



Welcome to Hearsall Community Academy



Inspire Education Trust
Together we achieve, individually we grow

Welcome to Hearsall Community Academy

We are so excited that you are going to be starting school in September and cannot wait to get to know you and to help you make lots of new friends. Being in Reception is the most wonderful adventure where you will play and learn new skills every day. By the end of the year you will be able to do so many amazing things – you will have learnt to read and to write. You will be able to count to higher than you can now. You will have explored the world around and most importantly had the most amazing fun!

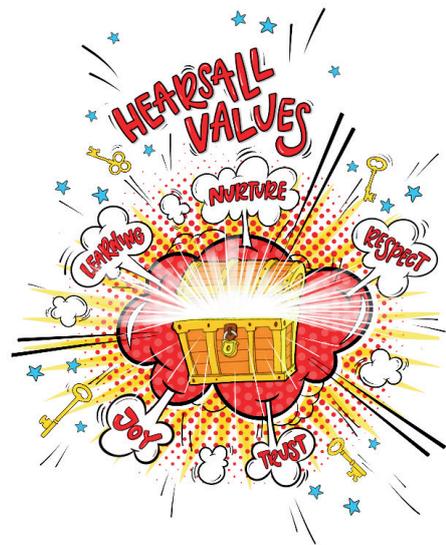
This book is to help you understand what being in Reception will be like. It is written to you (with a few bits of extra information for your grown-ups). We hope you enjoy looking at the pictures and that this helps you to get as excited about school as we all are!

Hearsall is a very special place.

This is our school vision. It is all about how we want everyone to achieve their full potential while they are with us.

In our school, inclusivity is at the heart of everything we do. We celebrate differences faiths and beliefs.

- In our school community, we **aim** to create an atmosphere of **trust** and **understanding**.
- We **aim** to overcome any barriers to learning in order that **children achieve their full potential**.
- We **aim** for all members of our school community to feel **safe**, secure and **successful**.
- We **aim** to provide a **dynamic and responsive curriculum**, which stimulates a life-long love of learning.
- We **aim** for the children to be **independent learners** and feel confident to make decisions and take responsibility for their learning.
- We **aim** to develop **effective partnerships between home, school, local, national and global communities**.



Reach Your True Potential

How will we get to know you before you start school?

Home Visits



If you are new to Hearsall and have been to a different Nursery we will arrange a time with your grown-ups when we can come and visit you at home before you start Reception. You can show us your favourite toys and tell us about what you like to do.

When we come to visit you, we will ask you and your grown-up some questions that will help us find out lots of information about you.

Visiting Your New Classroom

Before you start school in September, we will invite you in to meet us and to see your new classroom. There will be lots of toys out that you can play with and lots of new friends that you will get to meet. We will invite your grown-ups in on this day too so they will be able to see your classroom as well.



Home Visits

Home visits will take place during June (24th-28th June). You will find your home visit appointment in your admission pack.

Note: Home visits are only necessary for children new to Hearsall. Only a small number of our Nursery children will be visited who have not had a previous home visit.

Who will be my teachers in Reception?



Miss Pavlova
Reception Teacher, EYFS Lead



Mrs Milbourne
Reception Teacher



Mrs Khodadadpour
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Harvey
Teaching Assistant



Miss Crabbe
SEND Support

Starting School



On your first day in Reception you will be put into 2 smaller groups. We will make sure that you are in a group with some of your friends from Nursery or any other children that you might know from outside of school. Some of you might come in for the morning and some of you will come in after lunch. We will be sending out a letter to you grown-ups which will give the details of your first day at school.

On your first day your grown-up will take you to your classroom and help you put your bag and coat away. Then you will be able to give them a big hug and say good-bye. Don't worry though your grown-up always comes back at the end of the day for big cuddles and to find out all that you have been up to!

On your second and third day at school, you will get to meet everyone in your class. There will be 30 children altogether. On this day you will stay all morning and have lunch at school (we will tell you more about lunch time later in this book). After lunch, your grown-ups will come and pick you up and take you home.

After those three days, you will then be staying at school for the whole day. This booklet tells you about all the amazing activities that you will be going to do when you are at school.

The first few weeks can be tiring and bewildering even if your child is used to Nursery or being with a childminder. Don't worry if your child becomes upset; we are used to dealing with this situation. Children usually stop crying quickly and we can phone you to reassure you later in the session.

What do I need to bring with me?

When you come to school you will need to bring your book bag with you. You will use this to take library books, your reading book and letters home. Your book bags will be kept in a box in your classroom. You will also need to bring in a PE kit that will hang on your peg. Don't forget to bring a named reusable water bottle too in case you get thirsty throughout the day.



Lots of the fun activities you will be able to explore are very messy. We do have aprons for you to wear but it's sometimes hard to stay clean when you are having fun. Please can you bring a named bag with some spare clothes in which included a change of underwear and socks, a top, some bottoms and a jumper or cardigan. These can be your home clothes not school uniform. Your spare clothes can stay in a bag on your peg.



We play outside in the outdoor area every day. In winter you will need to wear a coat, gloves and a woolly hat. In the summer you will need to wear a sun hat, and clothes that keep your neck and shoulders covered.

