



Reception Newsletter

Autumn 1 2025

Welcome to Reception.

We are made up of two classes: RRG and RHP. Together, we think of Reception as a team, as we work with families (who are the primary educators) to enable the children to make a good level of progress. Our aim together is to enable your child to have a positive, safe and enjoyable learning time at school.



Our day consists of a variety of learning opportunities. We have whole class learning sessions, where we learn about literacy, maths, our world, art, and music. We also participate in large group activities to extend our learning and develop our skills further, for example our phonics lessons are in groups matched to our learning levels. We take part in 1:1 or small group learning activities to help build confidence and support understanding. The children also explore the environment, inside and outside, and build upon their own knowledge, skills and experiences independently and with friends.

We have had a great start to the year as the children have settled in quickly and are beginning to get used to their new routines. Please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff if you have any queries or concerns, at the door or on the phone. There are many learning opportunities ahead, which together we can work in partnership to enable the children to succeed and become confident and passionate learners. We are looking forward to all that may take place this year.

Thank you for all your support, understanding and kindness,

From The Reception Team: Mrs Pattenden (Early Years Lead); Miss Gough, and Miss Ellis (RRG); Mrs Pearson and Caroline (RHP).

School Website - School Spider

Have you seen the school website? Have you downloaded the App? (which is also referred to as school spider)



This is the main way school communicates to the families - events, notices, information, guidance, trips, dates etc, so it is important you are linked in! You will need your parent login. If you do not have one or it has been lost please contact the school office.

You can also find out lots of information on the website www.newallgreen.manchester.sch.uk - Reception has its own page full of information, helpful advice, as well as activities and signposts to websites to support the children's learning further.

PE- On PE days, your child can come to school dressed in their PE kit. If you are not sure what this is, please check the school website. Please don't forget suitable footwear/outdoor coat/ jumper as the children will also be participating in typical daily activities, including playing outside. Please label items.

Times and Attendance: The Reception door opens at 8:45am, and shuts at 9:00am, as this is when the register is taken. Our school day runs until 3:15pm, after this the door is opened for families to collect children from the classroom doors.

If you are late or need to collect your child earlier you will need to go to the main school office to register your child and then they will come to class.

Attendance is vital and the school target is 95%. Please make sure you contact the office if your child is going to be absent. Please make sure your class teacher knows who will be collecting your child if it is someone different and they have the password.

School Dinners

Reception children receive free school meals due to a government scheme - If you would like your child to have a school dinner you need to sign up to Parents Pay www.parentpay.com and **pre-order** your child's dinner. You know your child best, and what they will eat, so you can choose from a selection each day or order for the week. If you require any help with setting this up, please contact the school office. Alternatively, you may provide a healthy packed lunch for your child.



'Where We Live' is our theme for this half-term. We will be looking at our homes and features of Wythenshawe.

We will be talking about our families, so please may we have a copy of a family picture with names for us to use in our classrooms (or you can upload it to Tapestry). Please keep precious photos at home as the children will be handling them. We will also be exploring the local environment looking at the changes of Autumn and decay. We will be strengthening our maths knowledge as we focus on values 1, 2, 3; patterns and measures. We will begin to build our phonics knowledge and skills to hear, read and write initial sounds. We have a busy half-term ahead! Please keep an eye on School Spider, website and Tapestry for more information.





Tapestry is an online learning journal, where photos, videos, comments and activities showing what the children do can be shared. We also share homework, additional supportive learning activities, the phonics films and activities that can be completed at home, especially if your child is absent from school and we add memos and notices for you as well, so you keep up-to-date with the activities in Reception.

We invite you to upload your home adventures and/or learning as it will contribute to your child's journal as a record of their progress. The more you add, the more exciting your child's learning adventure will be to look back at, especially as it can be downloaded at the end of the year!

Any issues, please also see the tapestry 'how to' videos on the class pages on the school website. For those families who do not have access to upload, or see the staff observations on Tapestry, please inform the Reception Team as we don't want you to miss out.



Book Bags Please make sure it comes to school every day! Families who attended NGPS nursery will have already received their child's book bag. Children who are new to NGPS will get their book bag soon.

In time, you will find a Bedtime Story Book for you to read to your child and talk about what happens, the characters and places. (These will be changed once a week.) From Autumn 2 Maths homework will be sent out once a week - please make sure it is completed and returned/ uploaded to Tapestry by the following **Thursday**.

Your child will also receive additional learning resources to support their phonics learning at home and school: please complete these when they are added to your child's bag. These will be different for different children based on the stage they are currently at with their reading and writing.

There may also be letters from time to time in the bags.

Assessments:

The Government requires all children attending Reception to undertake the **Baseline Assessment**. The practical activities focus on literacy and maths skills and are used as a snapshot of where the children are when they start school to compare with their progress at the end of primary school. The government directly takes the information as the results are inputted as the assessment progresses. In our experience the children are not aware this is an assessment and enjoy doing the activities with their teachers. (The teachers also make on-going assessments throughout the year which are used to plan the next steps for learning.)

