



QUEENSWAY SCHOOL

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Wednesday 2nd September 2026

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Reception

We are writing to introduce the Reception team, and explain what we are going to be teaching Reception up to Christmas.

Meet the team

RKG class:

Mrs Guntrip – Class Teacher/Early Years leader.
Mrs Salisbury – Teaching Assistant
Mrs Walton - Teaching Assistant (Tues-Fri)
Mrs Lowe – Teaching Assistant (Mon)

RLLST class:

Mrs Lock/Mrs Tyler – Class teachers (Mrs Lock Mon-Weds, Mrs Tyler Thurs-Fri)
Miss Lloyd – Teaching Assistant.
Mrs Cooper– Teaching Assistant
Miss Reed -Teaching Assistant

Reception Autumn curriculum

Our topic this term is called “Good to be me!” which links our English, Expressive Arts and Design, Personal, Social, Emotional Development and Communication and Language curriculum primarily.

English
This term we are going to be focusing on the stories: We're Going On A Bear Hunt and Goldilocks and the three bears. We will be learning key phrases from each of the texts and even have a go at acting out parts of the stories. We will be talking about the characters and the settings in each of the texts. We will be starting to learn to read and write our first sounds in the Phonics lessons each week. We will start using these sounds to read and write simple words too.
Mathematics
This term, the children will have the opportunities to practise and develop their counting skills, we will be looking at counting objects and saying one name for each object. The children will also be comparing amounts of objects, saying which group has more/fewer objects. We will be looking at the numbers that represent amounts of objects. The children will also spend some time learning about measures and using them to compare size and capacity. We will also look at patterns and creating a simple pattern with objects, colours and pictures.
Personal, Social, Emotional Development (PSED)
This term, the children will be making new friends. We will be thinking lots about sharing resources and taking turns. We will be learning the rules, and areas of the classroom and thinking about being kind friends. We will be thinking about labelling and responding to different emotions using the book 'The Colour Monster' to support with this.

To find out what we are learning in all the other subject areas please look at the '**Knowledge Organisers**' which can be found on the school website. We will also post these on our Google classroom blogs.

What homework to expect and when

Children will be bringing home reading books, which will begin with a picture book for you to share together and move on to phonics books for them to read to you. It is expected that the children read 5 times at home each week. These books will be changed weekly so please ensure that the books from school are in your child's book bag.

Children will also receive one piece of Maths and one piece of Phonics homework every Friday. These are to be completed by the following Thursday. We **do not** need the paper copies of the homework back, as photos and videos of homework being completed should be submitted to Evidence Me. Please let us know how your child gets on with their homework in the notes section on Evidence Me.

Ways you can help your child

- We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of reading with your child every day and sharing books together not just hearing them read. Talking about the books you share will really help them develop a love of reading and important early reading skills.
- Continuing to practise writing the letters on the name sheet given to your child on shuffle up day would be really helpful.
- Counting objects at home is a great way to support your child. This could be counting anything; stairs, items on their plate at dinner, letters in their name, shoes on the shoe rack etc.
- Encourage your child to read and write their name.
- Later in the term, we will be writing to you about weekly challenges to support your child's communication and language development and different ways that you can do this.

Snacks:

Now that your child is in Reception, fruit and milk are provided by the Government's snack scheme. You do not need to provide any snacks for your child's time in school. Please send your child with a named water bottle. This should only contain water.

Evidence Me:

Over the summer, staff created a profile for your child using the email address that you provided at the home visits. You should have received an email with a link in for you to set up your own password. Please check that this has happened so that you are ready to receive your child's observations and wow moments.

Evidence Me is used in school to take photographs and collect evidence of your child's learning. The 'Parent Share' feature enables you to view your child's reports and photographs via the app or web suite, showing you what your child has been learning and the new skills they are developing. You can send us your comments and feedback by simply adding them to the observations. This will help our staff to support your child even more effectively in the classroom.

You can also take an active role in contributing to your child's observation portfolio by uploading your own observations, simply add these to the app or web suite. These could be of things that your child has practised at home, skills they have learnt, trips or outings you have been on as a family, or just anything exciting that you want to share! We love sharing home observations with the class so it would be great to see some posts coming through.

If you need any support accessing this, please let us know and we will be able to support you.

PE days:

Our regular PE slot will be on a Thursday morning, which we will aim to begin in a few weeks when the children have settled in. In Term 1, the children will not be changing for PE, so will therefore not require a PE kit yet, however, they will need a PE kit in school ready for Term 2.

We are very lucky to be starting Forest School in Reception this year. The Forest School itself will be on the school grounds and will be led by Mrs Bytyci. She is a very experienced and passionate Forest School teacher and we know that our children are going to have the most amazing time. The school will provide suitable overalls for the children to be wearing for the duration of their Forest School lessons, but we do ask that you please provide them with a set of named wellies to put on when we go into our designated area. A letter

regarding Forest School clothing will be sent to you as well. Forest school will be on a Friday and the classes will split as follows:

Terms 1, and 5 will be Mrs Guntrip's class.
Term 4 and 6 will be Mrs Lock and Mrs Tyler's class.

As well as Forest School, you will appreciate that when the weather changes, our outside area will become quite muddy/wet therefore we will encourage the children to wear wellies when they are learning outside, so even if your child is not taking part in Forest School initially, they will need wellies in school anyway. We will go outside in all weathers so please ensure that children have a good waterproof coat in wet weather.

Spare Clothes

It would be really useful if every child has a spare set of uniform (especially underwear) in school just in case. Please make sure that these clothes are also clearly named.

Term 2 shared lesson:

In Term 2, we will be getting arty with a shared lesson linked to Christmas. We will be creating all sorts of beautiful Christmas crafts and will be inviting parents in to help us with this. Again, a letter with more information will follow closer to the time, but for now, the dates for these shared lessons are:

- Mrs Guntrip's class - **Thursday 3rd December 2026 at 2.00-3.00pm.**
- Mrs Lock and Mrs Tyler's class – **Wednesday 2nd December 2026 at 2.00-3.00pm.**

Parent Workshop:

In Term 2 at Queensway, we offer parents the opportunity to attend a Phonics Workshop to learn about how Phonics is taught in Reception and how you are able to support your child with their reading and writing development at home. We are going to be holding this at 2.30pm on Wednesday 11th November 2026. A letter will follow in the next few weeks with more information.

Forthcoming trips and visitors

We will be learning lots about families from different countries and cultures over Terms 1 and 2. If there are any parents that are willing and able to come into class to talk about their heritage, countries, and traditions, we would love to arrange this. Please speak to your child's class teacher about this and we will be able to arrange a convenient time for this.

We are hoping to secure a visit from the local police service and a dentist. These visits will link to our 'People who help us' focus in our Understanding the World lessons. More information to follow about this visit.

We look forward to working in partnership with you all this year. Please don't hesitate to discuss any worries, concerns or questions with us as needed.

Best wishes,

Mrs Guntrip, Mrs Lock and Mrs Tyler