We have waterproof suits that you can wear if you would like to play with water and in the mud kitchen.

We run a nearly new uniform shop in school where you can buy spare items of clothing for £1 per item.

Where will I put my things?

You will have your own peg in Reception with your name and a picture of something you love. This will be your space to hang your coat and PE kit. There will be a box in your classroom where you can keep your book bag.



What should I leave at home?



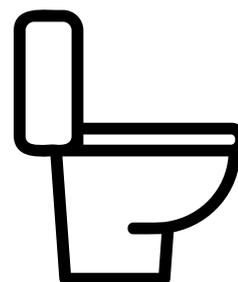
You don't need to bring any of your own toys to Reception. We have plenty of fun things to play with here and we don't want your toys to get accidentally lost or broken.

We encourage children not to wear jewellery to school but understand that this may not be possible for all for faith based reasons.

What will help me be independent in Reception?

We want you to be as independent as you can in Reception as you are becoming so grown up. One of the things that will help with this is if you can go to the toilet and wash your hands yourself. We have our own toilets in Reception, so you won't have far to go.

If you do have a little accident, please do not worry just make sure you bring a named bag with some spare clothes in and we can help you get changed.



What should I wear to school?

When you start Reception, you will be wearing your school uniform to school every day. We love to see how smart you look.

School Uniform

Girls: Red Sweatshirt
Red Cardigan
White or Red Polo Shirt
Grey or black skirt/pinafore/ trousers/
leggings
Red Summer Dress
Black sensible shoes



Boys: Red Sweatshirt
White or Red Polo Shirt
Grey or black trousers/shorts/jogging
bottoms
Black sensible shoes



PE Kit: White T-shirt
Black shorts/ jogging bottoms
Black pumps

What shoes should I wear?

We want you to be as independent as you can be in Reception. To help you do this we would love you to have a pair of shoes that you can put on and off and do up yourself.



You will also need to bring to school a named pair of wellington boots that you can leave at Reception and wear every day when we play and explore outside. We go outside everyday even when it is raining and if you don't have wellies at school you will not be able to jump in puddles!



We cannot emphasize enough the importance of naming everything. It is far easier to locate a missing jumper in the classroom if it is named! Also remember to put a name label in shoes and wellies as many children often have similar ones.

The School Day

Your school day will start at 8.45. We offer a free flow drop off between 8:35 and 8:45. The register will be taken at 8.45 so you need to make sure you are in school by then. You will say good-bye to your grown-ups at the classroom door and then go and put your things away. We will be there to help you if you are worried or not sure where you need to put your things.

After this you will be asked to find your name card and stick it up on the self-registration board. This is so we know that you are in school. You might have to have a practise at writing your name or there might be some toys for you to play with and challenges for you to complete.



Will I have to sit on the carpet?

In Reception we have carpet times every day. You will have a special place to sit on the carpet so you can see the board at the front of your classroom. During carpet times we do lots of fun things such as reading a story to singing Nursery Rhymes to learning about our topic. You will also start learning about numbers and shapes during carpet times and about how to write and read lots of letters. At the beginning of the year the carpet times will only be short but they will gradually start to get a little longer especially as you start to get ready to move up to Year 1.



Example of what a day in Reception might look like in **September**.

8:30	Soft open and Registration: children arrive in Reception and get settled into play and learning straight away.
9:15 (15 minutes)	Key Group Time: phonics
9:30-11:00 1hr30min	Choosing time: A mixture of child-led learning and adult directed activities indoors and outdoors
11:00 (15 min)	Key Group Time: mathematics focused learning
11:15 (10 min)	Singing
11:30-12:45	Lunch
12:45	Register and Calm Time
12:55	Key Groups Time: theme focused learning based around the topic of the week
13:15-14:30 1hr 15min	Choosing time: A mixture of child-led learning and adult directed activities indoors and outdoors
14:50	Key Group Time: songs, stories or circle time games
15:00	Getting Ready for home: children prepare bags, coats, and belongings ready for home time.
15:10	Home Time

How will my grown-ups know about all the fun I am having in Reception?



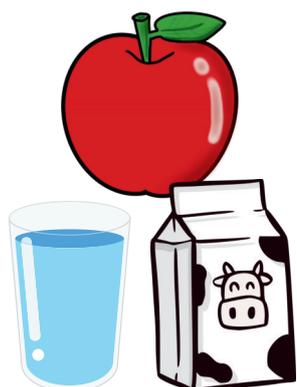
The adults in Reception will record the amazing learning you do on an online Learning Journal called Tapestry. Your grown-ups will be given a secure log in which will give them access to Tapestry and see all the fun you have had in Reception. They will be able to see the friends you play with, as well as all the learning that you do. Your grown-ups will also be able to add their own photos or comments about the adventures and achievements you have outside school, we can't wait to see them

Staff observe each child at play because it helps us to understand and support their individual wellbeing and development. We really get to know the children as unique people with special skills, interests and ideas. The more we understand about your special child, the better we can support them in the way that is right for them. We hope that we can work together to build this Learning Journal as a record of your child's Early Years. Once you have completed your Tapestry Online User Agreement you will be emailed with a log on. You will then be able to access your child's learning journal whenever you would like to. Separate accounts can also be created for grandparents or parents living away from home or overseas.

