

Frequently asked questions for starting Reception

What is EYFS?

EYFS stands for Early Years Foundation Stage. It covers children from birth to the end of Reception (5 years old). It consists of 7 areas of learning which we support the children make to progress in through a range of fun and engaging adult led activities alongside child initiated activities where they learn through their play.

The 3 prime areas: Communication, Personal social and emotional, Physical Development
And 4 specific areas: Maths, Understanding the world, Literacy, Expressive art and design

How do you as a school support children's learning and development?

We believe that learning through play is paramount to engaging children in their learning. The environment is rich in open ended activities for the children to access through their Child Initiated Learning with support from well-trained members of staff. There are also additional Adult Led learning opportunities where children will engage with an adult as a small group or whole class to hear stories, sing songs, play games as a group and to experience new skills in a fun and fulfilling way. Class teachers have worked closely with subject leaders across the school to develop a diverse and exciting curriculum. We also take into account the children's interests and passions when designing the environment to make children feel comfortable and welcome.

How do you keep parents informed of their child's progress?

At Bovingdon Primary academy we hold two parents evening throughout the year, one in early October and one in February, to discuss how your child has settled in and progressed. We also use the online learning journal called Tapestry which is updated regularly for parents to see what their child has been learning at school. Through the school year you will also receive two written reports; one in February to be discussed at parents evening; one at the end of the school year to highlight your child's achievements.

How do you manage children's behaviour?

We follow a holistic approach at Bovingdon Primary Academy where children are encouraged to reflect upon their actions and to make choices that are positive in their behaviour. We verbally praise kind actions, hard work and perseverance alongside praising our school rules. Within Nursery and Reception children each have their own star jar sticker chart where they are rewarded for their positive choices and achievements through star stickers. Once the jar is complete it can be taken home.

Does my child need to be toilet trained by the time they start Reception?

We encourage that children are becoming more independent with using a toilet prior to starting in Nursery however we are more than happy to support children if help is required in using a toilet. WE have child friendly toilets, step stools, smaller toilet seats and changing

facilities if required to support with toileting needs. We will work in partnership with the family to ensure your child is comfortable with their toileting experiences.

My child will be collected by adults other than their parents / carers. How does this work?

If your child is regularly collected by an adult other than their parents/ carers, then please put this in writing at the beginning of the school year and share this with the class teacher. If your child is being collected by a different adult on a one off basis, please inform your class teacher or contact the school office on the day. If an adult whom the school has not been informed about is collecting your child, then we will not be able to release your child to them until verbal consent has been gained from their parents/ Carers.

Is uniform compulsory?

Uniform is compulsory from Nursery through to Year 6. Please see the uniform policy for additional information about what uniform is required. We do additionally ask that wellington boots and a waterproof rain suit are on site at all times for the children to be able to access the outdoor environment in all weather.

What drinks and snacks are available throughout the day?

The children each get one piece of free fruit or vegetables a day that are provided free of charge by the government for children from Nursery – Year 2. There are also additional snacks available such as breadsticks, raisins and biscuits on a rotating basis. Milk is also available daily, free of charge, to all children under the age of 5 years old. We ask for each child to bring in their own, filled water bottle each day to ensure they are staying hydrated.

Does my child automatically get a place in Reception if they attend the Nursery?

No. Please apply for a Reception place through Herts County Council by February 2022. Places are allocated on a range of factors.

What Phonics scheme do you follow?

Across the school we follow the scheme, 'Letters and Sounds'. In Nursery we focus on pre-phonetic skills and developing a phonological awareness (Phase 1 Phonics). Children will progress into Phase 2 Phonics and begin to learn individual sounds once they are confident and comfortable with all Phase 1 aspects which is often at the start of the Reception Year.

What is lunch like at school?

Children from Reception – Year 6 have the opportunity to have a hot school dinner or bring their own packed lunch. Hot dinners are free for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. At Bovington Primary Academy we offer a choice of a meat option, vegetarian option or a jacket potato each day. The menu is on a three weekly rotation. The children currently eat their hot dinner and packed lunches together in the dining hall with only their year groups.

Are there any clubs before or after school on offer?

In light of the current Covid-19 pandemic we are currently only offering a range of clubs each day after school from Year 1 – Year 6 from the end of the school day – 4.25pm. We aim to provide clubs for Nursery and Reception in 2021-2022 starters from 3.30 – 4.30.

We can also recommend the DEN which is an independently run business from the KS2 school hall whom offer before and after school wrap around care. Please see the school website for further information.

How has the school changed due to the Covid-19 Pandemic?

Safety of the children, staff and parents is paramount. As a school the risk assessment is constantly being updated to follow government recommendations. Our large Early Years playground has now been separated into two playgrounds, one for Nursery and one for Reception. We also ensure surfaces, toys and other resources are cleaned thoroughly throughout the day. Parents and Carers are asked to follow a one-way system when dropping off and collecting from school. Children also currently have staggered start and finish times to reduce the number of people on site at one time.