

Welcome to Reception!

Mulberry Class

Holly Class

Early Years Lead: Ms Cat McCabe

Head Teacher: Mr Rob Calderwood

Deputy Head Teacher: Miss Sam Weekly

What we will go through today:

Attendance

What the children will need to be ready for school in September.

Phonics – What is it?

Class Dojo

Growth Mindset

School Houses and reward systems

Drop off and pick up

Magic breakfast and snack

Lunchtime

Where the children should be by the end of the year

Additional information

Attendance



You will need to call the school on the first morning your child will not be in school (if we cannot contact you by phone or email we will need to do a home visit).



You will most likely be asked to call every day your child is off.



Children do need to be in school if they are slightly unwell and we will send them home if they are ill (we don't keep children at school if they should be at home).



Try to book appointments for the holidays and/or after school hours.



It is really important that your child arrives on time –it really unsettles young children when they arrive late.

Attendance

Attendance and learning

It is important that you arrive on time each day to your class as our learning starts as soon as the children enter the class.

Children find their name as a self register.
Children practise letter formation writing or name writing.

Children later in the year write words and sentences linking to sounds we have been learning.

At the beginning of each day, we learn a sound a day. It is vital your child is in school on time as otherwise, they miss out on securing this knowledge.

What your child will need

A named bookbag – This makes it much easier to hold work that has been created, homework/reading wallets and letters etc.

Spare clothes in a bag – All children must have spare clothing including spare underwear and shoes. This is in case of accidents and because sometimes children get too wet or messy during activities in school.

Named water bottles – For easy and independent access to water everyday.

PE Kit

- **PE kit in a separate PE bag** – PE kits will stay at school and the children will take them home every half term to be washed. Your child's PE kit **MUST** include:
 - White or House coloured T-shirt/polo top
 - Black or blue shorts/tracksuit bottoms
 - Spare socks
 - Trainers

All clothing **MUST** be named! This includes PE kit, shoes and school uniform. It is very difficult to keep track of all children's clothing without names on all items. If items go missing, it is easier for us to find them if they are named.

Reading/Homework Wallets

- In September, we will give every child a plastic wallet.
- This will hold their reading book, reading diary, library book and home learning book.
- This wallet needs to stay in their bag and needs to come to school with them every day. Your child will have a set reading day with an adult but this can vary depending on week-to-week activities.
- Class teachers will check home learning books each week and new home learning will be assigned on Class Dojo.
- Each class has a library slot where children can visit our school library and choose a book to bring home. This will be a book that your child may not be able to read, but one that you can share and enjoy reading together. Library books should be returned on your child's library day to be swapped for a new one.

Weekly Book Change

Your child will be read with at least once a week by an adult in class.

When your child reads, their reading book will be changed depending on how they have read and the progress they are making. Reading books can be repeated to support fluency in reading.

Reading records will be given to your child at the beginning of the year – please can you use this to write comments every time you read with your child. The Class Teacher and Teaching Assistant will also do the same so we can use this book as communication about your child's progress.

Reading everyday

It is very important that you read with your child to help them put what they learn into practise. We recommend, everyday, however we understand that this is not always possible.

We would like you to read with your child a minimum of 3 times a week – the children that read this amount or more make the most progress in their Reception Year.

Picture books:

The books we start them off on are picture books – this is because we will not have learnt enough sounds for them to be able to read. With these books please discuss the pictures with your child. What can they see? What is happening in the picture? How are the people feeling? Why?

Reading

It would be impossible for me to do justice to just how important it is that you hear your child read; you read to your child; you and your child share books together!

If you read just 1
book a day to your child,
they will have read 1825
books by their 5th
birthday.

Every Day Counts

Every Book Counts



Phonics – what is it?



