

Franche Community Primary School



Reception

Parent Information
2026/2027

"Children in the early years make a positive start to school life."

Reception

Information for Parents

Contents

- Who's who?
- All About us Franche
- Looking Good!
- A 'Typical' School Day
- Food Glorious Food
- Developing Life Long Learning
- Specific Areas of Learning
- Supporting Your Child at Home
- Parent Partnerships
- British Values & Community Links
- Safeguarding
- Attendance
- Further Information



Reception

Information for Parents

The first steps...

The transition from Nursery to Reception is a big event in your child's development. As a school we work hard to maintain the emotional well being of all children and endeavour to make this a happy and positive experience for both you and your child.

We are incredibly proud of our transition process at Franche and look forward to meeting many of you at our transition sessions. Whilst at these sessions, you will meet various members of staff but here is a little overview of some of the key members of staff that you, and your child, will get to know.



Who's who?

Mrs Dixon	<i>Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead</i>
Mrs Akerman	<i>Designated Safeguarding Lead</i>
Miss Minogue	<i>Assistant Headteacher of Early Years and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead</i>
Mrs Arnold	<i>Reception Year Band Leader and Reception Teacher</i>
Miss Counte and Miss Potter	<i>Reception Teachers</i>
Mrs Morgan	<i>Specialist Speech & Language Teaching Assistant</i>
Mrs McLean	<i>SEND Co-ordinator</i>
Mrs Wilson	<i>SEND Co-ordinator</i>
Mrs Ellis	<i>Attendance Officer</i>
Miss E Running	<i>Assistant Head Teacher for KS1, LAC and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead</i>
Mrs Crowther	<i>Swimming Teacher</i>
Mrs Vining	<i>Swimming Teacher</i>
Mr Gauden 'Dan the Forest Man'	<i>Forest School Leader</i>
Miss Jodie Dyke	<i>Forest School Leader</i>
Mr B Wills	<i>PE Teacher</i>

Reception

All About Us...



At Franche Primary School we provide an outstanding start to school life and offer a creative and inspiring curriculum for all of our children. Our fantastic facilities include our own onsite swimming pool, vast playing fields and a forest school - all of which the Reception children will have access to throughout the academic year.

We also offer excellent wraparound care for children from 3 months to 11 years, open 7:30am until 5:30pm, 51 weeks a year including a breakfast club, after school care and holiday club.

Our Reception unit has three class bases, a large shared central area with additional intervention spaces and a well resourced outside classroom and garden. Each classroom has a class teacher and a full time teaching assistant. The children also benefit from having additional teaching assistants that are shared between the classes.

The Reception unit works very closely with both Nursery and Year 1. This enables a smooth transition between year bands. It also allows us to organise and plan effectively to ensure that we can personalise every child's learning and support them to achieve their full potential through an ambitious and sequential curriculum, building on skills and knowledge from previous years. Our curriculum is delivered through our indoor and vast outdoor learning environments. Reception children are also invited to attend after school clubs which can include dance clubs, gymnastics clubs, Lego club and creative clubs.



We also believe that working with you as parents is of paramount importance. Our effective collaboration and positive partnership will ensure the best learning opportunities for your child. If you have any concerns or questions, we are always willing to meet with parents and carers. Please do not hesitate to see your class teacher in order to make an appointment. Throughout the year we also invite you to a number of evenings to discuss your child's progress and development. There are other opportunities such as parent workshops and parent/carers mornings where you'll get a chance to see how we teach and catch up with your child's teacher too. These are excellent chances to experience Early Years teaching and pick up tips and advice for how to support your child's development at home.

Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception

Reception

Looking Good!

Our Early Years uniform consists of:

Winter Uniform

- Red polo shirt (optional with school logo)
- Navy jumper or cardigan (optional with school logo)
- Grey or navy trousers (no leggings, no lycra), skirt or pinafore dress
- Grey or navy tights
- Grey, navy or white socks
- Black low-heeled shoes (no black trainers)
- Navy school coat (optional)

Summer Uniform

As we enter the summer term, your child is able to wear the school summer uniform.

- Red polo shirt with optional school logo or light blue check shirt
- Light blue check summer dress
- Grey or navy long shorts, culottes or skirt
- Grey, navy or white socks
- Black or navy **closed** toe low-heeled sandals (optional)
- Navy cap with school logo (optional)

PE Kit

- Navy crew neck t-shirt (optional with school logo)
- Navy shorts or skirt
- Navy tracksuit
- White socks
- White trainers or black pumps

Swimming Kit

On the days where your child goes swimming they will need to bring in their own swimming kit. This consists of an appropriate swimming costume or swimming trunks and a towel. You are able to provide a swimming hat if you would like your child to wear one and they can also wear goggles if the appropriate letter is signed beforehand. As a school, we provide all necessary buoyancy aids such as arm bands.

