



RECEPTION - Autumn 1

Classroom News



15th September 2025

Avondale
Primary School

Dear Parents/Carers

This week, we will continue to introduce the pupils to our Reception rules and routines. In Reception, we work as a unit and pupils have access to continuous provision across both rooms.

We will begin to learn about our school. We will learn about the different rooms within school and what these are used for. We will go on a tour around school, visiting each room in turn. During the week we will meet members of staff and learn about their jobs and how they help us in school. We will also find our school using Google maps and look at key features around Avondale.

On Wednesday, we will have our weekly PE session. Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school and all items of clothing are clearly labelled. Thank you.

Please remember that on Wednesday 17th September at 3.30pm (until 4:15pm) we will hold our first Parental Curriculum Workshop. This week's workshop will focus on The EYFS Curriculum. We look forward to seeing you there.

Have a lovely week.
The Reception Team



PSED - JIGSAW



The first theme which we will cover during circle time is titled - Being Me in My World.

- Session 1 - Who... Me? During this session we learn how it feels to belong and that we are all similar and different.
- Session 2 - How am I feeling today? - We will think about our feelings and begin to learn how to manage these.
- Session 3 - Being at School - We will explore how we can all work together to make our school a good place to be.
- Session 4 - Gentle Hands - Links with our school value of kindness. We learn about why it is good to be kind and we learn about good and bad hands.
- Session 5 - Our Rights - We will learn how everyone has a right and we all have a right to play and learn.
- Session 6 - Our Responsibilities - We will learn what being responsible means



Coats

Please remember to send your child to school with a coat every day, as they will be going outside for play and activities, and the weather can be unpredictable.

Make sure the coat is clearly named and suitable for the day's weather.

Thank you.



Home Reading

Last Friday, we commenced with home reading and your child should have brought home their reading folder. As of yet the children have not been allocated a reading group, however we do want the children to get into the routine of taking books home, sharing them with parents and returning their books to school every day.

Each week as part of our home reading programme your child will receive–

• two schemed books (either a discussion book or a decodable book)

Schemed Books consist of either discussion books or decodable books.

Discussion Books – Initially, your child will bring home a discussion book, meaning they are wordless. However, these books are very important to your child's reading development. Early books allow children to learn how stories work, including the order and direction in which they read, without the pressure of words on the page. The focus is comprehension skills not reading skills. Children will enjoy talking about the story and discussing what is happening in the pictures. The pictures provide lots of opportunities to develop vocabulary, and also play with environmental sounds, which is an important first step in the teaching of phonics.

Below are some activities and ideas you may want to try when sharing these discussion books with your child:

- Respond to your child's ideas by repeating them back and introducing new words to increase their vocabulary.
- Look at the front cover and read the title to your child. Ask them what they think the story will be about? Relate the title back to your child i.e. 'The lost gloves' Have they ever lost anything? or 'Puddles' What do you do when you see a puddle?
 - Allow your child to turn the pages of the book and describe what they see in the pictures. You could take it in turns to tell a page of the story.
- Encourage pupils to turn their own pages is also great for developing fine motor control!
- Encourage your child to add sounds to accompany the action in story and talk about any sounds that might be found in the story setting i.e. 'Feed the Birds' what sounds might you hear outside?
- Once you have finished sharing the book ask your child to retell the story in their own words i.e. What happened first? What happened next? How did the story end?
 - Did they enjoy the book? Why?
- Ask your child to point to different things on the page e.g. the angry man.

Decodable Books – These are simple stories constructed using almost exclusively words that are phonetically decodable, using letters and letter-groups that children have learned during phonic lessons. Parents can worry that these books are not 'challenging', but the decodable books are designed to reinforce and consolidate the learning that has taken place in class. Pupils will receive a decodable book as soon as they can confidently recognise and blend some of the phase 2 sounds to read simple words – this stage will be different for all children.

We will commence phase 2 phonic teaching next week.

HOME READING DIARY

At Avondale, we ask parents/carers to practise reading with their child **5 TIMES EACH WEEK FOR 10 minutes.**

This should include –

- Reading their home reading books (schemed books)

In addition this might include –

- Practising letter sounds
- Practising tricky words
- Sharing a bedtime story
- Sharing their library book

Please date and sign your child's reading diary each time you hear them read. Please ensure your child brings their reading folder (reading book and home reading diary) to school every day. Reading books will only be changed if their reading diary has been signed.

READING REWARDS

Every week, pupils who read 5 times each week will receive 5 rewards points and their names are entered into our Reception reading raffle.

Reception Curriculum Workshops for Parents

Over the next few weeks, we have planned a series of curriculum workshops to help develop your understanding of what your child will be learning in their first year at school.

EYFS WORKSHOP 2

Developing your child's Communication and Language With Louise Laycock



At Avondale, we are lucky to have our own speech therapist who supports with pupils' language development within school. During next Wednesday's workshop she will focus on the importance of supporting early communication and language, both in school and at home.

She will also be able to answer any questions you may have about your child's speech. We really hope you can join us for this workshop on -

Wednesday 24th September - 3.30 - 4.15pm

This workshop will be held in the Reception unit. We look forward to seeing you there.

W/C - 22.09.25

Walk to School Challenge