We strongly encourage you to contribute and look through your child's Journal on a regular basis. We also encourage you to talk with your child about their Learning Journal and feel free to add special events or other things of significance for your child.

If you have any questions about Tapestry or need any support accessing your account, please speak to a member of the Reception team.

Snack and Lunchtime



In your classroom you will have a special snack area where you will find fruit and water. You will be able to help yourself to one piece of fruit and one carton of milk. We have lots of different fruit at school – apples, pears, bananas, oranges and more. You can also keep your water bottle at school and drink water when you are thirsty throughout the day. We know that if you are hungry and thirsty that you will not do your best learning and playing and we do not want that

What will I have for lunch?

WINTER MENU CYCLE
WEEK ONE

Hearsall Primary School

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN COURSE	Beef Bolognaise	Chicken Wrap	Roast Chicken Yorkshire pudding and Gravy	Chicken Hotdog in a torpedo roll	Fish of the Day
VEGETARIAN COURSE	Cheesy sausage roll	Pizza of the Day	Roasted Vegetable pasta bake	Macaroni Cheese	Quorn pasta Bolognaise
VEGETABLE	Jacket potato with various fillings offered each day				
SIDES	Peas	Baked Beans	Peas and Carrots	Baked Beans	Peas, mushy or garden
DESSERT	Herby Diced Potatoes	Potato Wedges	Roasted Potatoes	Sauté Potatoes	Chips
	Pineapple sponge, Yoghurt or Fresh Fruit	Carrot Cake Yoghurt or Fresh Fruit	Lemon Sponge with Custard, Yoghurt or Fresh Fruit	Cookies of the day, Yoghurt or Fresh Fruit	Chocolate Brownie cake, Yoghurt or Fresh Fruit

Fresh Baked Bread and salad served Daily

Food Allergies and Intolerance
If you require a special diet or suffer from a food intolerance please speak to a school member before you order your food and drink.

When you are in Reception you can either have a school dinner or you can bring in a lunch box from home. If you choose to have a school dinner, every morning we will tell you what is for lunch today and you will be able to choose what you want.

You will have a special dinner supervisor who will look after you at lunch time. They will help you to carry your plate, chop up your food and to show you where to go when you have finished your lunch. After you have finished your lunch you will be able to go and play on the big playground.

Your Reception Dinner Supervisor will look after you and play with you at lunchtime. When it is time to go back to your classroom your teacher will line you up and take you safely back to the classroom.

Children can either have a hot school dinner or you can provide your child with a packed lunch. Please note: chocolate bars, sweets and fizzy drinks are not permitted in lunchboxes. School dinners are free for children in Reception. We will ask you child in the morning what they would like for lunch.

You will find a copy of the menu in your admission packs, so you may want to decide with your child what they are having before they get to school.

Parents/Carers the last few pages are just for you.

September starting arrangements

<u>Monday 2nd September</u>	<u>Tuesday 3rd September</u>	<u>Wednesday 4th Sept</u>	<u>Thursday 5th September</u>	<u>Friday 6th September</u>
INSET DAY No children are in school today	INSET DAY No children are in school today	INSET DAY No children are in school today	Reception in- half day AM Session: 9:00-11:30 PM Session: 12:30-3:00	All children in: 8:30-13:00 Staying for lunch
<u>Monday 9th September</u>	<u>Tuesday 10th September</u>	<u>Wednesday 11th Sept</u>	<u>Thursday 12th Sept</u>	<u>Friday 13th September</u>
All children in: 8:30-14:00 Staying for lunch	Reception in for full days 8:30AM-3:15PM *This is the best fit transition. It may not be right for everyone. We will work with you and your child to make sure that they have the best and most positive start to school.			

We will be writing to you nearer the time to give you the exact times and session that your child will be in school for.

Our transition to completing a full school day is quick as we know that lots of children will have been in Nursery for full days and will be ready to stay for a full day at school from September. This may not work for all children and for some this process may be too quick and too much. You will have the opportunity to talk through this transition process during your home visit.

What can you do to make sure your child is ready for Reception?

We know that starting Reception is a huge milestone for children and parents too. We want all our children to feel comfortable in school and there are lots of things you can do to support your child's transition to school. Here are a few ideas:

- Talk to them and listen to them
- Sing songs and nursery rhymes together
- Play games with the children- practising taking turns
- Read books to them
- Visit your local library
- Teach them to take care of books and toys
- Count regularly
 - e.g Home many buttons on this dress?
 - How many cups on the table?
- Recognise different sizes (e.g large/small; thin/thick)
- Talk about shapes and colours
- Give your child the opportunity to write and draw and scribble using pens, crayons, felt tips and pencils.
- Practise self-care skills:
 - go to the toilet and wash/dry hands
 - put on/take off coat
 - put on/take off shoes
 - hold and use scissors
 - hold and use a fork

There are some fantastic books and resources that you can use with your child to begin talking about starting school.