We feel very lucky to have our own swimming pool onsite and to be able to offer swimming lessons from Reception. To continue to access and maintain our swimming pool, qualified swimming teacher and lifeguard, from September we will be asking for £45 (voluntary contribution) ,for the year, this can be paid termly or for the year via Arbor.

Forest School

On the day your child has forest school they will come into school in their PE kit. They also need to bring in a pair of wellies to change into and waterproof overalls. We ask, where possible, that waterproofs are a separate top and trousers set rather than a puddle suit as this is easier for children if they need to go to the toilet.

All children in Reception are required to wear school uniform and have a school book bag. Please don't rush to purchase the book bag as we have a special gift for each child starting school with us. Franche specific items of school uniform and bags can be purchased from the uniform providers please see supplier list. Parents may also wish to buy a school PE bag; however, this is optional. Non branded items of school uniform can be purchased from most supermarkets.

Please name ALL items of clothing. It is advisable to re-check labels each half term as names can wash or rub off.

Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception



Reception

A 'Typical' School Day

Although our timetable can be flexible in response to our children's learning needs, here is an example of a typical day in Reception.



- 8:30am Our school day starts at 8:30am where the children come in through their classroom door and put their belongings away. They then come into the classrooms, practise writing their name on their name card and settle in. As the year progresses, this time can also include a morning challenge linked to the current topic.
- 8:40am The register is taken by the class teacher. We also use this time to look at our the visual timetable for the day and explore what we are going to be doing.
- 8:50am Phonics session following the Little Wandle phonics scheme.
- 9:10am A short teaching session, takes place on the carpet, focusing on either literacy or maths
- 9:30am Independent learning opportunities (play based learning) takes place. During this time children will free-flow, allowing them to access both the indoor and outdoor learning environments. During this time, short adult led focus groups will take place in small groups. This targeted time with a teacher often has a maths or literacy focus and is delivered at the table or through play. There will be staff in the indoor and outdoor environments to facilitate play, encourage and model the use of language, model positive social interactions and stretch the child's thinking by introducing challenges, new language and ideas.
- 11:30am Reading practise (in small groups with an adult) or a short teaching session takes place on the carpet area followed by story/rhyme time.
- 12:00pm Lunchtime and a play outside on the Lower School playground/trim trail.
- 1:00pm Afternoon session starts and the register is taken.
- 1:10pm A short whole class teaching session takes place. This could be an 'expressive art and design' session, a carpet time exploring our 'understanding of the world' (areas of learning from the EYFS) or PSHE. These class carpet times will also link to our topic or upcoming celebrations such as Chinese New Year.
- 1:30pm Independent learning opportunities (play based learning) takes place. During this time children will free-flow, allowing them to access both the indoor and outdoor learning environments. During this time, short adult led focus groups will take place in small groups. This time is also used for the teachers to listen to the children read on a 1:1 basis.
- 2:44 pm Story/rhyme time and reflection time.
- 3:00pm School day ends and children are collected from their classroom door.

*Throughout the week the children will also have adult led forest school, music, PE and swimming sessions



Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception

Reception

Food Glorious Food and staying healthy



As a 'Food for Life' school we pride ourselves on offering healthy snacks and hot dinners. The school hot dinners consist of a main course, access to a salad selection and pudding, all of which are cooked on site using locally sourced produce. Every child from Reception to the end of Year 2 is entitled to a universal free school meal. This is provided everyday and is of no cost to the parent/carer, we simply ask that you complete your child's meal choice using Arbor. Your child may prefer to bring a packed lunch to eat at lunchtime, this is of course okay to do. When providing a packed lunch please remember that **we are a nut free school**.

Children are required to bring their water bottle (labelled) into school each day. To support good oral hygiene we ask that children do not bring squash, fizzy or high-sugar drinks such as juice. The children in Reception are also welcome to have milk which is provided daily and is free, up to the age of 5 years.



Throughout the day, the children are offered healthy snacks. We provide a wide range of different types of food to encourage them to try new things in addition to the fruit that is on offer everyday. To assist us in providing this additional snack option we ask that all parents/carers make a voluntary contribution of £1 per week. This will also be used to buy ingredients so that we can cook with the pupils regularly throughout each term, linking our experience to the curriculum topic that is being explored.