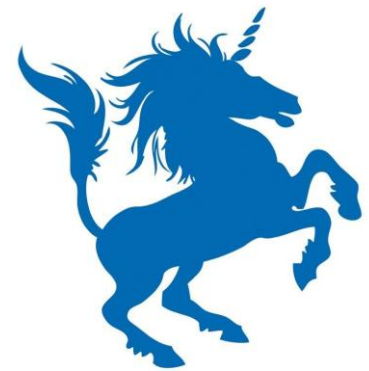
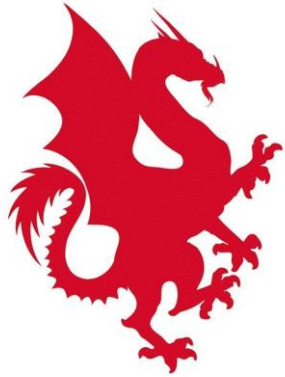
Phonics is a teaching strategy we use that supports children's early reading and writing. We teach children letter sounds that make up a word to enable them to read and spell words. Children learn to recognise sounds and blend them together to form words. Children will learn single sounds, digraphs (when two letters come together to make one sound) and trigraphs (when three letters come together to make one sound).

Sight words – the children learn that there are some words that we cannot use our sounds for – these are called tricky words and we need to know these by sight. We also learn common words by sight that we see most often in a print rich environment – these are called high frequency words.



Growth Mindset

Our house system allows every pupil and member of staff to feel a sense of belonging to The Downs. This breaks down barriers, creates a sense of togetherness and encourages the older children to look out for the younger ones.



Houses at The Downs

- Dragon
- Griffin
- Lion
- Unicorn

HOUSE POINTS

- When starting in September all children will be given a House. Children who have been in our Nursery will already be in a House. Children who already have siblings in the school, will be in the same house as them. The children will collect House Points for their House by doing all sorts of good things such as:

completing homework, reading and having their diary signed, posting on Class Dojo, being kind to others, working hard, doing great work and lots more.

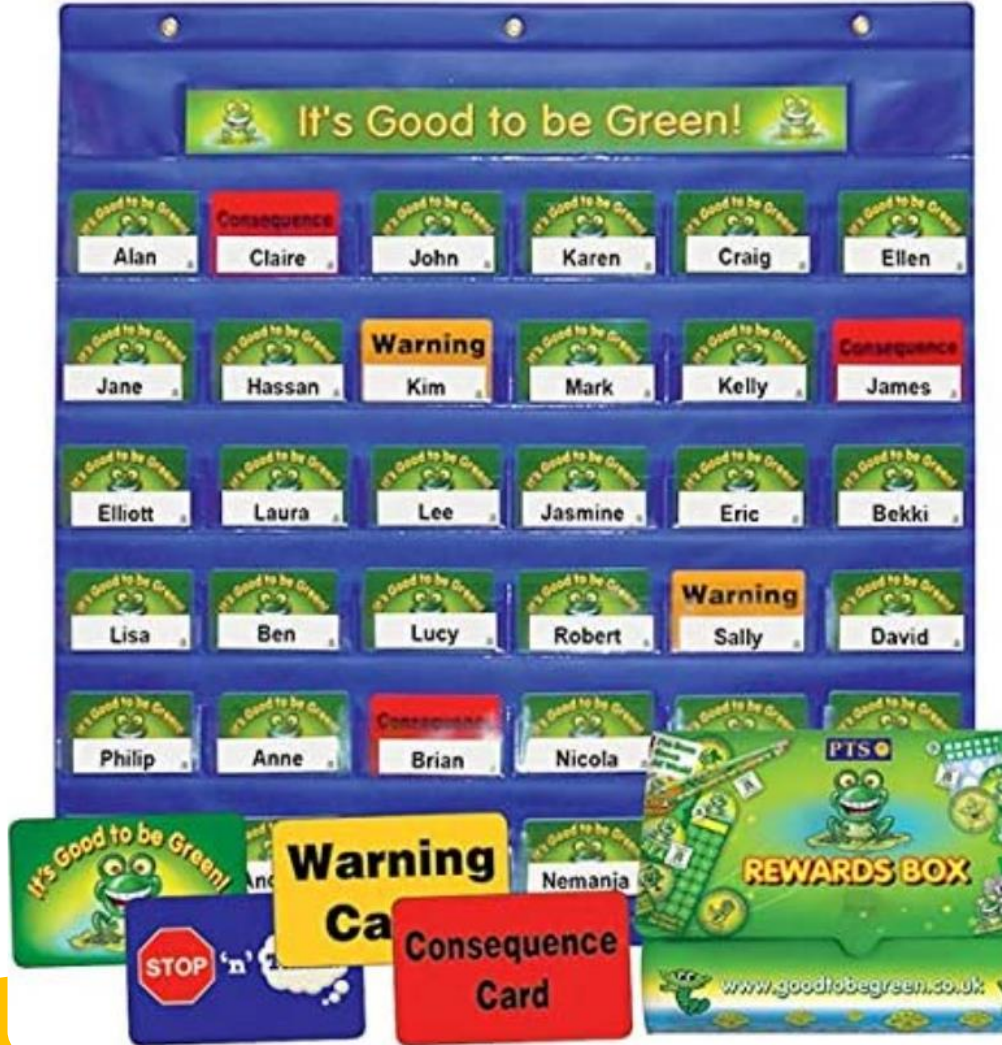
- House points go towards a whole school total where the winning House is printed in the school newsletter fortnightly.

