

# **Your Guide to Starting School**



**Nantwich Primary Academy and Nursery  
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**Principal: Mrs Sue Spence**

## **Welcome to Reception at Nantwich Primary Academy and Nursery!**

This leaflet is written by teachers and parents, for families and carers who are new to school life.

It aims to give useful information about the practicalities of having a child in school and also some understanding of what happens each day.

Sometimes you find that when you ask how your child's day was, the instant response is 'I can't remember' or if you ask what he/she has done the response is, 'Nothing!' or 'Play!'.

This booklet will hopefully give you a little insight into what goes on in the Reception class in the first few weeks of starting school.

### **Contacting Reception Staff**

**If you wish to speak to Mrs Turner prior to starting in September 2023, please ring or email school.**

In September, families will have access to 'ClassDojo' which enables you to see class and school updates as well as send and receive messages from school staff.

## EYFS Staff members



**Mrs E Turner**  
**EYFS lead**



**Miss S Taylor**  
**EYFS teacher**



**Mrs E Bird**  
**Teaching Assistant**



**Miss J Foster**  
**Teaching Assistant**



**Miss C Alcott**  
**Teaching Assistant**

## **Things to know before starting school (preparation)**

Before your child starts at Nantwich Primary Academy, there are a few things they need to be able to do for themselves. This will help them in the first few weeks and will enable them to feel more independent and in control in the new environment. With many children to teach, the staff are not in a position to be able to give your child the attention they may be used to from being at home. It will help your child towards independence if you can start practising certain things well before they start at school, even if this means getting up a little earlier than usual.

### **Getting dressed/undressed**

Help your child to learn to dress and undress. This includes taking clothes and coats off the right way round so that they can easily put it back on themselves. Children should also know which feet their shoes go on. Try to find items of clothing that are easy to put on and take off: easy buttons, looser fittings, simple black school shoes with Velcro rather than laces, coats that have simple fastenings that a child can do up quickly before playtime. If, for instance, your child cannot do up buttons, it would be easier for everyone if their clothing did not have any. If your child cannot manage gloves, buy them some mittens instead so they don't get cold hands.

*TIP: Putting half a picture in one shoe with the other half in the other shoe may help with getting them the right way around!*

*TIP: Make sure there is a loop on your child's coat and teach them to use it. Then it will stay securely on the peg and spend less time on the floor!*

## Going to the toilet Personal Care

Children should be able to take themselves to the toilet when they need to without assistance and wash and dry their hands afterwards. There are three toilets shared by Nursery and Reception. The toilets, sinks, soap and hand towels are all at child height.

A member of staff will deal with toilet accidents in accordance with our intimate care policy. If your child is likely to have an accident, it is useful to discuss this with us in advance and to include some spare named school uniform in a named carrier bag (not a rucksack) to keep in school. Your child will be given some clean clothes to put on from their own bag. Your child's own clothes will be returned to you for washing and returning.

Even if your child doesn't have accidents it can be handy to keep a pair of underwear and socks in their bookbag just in case they get wet whilst playing outside.

*Remember that there can be a huge difference between a child born in September and one born the following August. Don't compare your child with others!*



## The first day

Explain to your child what will happen on the first day. They need to know that you will not be staying in school with them and they need to know who to ask if they have a problem.

If you do feel that you or your child would like a more gradual transition, you would be more than welcome to come into school and discuss this with the staff so that you can both work out the best way to help your child settle. If you are concerned about your child, a call to the school later that morning can reassure you that they have settled well and are no longer upset.

While telling your child that you will miss them loads may well be true, it can pile on added pressure of thinking that you don't want them to go either. Instead try 'Wow, this is so exciting! You will have so much fun. I will see you later'.

*TIP: The teachers have done this many times before. If your child gets upset, don't let them see you getting upset too. Leave them with the teacher and walk away! More often than not your child will have settled before you have arrived home!*

## Uniform

Details of the school uniform can be found within this pack. Jumpers and cardigans can be ordered online or from 'School's In' on Hospital Street in Nantwich. The other items can be bought from local supermarkets or shops.