We also offer benefit related Free School Meals (FSM). You can apply or check eligibility by using this link https://emsi.worcestershire.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en?ReturnURL=%2FCitizenPortal_LIVE%2F

Reception

‘Learning Without Limits’



Reception children access the curriculum through several creative topics throughout the year and planning and provision is differentiated depending upon the needs of the child. We encourage children to become independent learners and thinkers. Learning takes place through whole class teaching, adult led focus groups and through play and exploration with open access to our secure outdoor area.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework is made up of three Prime Areas of Learning and Development and four Specific Areas of Learning and Development.

The three Prime Areas of Learning and Development are:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development



Through this area of the curriculum children are provided with learning opportunities and experiences to enable them to develop a positive sense of themselves and others. They will be encouraged to understand and show respect for others and their feelings, develop social skills and a positive attitude towards their own learning. Children will be supported to grow in confidence to try new activities. They will be encouraged to build relationships with staff and children, playing and working cooperatively. The children will also develop independence skills in relation to personal care and

self development, thinking and learning for themselves.

Physical Development

Physical Development helps children build confidence in what their body can do and enabling them to understand the importance of being healthy and active throughout their lives. They will be encouraged to develop their fine (small) and gross (large) motor skills by moving in a variety of ways, as well as using a range of small and large equipment or tools in different situations, showing control and an awareness of safety. The children will also develop an awareness of how exercise affects their bodies and what this feels like. This area also aims to develop greater independence when dressing and undressing and managing day to day tasks such as doing up their zip and cutting up their food at lunch time.

Communication and Language

Communication and Language develops children’s confidence when they are speaking, listening and communicating effectively with others, particularly developing children’s attention. Children will have lots of opportunities to participate in small group, class and one-to one discussions throughout the day. As their listening skills develop and become more attentive they will start to respond to what they’ve heard with relevant questions, comments and ideas. We will learn to connect ideas and talk about things that have happened already and things that might happen in the future using the correct tense.



Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception

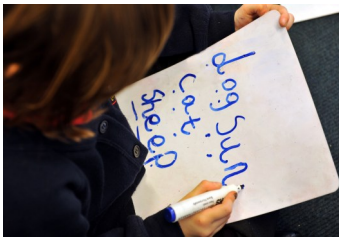
Reception

The four Specific Areas of Learning and Development are:



Literacy

This area of the curriculum children will develop an understanding and enjoyment of stories, books and rhymes, recognising that print carries meaning. Initially the focus is linking the sounds (phonemes) and letters (graphemes) before being able to read and understand simple sentences as well as decoding unfamiliar and more complex words. When listening to stories they will be able to anticipate key events and show their understanding by retelling stories using key vocabulary. Writing also plays an important part in this area of learning. Children gain an understanding of the relationship between the spoken and written word and by exploring making marks they can begin to write for a variety of purposes using recognisable letters. As these skills develop, the children will begin to write simple sentences, with most letters formed correctly, containing a range of familiar and unfamiliar words that can be read by themselves and others. When writing more complex words children will be able to make phonetically plausible attempts.



Mathematics

Children's mathematical development is accessed through two aspects; Number and Numerical Pattern. Through these different aspects the children will be supported in recognising and having a deep understanding of numbers to 10, including the composition of each number (how it can be made in different ways). They will also learn to subitise to 5 (recognise quantities without counting them) and recall some number facts including number bonds to 5,10 and double facts. The children will develop an awareness of the relationship between numbers and amounts and know that numbers can be combined (added together) and that amounts can be compared (difference) to help them with solving mathematical problems. Children will also explore patterns and develop an understanding of and build up a vocabulary of everyday language in relation to size, weight, capacity, position, and time to compare objects and solve problems.



Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception

Reception



The four Specific Areas of Learning and Development are:

Understanding the World

It is important that children are supported in developing the knowledge, skills and understanding that help them to make sense of the world. It is through this aspect of the curriculum that children will begin to find out about time in relation to past and present events in their own lives and those of people close to them as well as society. They will have the opportunity to learn about and talk about a variety of different cultures and the natural world around them, both within their local area and further afield. Children will begin to understand that everyone has different likes and dislikes and that they must respect this just as other people will respect them.

Expressive Arts and Design

Creativity involves children initiating their own learning and taking controlled risks, making connections, choices and decisions. The children will be provided with opportunities to explore equipment and their surroundings and will be encouraged to share their thoughts, ideas and feelings with both the adults in the setting and their peers. Creativity takes many forms and includes art, music, movement, dance, imaginative and role play activities, design and technology, ICT and mathematics. It is essential that children are given time to become absorbed in the activities/equipment on offer and to explore their own ideas using a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function.