Reward System

We are mindful that children need to settle and get used to new rules and routines. We praise children when they are doing the right thing with rewards such as:





- House points
- Green Cards
- Rainbows – prizes
- Stickers
- Exceptional Behaviour cards sent home – postcard to child who shows good behaviour constantly. Children with the most exceptional cards get to have a special reward at the end of the term such as a trip to the cinema, bowling, etc.

At the end of the week we have a Class Assembly and we give out Star of the Week and Team Spirit Awards. Later in the year, when they are ready, the children join the school assembly.









Behaviour Expectations

- In Reception we spend a lot of time teaching children expectations of behaviour at The Downs, reinforcing this with positive rewards.
 - Occasionally children will make the wrong choices and they are spoken to about this. Once children have been in school for a while, if they continue to make wrong choices, once they have been spoken to, they will be given a stop and think card or given a time out if needed.
 - Children are always spoken to about why their behaviour is unacceptable and reminded of the correct way to behave.
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Drop off

- Parents wait in the area outside the main reception and children line up with their teacher when the gates are open at 8:50am
 - It is important children arrive to school on time as it helps settle them for the day and they start learning as soon as they walk through the door.
 - We ask parents to stand behind the garden gates and for children to line up with their class teacher who will lead them into class.
 - If you need to talk to someone urgently about your child, please speak to the member of staff who is at the gate and the message will be passed on.
 - Children are expected to carry their own belongings and leave their adult at the gate to line up with their class. Nursery have been doing this already.
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A large orange circle is positioned on the left side of the slide, partially cut off by the edge. The text 'Pick up' is written in white inside the circle.

Pick up

Children are collected at 3:15pm

Parents wait outside the garden gates by the main office. These are opened so you can collect your child from the classroom door.

Bikes and scooters are not to be used anywhere within the school grounds.

WOW – The Walk to School Challenge

WHY THE WALK TO SCHOOL MATTERS

■ HAPPIER CHILDREN

It's been proven that children who do some form of exercise, especially a walk before school, do better in class because they arrive refreshed, fit and ready to learn.

■ LESS CONGESTION

During morning peak traffic times, one in five cars on the road are taking children school, contributing to congestion, air pollution and carbon emissions.

■ CLEANER AIR

The school run alone is responsible for generating half a million tonnes of CO₂ per year (which is more than some small countries!). Imagine what we could achieve if we began converting some of these rides to strides?

WOW is a pupil-led initiative where children self-report how they get to school every day using the interactive WOW Travel Tracker. If they travel sustainably (walk, cycle or scoot) once a week for a month, they get rewarded with a badge. It's that easy!



Magic breakfast and rolling snack time

Children are offered breakfast every day they are in school. This includes a variety of cereal with the option of milk. Children who have eaten a good breakfast can concentrate more and show a good academic performance. Eating breakfast has a positive effect on brain performance.



