

Creating Excellence, Embracing All

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Thursday 12th September 2024

Dear Parents,

We hope you had a wonderful summer break. We would like to welcome you all to the Early Years and hope you are looking forward to a busy and exciting school year. Here is some information about the Early Years and the Autumn Term.

Classes

As you will know, we have our Reception class called the '**Ladybird**' class with Laura, who is supported throughout the week by Shabana, Isabel, Anna and Carla. Laura will not be in class on a Friday, and this will be covered in the short term by a supply teacher.

In our Nursery/Butterfly class, we have Cheryl (Tuesday-Thursday) and Sharon who will both lead the '**Purple group**' and the '**Yellow Group**'. We are currently recruiting for a Nursery Nurse and will keep you informed about this. Azra and Anna will also support the children in Nursery.

Learning this term

Our topic this term is 'Superheroes' where the children will begin by learning about the school day including the routines and exploring our environments. We will learn about ourselves, our families and our bodies. We will be reflecting on how we have changed over time and think about what we want to do in the future. We will link our learning to real-life superheroes and how they have an important role in keeping us safe and well.

Further information of our learning can be found on our school website under our EYFS class page.

Start and end of the day

EYFS families can enter the classes via the gate to the right of the school office, through the Caterpillar garden into Nursery and onwards to Reception.

Our session times are as follows:

Nursery: 8.40am-11.40am (Morning session)
12.20pm-3.20pm (Afternoon session)

Reception: 8.45am-3.15pm

In Reception, we would like to encourage you to leave your child at the class door / cloakroom where they will be greeted by a member of staff. This will help the children develop their independence and self-help skills. The cloakroom can become very crowded so please be mindful of this and the impact it has on the children. If you think your child may need more settling in time, then you are welcome to do so.

Nursery parents, please continue to bring your child into class to help them unpack their belongings and wash their hands before you say goodbye.

Registration takes place at 8.55am and children arriving after this time must report to the School Office to make sure they are marked as present. It is an official requirement to mark children arriving after close of register as late.

At the end of the session / day, children can be collected from their classrooms via the garden door. Please wait outside the garden door where a member of staff will call your child and direct them to you. Please be patient with us as we try and get to know the different faces and match them to the correct child. If you have older siblings to collect, it may be beneficial for you to collect your Reception child first as they can become distressed if they are one of the last to be collected.

Please can we ask you to be prompt at collecting your child at the end of the session / day especially for the end of morning in Nursery as there is a short turn around for staff to set up for the afternoon session and have lunch.

We understand that on occasion your child may be collected by someone other than a parent. In order for staff to ensure they send your child home with the correct person; please can we ask you to complete the attached form telling us who is collecting your child each day (this includes After School

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Club). If there is a change in collection arrangement, please try to inform the school office by 12pm. If you are delayed in collecting your child or have to make last minute changes to who is collecting your child, please phone the school office so we can reassure your child.

Attendance

It is important that all children attend school every day, however there may be times when they are unwell and cannot attend. Please ensure you phone the school office before 9.00am to inform us if your child is not attending. Please do not use Tapestry or the EYFS email address to report absences as staff may not see the messages until later in the day.

Lunchtime

All Reception children are entitled to a free school lunch, but they are welcome to bring a packed lunch if they would prefer. Please could you talk to your children before school each morning about what they will be having for lunch to help with the ordering process. The new school menu was uploaded to Tapestry last week and is available on the school website.

If your child is staying for lunch in Nursery (30hours or additional session), they will need to bring a packed lunch including a drink and cutlery.

Two years ago, we were awarded with the Healthy Smiles Accreditation and hope to work towards keeping it again this year. We want to continue to promote Healthy eating within our lunchboxes. There are some useful links on our class page for ideas to help with lunchbox ideas and to ensure a balance of food.

If your child's dietary needs change, please inform us asap.

Sharing learning in school and at home

As you will be aware, we use the Tapestry app to record your child's learning in school which you can access at home. We also use Tapestry to share information and give further advise about how you can support your child at home. Tapestry is our main communication tool in EYFS, so it is important that you have access to this in order to avoid missing vital information. Many of you have already activated your account and have access to the videos and messages sent over the summer. If you have not yet signed up, please speak to a member of staff or email us.

When you receive an observation or message, there is an option to 'like' and comment. Please feel free to comment on these but can we ask that you always 'like' the post so that we can ensure you have received it. It is always good for staff to know their message has reached you.

We love to receive observations made by parents which we share in class. It is wonderful to see the fantastic learning, achievements and exciting experiences the children are having at home. Please continue to upload photos and messages about the wonderful things you do at home.

Communicating messages

There are many ways you can communicate with us in school. The main way to do this is via our EYFS email (earlyyears@botley.oxon.sch.uk) and you could use Tapestry. Please be mindful that these may not be checked throughout the day so any urgent messages must be sent to the school office.

My Child At School (MCAS)

In Nursery and Reception, we use Tapestry to do a lot of our communication with parents and families. However, there is a whole school system, which we would like all of you to sign up for.

From October, the main way we send messages to parents will be via 'My Child At School' (MCAS). If you are not already signed up for this, you should have received an email from our school database system enabling you to set up a password and activate your account (please note these password links expire after 24 hours so do please act on it when you see it).

Once you have a log in set up, please download the MCAS app onto your phone (from the Play Store or wherever you usually get your apps) and use your new password to log in there. This will enable us to communicate with you in the quickest and most efficient way. Please ensure you 'allow' the push notifications as this will ensure you always get alerted to these messages.

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If you have any issues with setting this up, please email operations@botley.oxon.sch.uk. Thank you!