Reception

Supporting Your Child at Home

We believe that the best way you can support your child's learning in Reception is to have fun and encourage positive conversation about school.



Please remember that your child is at school for a large part of the day and after a day at school, they will be tired and may need time to play without structure. Below are some suggestions of how you can support your child at home but do not feel pressured or obliged to do these.

Encouraging Independence

In Reception we promote the development of independence which will in turn increase self esteem and positive self image. We support and encourage the children to go to the toilet on their own and manage their own hygiene and personal property.

You could support this development at home by:

- Encourage your child have a go on their own first
- Try to put your child in clothes which are easy for them to put on and take off independently
- Named clothes helps your child to recognise their name and belongings
- You could use a star chart to encourage them to do activities themselves



Letter Names and Sounds

At Franche, we follow the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised scheme when teaching phonics. You can learn more about how we teach phonics by exploring the 'Phonics' session on our school website. We will also host two phonics workshops throughout the year where you are able to come into school to learn more about how we teach phonics and how you can support at home. In Reception we start off by learning letter sounds whilst exploring how to orally blend and segment words.

Here are some fun ways to learn and practise letter names and sounds:

- Playing a game of 'I Spy'
- Playing teachers at home and asking your child to teach you the letters and sounds they have learnt
- Playing 'guess the letter' by tracing on each other's backs



Writing and recognising their name can also be a fun activity to do with children before they start school. You could write it in sand, or use a wet paintbrush on the pavement! You can find a video for how to write each letter on our YouTube channel too.

Remember to have fun!

Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception

Reception

Supporting Your Child at Home



Reading

We want to encourage a passion for reading and a love of books.

This can be done through you reading to your child as well as encouraging them to read to you. After the first few days at school, your child will be bringing home a book to share with you at home. Later in the Autumn term we will invite you into school every week on a certain day to share a book with your child in our reading morning or afternoon.

Other activities that support reading are:

- Acting out your favourite stories using dolls, toys or puppets
- Point to words and logos around you— can your child recognise the super-market signs or their favourite food labels?
- Find words in the environment that start with significant letters like the same letter as your child's name
- Play silly rhyming games and games that encourage alliteration eg. the **big bad bug**
- Make a reading den (to make reading more fun). Let them choose a book to share with you or their favourite teddy.

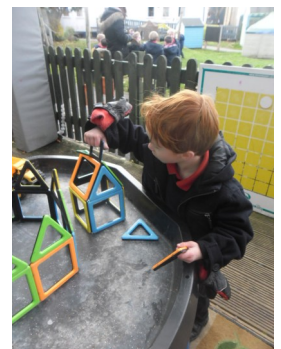


Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

We want to encourage a love of numbers, shapes and solving problems. We want the children to have a wealth of number and shape experiences, including weighing, measuring and comparing real objects from home and their environment.

This could be done through:

- Singing songs like "Five fat sausages sizzling in the pan...one went pop and the other went BANG!" How many sausages are left?
- Counting EVERYTHING! Maybe the number of lamp posts on the way to school, or steps taken to get into bed, use words like 'more than' and 'less than' to compare amounts
- Counting out loud forward and backwards
- Cooking together and talking about the different amounts
- Growing plants and measuring them. Which plant can grow the tallest?
- Making shape pictures, playing I-Spy with shapes, matching shapes.



There are more activities and links on the school website to help parents to further support learning at home. Remember, learning is more fun when we do it together!

Reception

Parent Partnerships



Franch Community Primary School knows and values the importance of relationships with parents and we firmly believe that parental involvement can only enhance a child's school experience. We are fully committed to a partnership approach and the needs of every child are discussed in full prior to admission and on an ongoing basis.

Parents are welcome to look at their child's Learning Journey at any time, curriculum overviews, weekly updates via the Reception newsletter and regular home-learning ensures that parents are fully involved in their child's journey. Any completed home-learning is celebrated within school with their friends.

Regular Parents Evenings are arranged during the academic year which enable parents to meet with their child's class teacher to discuss how well the child has settled, share progress and discuss any concerns. Parents/carers are welcome to book additional time with any teacher or a senior member of staff if they wish.

We are also proud to offer family workshops and mornings which enable parents/carers to come in and work with their child in the Reception environment. Workshops cover a range of topics and areas of learning and are designed to be fully interactive for the parents.

The school has an active PTA and parents are welcomed along to the monthly meeting to help plan and coordinate events for the school. The PTA raise a considerable amount of money for the school each year by organising a variety of events for both children and families, these include; quiz nights, discos, summer fetes and even a circus! These are attended by the whole community and parent support is essential to enable their success. Please contact the office if you would like further information.