Throughout the school day, a healthy snack, water and milk is available for children.

Lunchtime – this is usually a main worry for new parents

- Hall – children eat together in the same hall each day
- Dinner lady assigned
- Back to familiar play area – after lunch, children will play in the early years garden
- Familiar adults sit with them for first few days
- Practise using knife and fork at home but cutlery is laid out for them
- Menu – website and displayed in the main reception
- Halal, vegetarian, specific dietary requirements, hot and cold choices, salad available, cheese, crackers, fruit and variety of desserts
- All children are entitled to a universal free school dinner, in Reception and Key Stage 1– by looking at the menu you can decide what your child will eat. If there is a day that you know your child will not eat a specific meal, you can give them a packed lunch for that day ([Benefits related free school meals](#))

Where we are aiming to get the children by the end of Reception:

In Reception we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. We support children to work towards the Early Learning Goals which are the knowledge, skills and understanding children should have at the end of their reception year. There are 7 areas of learning and development that we follow: communication and language; physical development; personal, social and emotional development; literacy; mathematics; understanding the world and expressive arts and design.



We aim for children to:

- Read simple sentences
- Write simple phrases and sentences that can be read by others
- Have a deep understanding of numbers to 10, including knowing number bonds to 5, some bonds to 10 and doubling facts
- Manage their own basic hygiene including dressing, going to the toilet and understanding the importance of healthy food choices
- Have confidence, perseverance and resilience in activities
- Talk in full sentences using past, present and future tenses and using conjunctions

Once upon a time

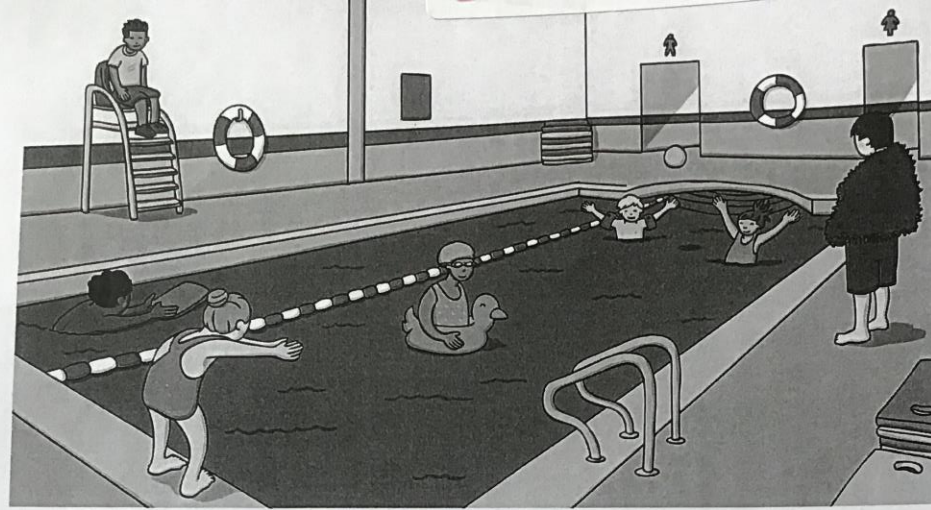
Harry And Nan got into
The Attic AND ~~was~~ found a
box of ~~fol~~ of dust and

Harry opened the box
Dinosaurs! he got the
Dinosaurs down the
stair he unbent the
brace one

he wash them Nan
said Dinosaurs Don't
like Bath Dinosaurs

Dinosaurs want to
go in a bucket

he got on a train he left
The Dino on The Dino And he
el The lost Prophet man



When it was summer
I went to the
pool and I had
ice cream I made
a Big splash in
the pool and when
I came out it was
~~so~~ so hot



