Little Red Hen, Leaf Man and Don't Hog the Hedge.

Once the children are settled in Reception, we will be completing the statutory Baseline Assessments with them, set out by the Government. Please be reassured that this will be very low key and the children will simply be working alongside us like they would do in any other adult led activity.

We know that lots of parents may be anxious, especially if your child is starting school for the first time. To help with this, please make sure that you activate your 'Tapestry' account so that we can share information and photos with you. You will be able to see how your child is settling in and how quickly the tears do stop once you have gone; but hopefully there won't be any! You can also share things with us that your child is doing at home. It's very easy to upload photos and comments.

If your child is in Griffin class (Reception), they will be coming home with a library book, reading book and reading record in the coming weeks. We ask that you share this book with your child and write in the reading record. We will be providing a plastic wallet to keep these books in to keep them safe. We will change these books on a Tuesday and Friday so please bring them in on these days only.

Children in Unicorn class (Nursery), will take home a library book to share with you on Friday mornings. Please return the following Thursday. Here at Robert Sandilands we promote a love of reading. Please share stories with your child as much as possible. Talk with them about what is happening in the pictures, how the different characters might be feeling and predict what might happen next. We believe reading to, and reading with, your child is one of the most important things that you can do.

We would also appreciate your help in encouraging your child to leave all toys at home. They easily get lost and mixed up with the school's toys and the children become very upset. Thank you for your support.

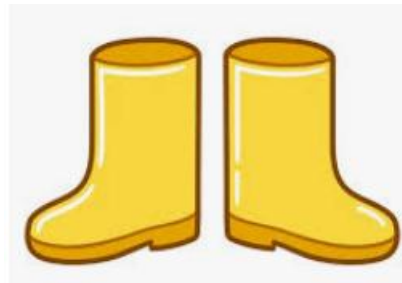
Notices

PE: This term, PE lessons will be on a Tuesday and Friday. Please send them in wearing their PE kits and trainers on both Tuesday and Fridays. They will stay in their kit all day.

SNACKS: In class a snack and drink are provided to the children every day during our morning session. There is, therefore, no need to send your children to school with a snack.

DRINKS: All children, Reception and Nursery, should have a named water bottle in school. They have access to these all day and at lunchtime. Please could this be water only, as there are often spills and squash makes a terrible mess on the carpet! Thank you.

PACKED LUNCH: Although we ask for water only in class it is fine to put juice or squash in lunch boxes. **However, we need to ask you not to give your child any food containing nuts.**



NAME TAGS: Please name all your child's belongings, including shoes, wellies, water bottles and lunch boxes. Jumpers and cardigans are a particular problem, as the children take them off for art and other activities. We do try and match as many as we can, but you can make our job much easier by naming everything!

SPARE CLOTHES: It would be very useful if the children could have a spare set of clothes that can stay in school in case of any toilet or water play accidents. This does not have to be school uniform. Tracksuit, leggings, T shirt, pants and socks of any colour will be sufficient. Ideally in a draw string bag that can hang on the pegs. We do have spare clothes but we find that children prefer to change into their own clothes if they have had an accident.

WELLINGTON BOOTS: Here in Early Years, we like to go outside in all weathers. We would be very grateful if you could provide your child with their own set of named Wellington boots that can stay in school. We provide all in one water proofs for wet weather and play.

Curriculum News – Autumn Term 1

The Early Years' curriculum consists of 3 prime areas (in the yellow boxes) and 4 specific areas (the blue boxes). The prime areas are particularly important as they help to develop the children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning. You can see below what we will be focusing on this half term.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The children will be thinking about themselves and their families. They will be encouraged to play co-operatively with others and playing games with rules, such as hide-and-seek as well as supporting the children to share during their free play.

Communication and Language

We will be working on developing listening skills appropriate to the children's ages in Nursery and Reception. This will be through regular story and singing sessions. Children will be learning to respond to 2 and 3 part instructions.

Physical development

A range of large and small equipment will be introduced to encourage the children's control and coordination. They will be encouraged to climb, build and balance using the muscle groups needed to develop strength for drawing and writing. We will teach them to use space safely, recognise directions and travel with control in a variety of ways.



Curriculum News Continued – Autumn Term 1

Literacy

We will be reading lots of stories to the children and encouraging them to talk about what we have read and to sequence and re-tell the story back to us. The Reception children will be starting a phonics programme called 'Monster Phonics', which will help the children to learn their letters and sounds in a fun and interactive way. We will be concentrating on name writing and writing labels using key sounds. Nursery will also be using this phonics programme to learn and develop pre reading skills.

Mathematics

Our focus will be on counting and using numbers from 1-5. We will learn through singing songs and rhymes and using natural and man made objects to compare quantities of identical and unidentical objects. We will be looking at place value and the different ways of making 4 and 5.

Understanding of the World

The children will be encouraged to explore the similarities and differences between themselves and others. We will be exploring the environment in our playground as well as giving them the opportunity to explore the school field and surrounding banks. We will be thinking of the harvest and the hard work carried out by the farmers.

Expressive Arts and design

The children will enjoy a weekly Music lesson where they will be exploring different vocal, body and instrumental sounds. They will have access to a number of different art and craft resources where they can explore colour mixing, texture and different drawing and painting techniques.

