



Welcome to Reception



Knavesmire Primary School, Trafalgar Street,
York, YO23 1HY
www.knavesmireprimary.co.uk

01904 806545

schooloffice@knavesmire.southbank.academy
www.knavesmireprimary.co.uk

Welcome to Knavesmire Reception Classes

Welcome to Reception! We are very excited to welcome your children to Knavesmire Primary School. The following information is intended to give you a greater understanding of how the Reception classes operate. Any member of staff will always be pleased to help you with any queries and we will be in touch with lots more information over the coming weeks.

Classes

We have 2 Reception classes that are taught predominantly by their own class teacher but all children have free-flow play time across our new fabulous open plan reception area.



Starting school in September

What your child will need each day:

- A **book bag** to carry newsletters, reading books, homework and works of art. You can buy these online from our school uniform supplier (info on the school website) or from most supermarkets.
- A **PE kit** containing trainers, t-shirt, jogging bottom and a tracksuit top/jumpers for outdoor games. Please label everything (*both* trainers) put all these into a clearly named PE bag so that it can be stored in your child's locker+.
- A **healthy snack** stored in a container clearly labelled with your child's name for afternoon play. This could be fruit, vegetables, crackers etc... but **no nuts please due to allergies**.
- A **drinks bottle** clearly labelled with your child's name.
- A **change of clothes** in case of accidents (Please send this in a separate bag so that we know what is PE kit and what is a change of clothes).

Please can we ask that children do not bring a backpack into school with them every day, the book-bag should be sufficient for carrying snack etc and with the lockers being quite small, we do not have space for extra bags. We are always on hand to help the children if needs be.

Clothing

- Please label ALL clothing and shoes etc. as several children quite often have the same articles, in the same size and they often struggle to recognise their own!

Arriving at school

The Reception entrance is by the school hall, which is opposite the bike sheds.

We will be in touch closer to the time with regards to transition and entering school.

Lunchtime

The majority of children stay in school for lunch, which is eaten in the school canteen. All children in Reception and Key Stage 1 are entitled to a free school lunch (menu on the school website) but if you prefer, you can provide a healthy packed lunch, in a clearly named lunch bag.

If you prefer to take your child home for lunch, please collect from the entrance near the main school foyer. Lunchtime for Reception is 11:55-13:10.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL SO WE ASK THAT YOU CHECK ALL INGREDIENTS LISTS ON ANY FOOD SENT INTO SCHOOL.

Collecting your child at the end of the day

The Reception class school day ends at 3.15 p.m. Please wait behind the blue line on the floor rather than crowd round the doorway. It makes it easier for us to spot you quickly and deliver your child safely back to you.

Enrichment Fund

We ask for a voluntary contribution of £5 per half term. This money goes towards subsidising visitors, educational visits and provides additional resources for activities linked to the 'Big Idea'. More details of how to pay this will be issued once your child has joined the school.

Any Questions?

Please don't be afraid to ask! You can either:

- Email the main school office and the admin team will pass on the message, the team are happy to answer any questions or give you a call if needed.
- Catch a member of the Reception team, preferably at the end of the day but if it's urgent, in the morning.
- Send a message on DOJO.

School Readiness

As part of our Early Years ethos, we in Reception feel that children's mental and physical wellbeing is at the forefront of all other aspects. Children learn best when they feel comfortable and at ease. It is for this reason that we suggest gentle, small steps to prepare your children for starting school. It is important to remember that every child is unique and all children will learn at a different rate. The map below highlights the importance of basic independence in comparison to getting your children to write. These first steps

will allow your child to gain the confidence and motor skills needed to become an independent and happy learner. Children will do things when they are ready and we as a team are here to support children with these steps so please do not feel any pressure to rush through them. The link below talks about 'school readiness' and some things that you can do at home.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/how-to-prepare-your-child-for-school/zxpc8p3>