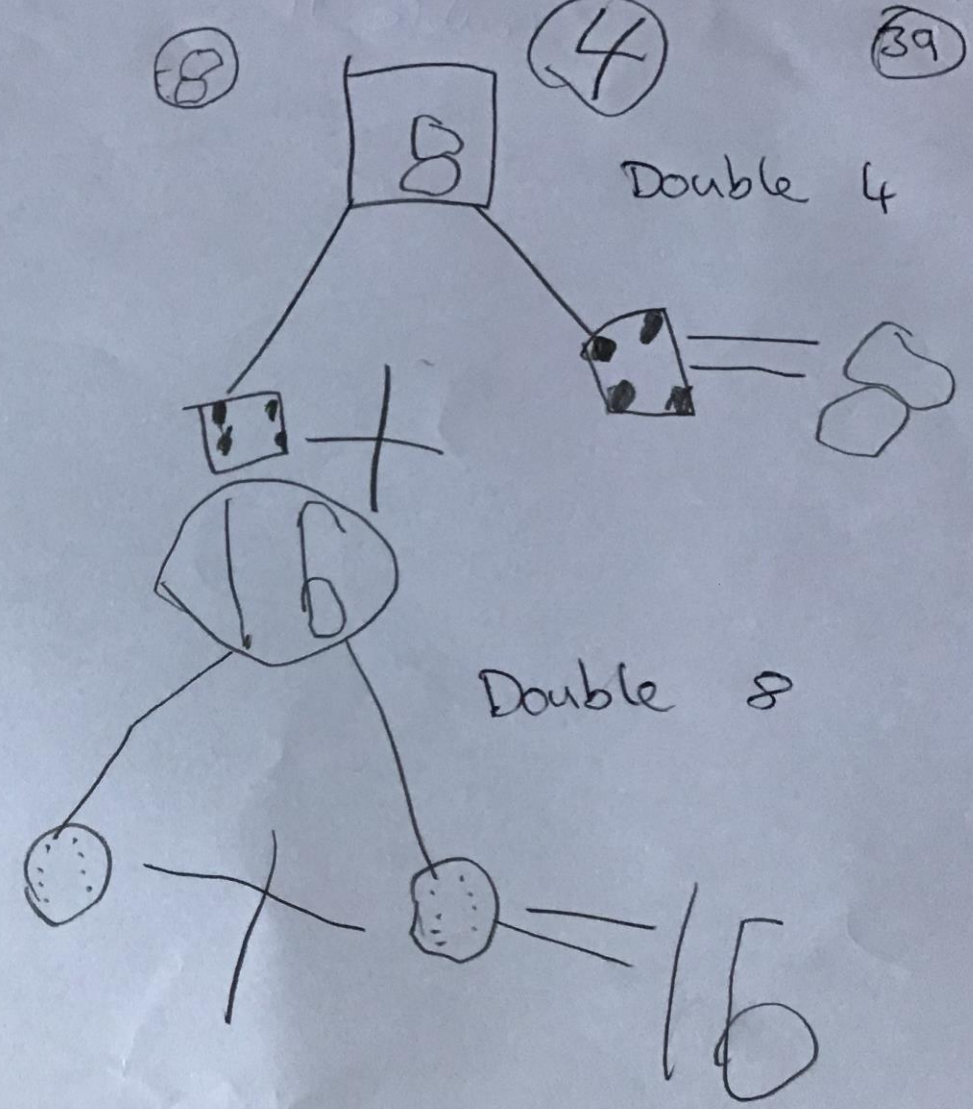
my favourite
super hero is bat man
be cause bat man
sights the bad guy
and helps the
Police
people.



10-6-21



8 4 39



18.6.21

I can do a repeating pattern



Additional comments

- Please do not bring in toys from home
- Jewellery
- Please check parent notice board on classroom windows daily
- Please check our Early Years Homework and news bulletin which will be posted on class dojo weekly.
- Long hair tied back
- Most important thing is read with your child
- Encourage speaking in full sentences to develop vocabulary
- Talk to your child about what they have been learning in school
- Always ask if you have any problems or concerns – talking to the class teacher at the end of the day is better than at the start.

Additional provisions

- Breakfast club - 7.45am
- After school clubs not advisable at this age as children do become tired at school – summer term
- School trips
- Parents meetings – you will be invited into school to discuss your child's progress
- Parent visits to the school – workshops, reading, assemblies



Any questions?