## Coats

Coats should be zip fastening, warm, hard wearing, waterproof and with hoods when required. This will save bringing in a separate waterproof jacket for wet weather play. The school follows the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum, so children will be allowed outside in all weather!

*TIP: In the winter when hats and gloves are worn, tell your child to put the gloves in the hat and then put the hat down one of the coat sleeves so they are not mislaid.*

## Shoes

Shoes should be black, easy to fasten (Velcro) and hard wearing. Please label each shoe with your child's name. Children **should not** wear trainers or lace-up shoes to school. Named wellingtons should be brought into school and left so that they can be worn during wet weather and snow in the winter months.

*TIP: Label everything, even polo shirts, pants, socks and tights!*

## Socks and tights

Socks should be plain white, grey or black. Tights should be plain white, grey or black too.

*TIP: Long sleeved shirts are hard to roll up and keep clean and dry. Short sleeved polo shirts are much comfier to wear.*

## **Hair**

If you have a child with long hair, it is much easier for everyone if it is tied up. This should be a simple hair tie rather than large bows or accessories. This is more hygienic and keeps the hair cleaner and more tangle free. It also decreases the chances of head lice. If your child wears a headband, it should be plain, navy blue and without any gripper teeth. Boys should not have lines or patterns shaved into their hair.

## **Jewellery**

Jewellery is discouraged in school as it might get caught on our outside equipment or clothing.

## **Bookbags**

Your child will be provided with a free bookbag; this is the only bag that they need. Please do not send another rucksack with your child as space is limited in our cloakroom. We ask that water bottles are not put into bookbags to help keep our reading books safe.





## Our School Day!

8.30am Arrive for the day, coats on pegs and children into classroom.

8.40am Toast and registration.

8:45am Whole class phonics session.

9.15am Teacher-led guided learning tasks and child-initiated activities.

**Daily activities are based on the EYFS curriculum and are set out in areas of learning.**

10.30am Milk and fruit snack time

10.40am Teacher-led science or topic investigation and discussion

11.00am Teacher-led input for Literacy

11:40am Lunchtime

12:15pm Lunchtime play and independent learning in our outside area.

12:50pm Afternoon registration

13:00pm Teacher-led learning input for mathematics

13.20pm Teacher-led guided learning tasks and child initiated activities

15:15pm Story time before home time. Parents/guardians collection from EYFS classroom doors.

These timings can be flexible and we change our day for special events or dependent on the children's interests. At the beginning of each day, we set up a visual timetable for the children.

## **Milk and Snack**

Your child will be provided with fruit and milk at snack time. There is usually a selection of fruit to choose from and this changes seasonally between oranges, bananas, carrots, raisins, apples, pears, tomatoes and strawberries.

In this starter pack there is a permission form from our milk supplier, 'Cool Milk'. This needs to be completed and returned with your other forms as soon as possible please.

Your child will receive free milk until they are five through the UK Government's Milk Scheme.

Once your child has had their fifth birthday, milk continues to be available from 'Cool Milk' at a subsidised cost day. There is a document in this pack that explains how you register and set up a payment account with 'Cool Milk' to pay them directly.

## **School lunches**

All Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals.

The menus are rotated on a three-weekly cycle and are cooked in our school by qualified catering staff. All meals are nutritionally balanced and locally sourced where possible.

The menu is available on our school website. Please ensure that any dietary requirements and allergies are written on the School Admissions Form.

*If you are in receipt of the following, then your child may be entitled to additional funding. Please visit [www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals](http://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals) for further information and to apply.*

*Income support*

*Employment and support allowance*

*Child tax credit*

*Income based Jobseeker's allowance*

*Immigration support*

*Working Tax Credit*

*Universal Credit*

## **Packed lunches**

Children are welcome to bring a packed lunch from home. Please ensure that it is a healthy, balanced lunch with no fizzy drinks or nuts (we are a nut-free school). Children should be able to open containers and bottles themselves but there are always staff on hand to help.

## **Assemblies**

These take place throughout the week and last around 15 minutes. If your child has a recent certificate for an external activity (e.g. swimming badge) they may bring it into school on a Thursday for the Celebration Assembly.

## **Security**

EYFS staff will not let your child leave at home time until they see you waiting. If there is somebody else collecting your child, please let your teacher know in the morning or ring the school during the day.