Wellcomm is a toolkit that supports children with their speech and language skills and we implement it across EYFS. We will be carrying out assessments which will be shared with you in due course. We will then provide extra support to help address any areas for strengthening that arise. If you have any questions, please speak to your class teacher.

Independence We encourage the children to become more independent. Things like: putting on their own coat, clothes, socks, shoes, wiping their own bottoms and noses, putting away their own belongings and being responsible for them. If you know your child finds things like this tricky, we strongly recommend you practise them at home as well as this will give them more confidence.

Medical, Allergies, Dietary Requirements. Please make sure your child's class teacher is aware of any medical needs, allergies, and dietary requirements (including intolerances or religious reasons) that your child may have.



Clothes The weather is very changeable so please remember to dress your child appropriately for sunny, wet, cold, windy or even snowy days as we still go outside to play.

We also ask for you to provide a set of spare clothes, which are labelled for your child, just in case we need to change them. (The clothes can stay in school.) Sometimes in our learning we get wet, messy. We also go out in all weathers so an extra set means we can change your child otherwise we may need to contact you to bring a set in, if your child requires them. Don't forget to bring in a spare pair of shoes if your child is wearing wellies as often the children can get a sore red ring around their leg from wearing them too long.

Labels Please may you remember to label your child's belongings with their name and class as this helps us to reunite them with your child at the end of the day or when they go missing. There is a lost property box in the Whitehouse and in the main school office should you need it.

Breakfast Club and After School Club. We have clubs at the beginning and end of the day for working families or those who have an arrangement made with school. There is a charge to use them, which is paid via Parent Pay. You will need to book a place for your child in advance as places fill up. You can do this via Parent Pay/School spider. Don't forget to inform the class teacher if your child is attending.

Contact Details Please make sure your child's contact details are kept up-to-date throughout the year. If you are not sure, contact the school office to check or make changes. This includes any changes to email accounts for Tapestry.

Water bottles Children are allowed to have a bottle of water in school and there is also a water fountain available. As we are a Healthy School, children must bring water rather than juice.

Junk modelling—please may you save any empty and clean containers such as yoghurt pots, cereal boxes, kitchen roll tubes. We enjoy building with these items, but we need to make sure they are safe, and clean. We do not accept glass, toilet rolls or metal containers/tins. When you have a collection, please bring them into school. Many thanks. :)

Reception play area—please may we request you do not allow your children to play on the equipment, or with the resources as these are not being monitored or supervised.



Rights Respecting School We are a Unicef Rights Respecting school, so we will be teaching the children about the rights they have throughout their schooling. If you want to know more you can go to [https://](https://www.newallgreen.manchester.sch.uk/page/rights-respecting-school/126119)

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Passwords are used for the collection of your child. You will be asked to nominate people who can collect your child and a password when you start in September. Please make sure the teacher is informed daily if someone else is collecting your child, or if they are attending After School Club.

Snacks—Please may we make you aware we do not allow children to have snacks from home other than as part of their pack lunches. We have children with allergies, therefore we need to do our uttermost to protect all. The children will receive fruit and milk, which is provided by school and managed by staff. If your child does not like milk they may have a drink of water from their water bottle. Thank you for your consideration with this.

Birthday treats - we all enjoy celebrating the children's birthdays and sometimes families like to bring treats to share with their friends (this is not expected). If you choose to do this, please may you consider: they are individually wrapped; not all children can have gelatine, or dairy products; we can only give them out with their families permission at the end of the day. Thank you for your support with this.

Reading—At school we use the Read Write Inc Scheme to support children with their reading and writing skills. We will be sending home sound cards and handwriting sheets for you to practise at home. We will also be sending home Bedtime Story books for you to read to your child, each night. (The same book will be in your child's book bag for a week.)

If you would like to find out more about phonics and supporting your child's reading and writing, resources, additional texts, or guidance for saying the sounds yourself please go to <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide/>

Ten top tips for reading stories to your child:

- 1 Make reading to your child feel like a treat. Introduce each new book with excitement.
- 2 Make it a special quiet time and cuddle up so both of you can see the book.
- 3 Show curiosity in what you're going to read: Oh no! I think Arthur is going to get even angrier now.
- 4 Read the whole story the first time through without stopping too much. If you think your child might not understand something, model an explanation: Oh I think what's happening here is that...
- 5 Chat about the story: I wonder why he did that? Oh no, I hope she's not going to... I wouldn't have done that, would you?
- 6 Avoid asking questions to test what your child remembers.
- 7 Link stories to your own experiences (e.g. This reminds me of...)
- 8 Read favourite stories over and over again. Get your child to join in with the bits they know.
- 9 Read with enthusiasm. Don't be embarrassed to try out different voices. Your child will love it.
- 10 Read with enjoyment. If you're not enjoying it, your child won't.