Things to remember:

Clothing expectations

In Reception we expect the children to wear school uniform which consists of dark grey skirt, pinafores, trousers, or shorts with white polo shirt, red checked summer dresses, a red school sweat-shirt/cardigan and dark shoes. Children can wear trainers but they must be black and not colourful. Clothes and shoes need to be easy for children to manage themselves as we aim for all children to become independent where possible. Children need to be free to play outside at all times. Please dress your child appropriately for the weather by ensuring they have a waterproof coat and wellies in school at all times. Additionally, please provide a full set of spare clothes on their peg every day, which includes underwear and socks, as there will be occasional accidents and children feel much happier in their own clothes. Please ensure **ALL** clothing is named so we are able to return any items to you at the end of the day in the event of an accident.

A reminder that for safety reasons long hair should always be tied back and jewellery should not be worn in school.

PE (Reception only)

The Reception children will take part in a PE session once a week (Wednesday Morning). For this they will need a PE kit consisting of a t-shirt, shorts and jogging bottoms (all named). The children will need trainers later in the school year (we will let you know nearer the time). The children have been placed into school houses and will need to wear the corresponding coloured t-shirt for PE (which can be purchased from the school office). Please can PE kits be left in school for the term, so children can always be suitably dressed.

Forest School

The children will be taking part in Forest School on a Tuesday afternoon for the whole year. In order to maximise the amount of time the children have for Forest School we have minimised the changing of clothes requirements and ask that the children come to school dressed in clothes suitable for Forest School. This may be their school uniform or clothing that is similar in colour, however it does not need to be. In the warmer months, we ask that children wear a long-sleeved top and in the colder months, the children will wear their jumper. Please can all children wear trousers or jogging bottoms (not leggings) on Tuesdays. Children will also need their wellington boots and a waterproof coat but these can be kept in school at all times. We do have a few spare wellies if needed. These are in a box near the wellie rack, please help yourself to a pair but please ensure you write your child's name in them so they can wear them for the year. We will provide waterproof trousers and drinks/snacks. For more information about Forest School, please visit our school web-site. <https://www.botleyschool.org.uk/forest-school/>

The Nursery children who attend on a Tuesday afternoon will need to come wearing trousers or jogging bottoms, long sleeved top and a jumper. They will also need a waterproof coat and wellington boots.

Book bags

FOBS kindly donated a book bag for each of the Reception children. The children will need to bring in their book bag each day which they can place in their drawer. These are really useful for the children to put their pictures and work in as well as books etc.

Nursery additional sessions

In Nursery you can request additional sessions for your child. These are booked for the year unless you give us a terms notice. If you would like to make alterations to your child's sessions or request additional sessions for the Spring term (from January), please collect and complete the 'additional session request form' and return it to school by **Monday 14th October**.

Boromi bags

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For the last few years we have purchased some exciting new resources from a company called Boromi which we are continuing this year. Each term we hire a set of resource bags that we will be sending home for you to explore with your child. There are 4 different themed bags – investigate, share, imagine, invent. The children will take it in turns over the term to take home a bag to explore with you over the weekend. Within the bags, there is guidance on how to use the resources and different ideas for things you could do with your child. The idea is that you spend some time with your child, exploring the resources and ideas within the bag and have a great time. The boxes are learning tools, not toys, and adult supervision is required at all times.

All bags must be returned by the Wednesday in order for staff to ensure the resources are cleaned and ready for the next child to use. If you are late in returning the bag, another child may miss their turn. Please can we encourage you to look after the bag and let a member of staff know if an item is missing or damaged. We would love to hear how you get on with the bags so don't forget to upload photos and tell us about the wonderful things you do with the bags on Tapestry for us to share in class

Where to find information

Website

We have been busy updating the class pages on the website. We have an EYFS class page (under Children – Class page) where you will be able to find information about the staff, daily routines, things to remember etc. We will be uploading our termly curriculum maps for you to know what learning is taking place each term and have put some activity ideas and website links for you to explore to support your child at home.

The website also has various updates about the wonderful events and experiences taking place throughout the school so please do check it.

Reception Baseline Assessment

You may be aware that the DfE require us to carry out a Reception baseline assessment within the first six weeks of the children starting with us. This is in the form of practical activities and discussions with your child in a play-based way. You can find further information on [Reception baseline assessment: information for parents - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/reception-baseline-assessment)

Important dates

Here are some dates for this term.

Tuesday 17th September at 2.30pm – Parent meeting to discuss life in the EYFS and how you can support at home. Please come and join us at 2.30pm where we will be talking about the EYFS, sharing what happens in a day and the learning taking place. This meeting will finish by 3.15pm.

Thursday 19th September – Flu vaccinations. An email was sent out regarding signing up / declining this for your child (Reception to Y6)

Friday 27th September – Macmillan coffee afternoon and cake sale

Thursday 3rd October – EYFS Harvest stay and play. You are welcome to stay and join the various activities within the classroom until 9.30am.

Thursday 8th October – Phonic meeting and open morning. Further details to follow.

Friday 25th October – End of term

Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th November – Individual parent meetings

Friday 8th November – FOBS Firework event including our Bear Trail in EYFS

Friday 13th December – Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 13th December – Parent Workshare 3.30-4.00pm. Please come and look at the environment/work with your child.

Friday 20th December – End of term 1.30pm finish.

Thank you for your continued support.

Laura Jones and the EYFS Team

Child's name:

My child will always be collected by a parent: Yes / No
(If yes, no need to complete table below)

	Who will be collecting your child? i.e. Nan, Grandad, After school club	Contact number
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		