**If you have any issues with people who can or cannot collect your children, please let staff know immediately.**

## **Breakfast and After-School Club**

We provide daily before and after school clubs. Please contact the school office for an information pack.

## **EYFS donation**

We ask for £1 per week donation—this can be paid online via SchoolMoney. The donation goes towards daily toast and fresh ingredients used weekly for play dough, cooking and sensory activities.

## **Accidents, illness, medication and upsets**

If your child is injured during the school day, they will be taken care of by one of the first aiders. Our teaching assistants in Nursery and Reception are all paediatric first aid trained.

If your child has had a minor bump, the first you may know about it is when you collect your child as a first aid slip will be sent home with them. Obviously, if it is more serious, the staff will tell whoever is collecting your child that day or you will already have received a phone call.

If your child needs **prescribed medication** during the school day, a form with instructions for dosage and frequency will need to be completed. Just ask staff for a copy. We cannot give non-prescribed medicine like Calpol to your child.

### **Asthma**

All children who have asthma should have a GP/Nurse formulated asthma plan and a duplicate of their asthma medication in school. Please speak to us if your child is asthmatic and we will ask you to complete our asthma forms.

### **Illness**

If your child is not well enough to be in school, please ring the school office as soon as possible to inform us. We ask that you ring every day your child is ill to update us.

Please arrange appointments for after school or in school holidays.

*You will need to inform school if your child has any illnesses such as chickenpox, head lice, impetigo etc. as these are contagious and school may send a letter home to other parents.*

## **What if I need to speak to a member of staff?**

If there is something which will be affecting your child that day, for example, a disrupted night's sleep, or anything else you need us to know urgently, you can always send a message through our class messaging system 'ClassDojo' which is checked throughout the day. Alternatively, you can speak to a member of staff at the classroom door (after school is the best time for this).

### **Reading**

We aim to promote a life-long love of reading in school! In Reception, the children will share books with an adult each day. They will also start phonics sessions in their first week which teach letters and sounds. We will provide more information about phonics in the Autumn term.

At first, children will bring home a 'Love to Read' book which is be shared with your child by an adult. Children will then bring home a school reading book from the beginning of our 'Little Wandle' reading scheme, which may or may not contain words. Later on in the Autumn term, children will bring home a reading book with simple words. They will also have a pack of tricky words to learn together and a reading diary. Children should read at home or share a story almost every night with a parent or carer. Please write in the reading diary when you have read/practised the tricky words with your child. This support from home really does make a huge difference to children's reading.

### **Behaviour**

Nantwich Primary Academy has a whole school approach to positive behaviour. The children start out each day in the yellow zone; they can move up into the blue, green or gold zones and receive 'Dojo points' where children can earn positive points for different things. Parents can log onto ClassDojo to view your child's points, send messages to staff and view our class story to see what we have been learning.

Children's Personal, Social and Emotional Development is a key area of the EYFS and during Reception we support children to develop their self-regulation and manage their emotions and behaviour.

### **Topics**

There is generally a topic for the class each half term. This year the topics will be:

999 Emergency, Winter Wonderland and The Enchanted Garden—Minibeasts

You will be able to find out what is included in the topics from the newsletters we send out at the beginning of each term.

### **Parking**

Many parents and children walk and cycle to school, as it's often quicker than driving. Unfortunately, there is no parking on site. Please be considerate to our neighbours if you do need to park for the journey to school.

### **Dogs**

No dogs (apart from guide dogs) are allowed on our school site.

*TIP: Do not be surprised to find that if you ask your child what they have done all day, they may well simply say "nothing". You could try telling your child about your day and often they will then respond about their own day. You can also look on your child's digital learning journey or ClassDojo as these are updated regularly!*

**And, of course, we couldn't leave out what the most important people of all have to say ...**

“I like school because we do good things and I make things and I go on trips.”

“I like my teachers, because they help me with my work.”

“I like school because I like the role-play and I like all my new friends.”

“I like playing outside and I like the football.”

“I like playing outside with my friends and I like doing reading, writing and phonics.”

“I like the teachers. I like everything!”

“I love the bike track!”









