

Welcome to Robins

SETTLING IN

What a fantastic start to the year in Robins – all of the children have settled into our new class amazingly! We spend the first few weeks playing alongside and getting to know the children. All the children have adapted to the new rhythm of the school day and have wowed us with how quickly they have mastered new routines and expectations.

A huge thank you to the those families who have sent in photos from home – children love sharing these with the class. If you haven't already, **please send in some family photos** – we love to display these in our classroom!

STAFFING UPDATES

Miss Kinrade is spending some time at home recovering from a hockey injury. She is missing Robins and will be back in school as soon as she can be!

It has been a pleasure to welcome Miss Keeble to Team Robins. Robins will also continue to be supported by Mrs Knights, Miss Stannard (Eve) and Miss Girling (Hannah), who are familiar faces to most of you.

CLOTHING

Please ensure that **all clothing is clearly labelled**. We have a small cloakroom so kindly ask that **Reception come into school with a water bottle and bookbag only** – we have spare uniform at school in case of any accidents. We ask that **Pre-school bring a bag with plenty of changes of clothes which is taken home every day**. It is also useful to **label these bags clearly with a tag**.

Please **send your child into school wearing PE and Forest School clothes**. We would be grateful if you could **bring in a puddlesuit and wellies to remain in school** – we like to get out as much as we can in all weather!

ASSESSMENT

We spend the first few weeks of the year completing baseline assessments, to understand each child's unique starting point. Children in both Reception and Pre-school will be assessed with assessments matched to their developmental stage.

We use the assessments to inform our planning and develop 'next steps' for the children to ensure that they are making progress. We also complete a WellComm assessment for all children – a speech, language and communication screening tool.

Children in Reception complete the Reception Baseline Assessment (see separate leaflet).

Each child will be assigned a key person. You will receive individual observations on Tapestry and have regular opportunities to discuss your child's progress at parent's evening and SEN co-production meetings. However, please feel free to approach us with any questions or concerns at the end of the school day.

BEGINNING/END OF DAY

The **Pre-school day begins at 8.30am** before the Reception children arrive to provide a quieter start to the day for our younger children and provides the opportunity to chat with staff and pass on any messages. Pre-school children can arrive later but we kindly ask that **all children arrive by 8.50am**. We ask that **Reception children say goodbye to parents on the ramp** to make the start of the day as quick for everyone as possible.

The **Pre-school day finishes at 3.30pm** after the Reception children leave to enable staff to handover to parents. **Pre-school parents please come to the classroom to collect your child as soon as the Reception children have left.**



We are Special

Our topic this term is We are Special.

We will be learning about ourselves - learning to recognise our name, write our name and draw a self portrait. We will be learning about our families - thinking about how our families are the same and different.



In the Early Years, learning is delivered through a mix of child-led and adult-led tasks. We learn primarily through play but there will be structured tasks that align with the developmental needs of all children.

Children in Reception will have daily Phonics sessions, learning the sounds and skills needed to read and write. Alongside this we will have daily Literacy and Maths sessions. Literacy is delivered through an approach called Drawing Club which is a brilliant way to engage children and ignite imaginations!

Children in Pre-school may join Reception for some carpet time where it is developmentally appropriate and will participate in regular Story Dough sessions, with a focus on language development and mark making.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework divides learning and development into seven areas:

- **Communication and language**
- **Physical development**
- **Personal, social and emotional development**
- Literacy
- Maths
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

The areas in bold are the 'prime areas' and underpin everything that we do as they lay the foundations for educational success within the Early Years - and beyond!