If you would like to see all the wonderful fundraising they have achieved for the school or to see their next event please visit their Facebook page; Franche Primary School PTA.



Reception

The British Values

At Franche Community Primary school we uphold and teach pupils about the British Values. As educators we recognise that we have a duty to keep our children safe and to prepare them for life in modern Britain.



The British Values are:

- Democracy
- Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Community Links

When your child joins our setting they become part of the family of Franche Community Primary School. This family incorporates 'Chestnut' our onsite Children Centre, Tots@Franche 0-3 year old childcare, our wraparound out of school/holiday club and the wider community. We operate as a joined up service to ensure that our children and their families receive the best possible support and opportunities.

The Early Years staff also have excellent links with other child care settings and regularly meet as part of the local Early Years Partnership and Primary Teaching Alliance.

Reception

Safeguarding



Franch Community Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. We expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

This means that we have a Safeguarding Policy and procedures in place. All staff, including supply staff, volunteers and governors, must ensure that they are aware of these procedures. Our Safeguarding Team and Safeguarding Governor oversee the school's safeguarding practices, ensuring that we remain vigilant and up to date.

For more information, you can visit our Safeguarding page on our school website www.franchprimary.org.uk Here you can find the Safeguarding Policy, leaflet for visitors, our Early help offer and safeguarding information. Paper copies of our policy can be obtained from the school office.

Sometimes we may need to share information and work in partnership with other agencies when there are concerns about a child's welfare. We will ensure that concerns about our pupils are discussed with parents/carers first -unless we have reason to believe that such a move would be contrary to the child's welfare.



Reception



Attendance

Good attendance and punctuality remain a top priority for us at Franche Community Primary School. We share parents and carers views in wanting the best for your child and we are looking forward to working in partnership with you.

We strive to ensure your child has the best opportunities to be the best they can be, to feel safe and supported in school, and to develop a sense of belonging both with their peers and as a wider part of our school community.

To support that, regular attendance will be key.

We expect all pupils to attend school as regularly as possible. Our ambition for every child is **100%** attendance.

We recognise that on occasion some children may experience illness or have exceptional reasons preventing regular attendance. We will work with you as partners to ensure in such circumstances any identified barriers are discussed so we can best support your child's wellbeing and education.

Giving your child the best start

90% attendance may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, however the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child misses half a day of school every week, the equivalent of 19 school days (almost one whole month), during the year. Research shows that children who miss this amount of school do not achieve as well as their peers who attend more regularly.

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed
95% Attendance	9 Days of Absence 1 Week and 4 Days of learning lost
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of learning lost
85% Attendance	28 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of learning lost
80% Attendance	38 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 Days of learning lost
75% Attendance	46 Days of Absence 9 weeks and 1 day of learning lost

Our attendance policy is available to read on our school website. This explains how we monitor attendance and follow up absence.

Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception—Reception

Reception



Attendance

As parents/carers you can best support your child to secure regular attendance and punctuality by:

- ⇒ Making sure your child attends school every day it is open, unless there is an exceptional reason preventing this.
- ⇒ Ensuring your child arrives at school on time every day.
- ⇒ Establishing a good routine each evening and each morning so your child is prepared for the school day ahead.
- ⇒ Talking positively to your child about school and taking an interest in their school day.
- ⇒ Ensuring a good bedtime routine to enable your child to get enough sleep.
- ⇒ Arranging dental and medical appointments outside school hours wherever possible.
- ⇒ Informing the school if your child is ill and too unwell to attend
- ⇒ Taking any holidays during school holiday periods, and not during term time.
- ⇒ Attending parents' evenings and school events.
- ⇒ Praising and rewarding your child's efforts and achievements at school.
- ⇒ Supporting school staff by working in partnership to best manage and support your child with any difficult or challenging behaviour or circumstances.
- ⇒ Discussing any problems or difficulties with the school as soon as they arise – staff are here to help.

We know being a parent/carer can be challenging at times and it goes without saying that we are here to support you all as families.

If there are any difficulties or problems affecting your child's attendance. Do please speak with your child's class teacher in the first instance or Mrs Ellis (Attendance Officer). This can be done by calling the school, coming into the school office or emailing attendance@francheprimary.worcs.sch.uk.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child's educational journey and ensure their educational entitlement.

Attendance Matters



Reception

Further information



If you would like further information please feel free to have a look on our school website

www.francheprimary.co.uk



Alternatively, you can always contact us via telephone or email

Telephone number: 01562 751788

Email: office@francheprimary.worcs.sch.uk



Keep up to date with all the Franche news by visiting our Facebook pages