

Frequently asked questions for starting Reception 2023-24

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.

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. Through the school year you will also receive a written report at the end of the school year to highlight your child's achievements. There are weekly parent surgery slots where parents can sign up to discuss how their child is getting on, raise any concerns and to inform staff of additional information that may support your child's development. Finally, we use the online learning journal called Tapestry which is updated to share children's progression in their next steps of learning in PSED and Maths as well as celebrating WOW moments.

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 positive behavioural choices. 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. Once the jar is complete it can be taken home. Within each classroom there is a Calm corner where children can reflect on

negative behavioural choices with a member of staff or children can choose to calm and relax in this area to help to manage their emotions.

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 Reception. 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 should this be required. If your child is in pull ups, staff will work with parents to support your child with toilet training and this will be discussed on a one-to-one basis.

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 released 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.

What is lunch like at school?

Children from Reception – Year 6 have the opportunity to have a hot school dinner or can 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, allergy friendly options or a jacket potato/ filled roll each day. The menu is on a three weekly rotation. The children eat their hot dinners and packed lunches together in the dining hall which is based in the KS2 Hall. Reception then spend the remainder of the

lunchtime on the EYFS playground, supervised by our wonderful team of Midday Supervisors (MSAs). Reception transition to the main playground in the Summer term to support them with moving into Year 1.

Are there any clubs before or after school on offer?

We offer a range of clubs each day after school from September for children from Year 1 – Year 6 from the end of the school day – 4.25pm. We aim to provide clubs for Nursery and Reception pupils which will start in the Spring term once the children are fully settled.

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

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. Visit our admissions page for further information on how to apply and for the dates of application and tours.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact admin@bovingdonacademy.org.uk who can support you with your queries.