S Shoes, socks and put on clothes

- Show your child, then encourage them to keep practising
- Allow extra time in the mornings or when going out
- Think about clothes and shoes that will be easier to get on and off. Make sure clothes and shoes have name labels
- Choose clothes depending on the weather
- Practise making sure clothes and shoes are the right way round
- Practise buttons and zips
- Let your child practise putting on their school uniform
- Aim for them to get faster at getting dressed: make it a fun game
- Give positive praise for trying

T Talk, listen, share and follow instructions

- Switch off technology for a while
- Talk to your child about what you are doing around the house
- Talk to your child about what they can see/hear/smell/feel/taste
- Take your child to meet other children
- Sing songs, read stories or share a book and talk about the pictures daily
- In the evening, talk to your child about their day
- Encourage turn taking within the family
- Praise your child for following clear instructions
- Borrow books from your library. It's free

A Ask for help

- Encourage your child to have a go at things and to ask for help when they need it
- Model how to ask for help using a full sentence: "Please can you help me?"
- Let your child ask for things in shops, and be involved in choosing and paying when they're old enough
- Talk about who to ask and find out who they have good relationships with - such as teachers, other children and nursery staff
- Tell your child that it is ok to ask for help
- Visit your library to choose a book with your child
- Play alongside your child and talk about what you are doing

R Ready to try different foods and tools

- Find fun activities to get the hands and fingers moving e.g. playdough and Lego®
- Sing and play finger rhymes e.g. Tommy Thumb
- Use pencils, crayons and paintbrushes to practise drawing and painting
- Buy and explore new foods together
- Show your child how to hold and use a knife, fork, spoon and scissors
- Give your child a child-sized portion
- Eat family meals together
- Praise your child for trying new foods and using different tools

T Toilet on their own

- Talk to your child about using the toilet and washing their hands
- Show your child how to wash and dry their hands
- Remind your child to wash their hands after the toilet and before eating
- Make sure your child wears clothes they can take down themselves
- Give positive praise for trying to do this independently
- Try using a reward chart to encourage your child
- Ask for support from your health visiting team (aged 0-5-years) or school nurse (school age child)
- Tell your child it's ok to ask to use the toilet at school

The Road To School

This tracker helps you and your child prepare for school.

Speaking & literacy

- I like to read stories & look at picture books
- I am able to talk about what my reader is feeling
- I am practising recognising my name when it's written down

Listening & understanding

- I am able to sit still and listen for a short while
- I can follow instructions
- I understand the need to follow rules

Writing skills

- I like tracing patterns & colouring in
- I enjoy making marks
- I am practising holding a pencil

Sharing & turn taking

- I can share toys & take turns
- I like playing games with others
- I like interacting with other children

Counting skills

- I enjoy practising counting objects
- I can keep number patterns & playing counting games
- I can recognise some numbers when they are written down

Going to the toilet

- I can go to the toilet on my own, wipe myself properly & flush
- I can wash & dry my hands without any help

Routines

- I have practised putting on my uniform & getting ready to leave on time
- I have a good bedtime routine so I'm not feeling tired for school
- I'm learning to eat at the times I will on school days

What are you looking forward to the most? Is there anything you're unsure of?

Interest in the world & new activities

- I enjoy learning about the world around me
- I am interested in exploring new activities or environments
- I like asking questions

Eating

- I can use a knife & fork
- I can open my packet lunch on my own
- I am confident at opening wrappers & packaging

Self-care

- I know when to wash my hands
- I can wipe my nose
- I can ask for help if I don't feel well

Getting dressed & undressed on my own

- I can button & unbutton my shirt & use a zip
- I can tie my own shoes & socks on
- I can change into my PE kit & put my coat on

Independence

- I am happy to be away from my nursery/daycare or my main carer
- I can help to tidy my belongings & look after my things
- I am happy to talk my belongings & look after my things
- I am feeling confident about starting school

Remember - learning is not a competition; children learn at different rates. For more ideas to help prepare your child for school, talk to your childcare practitioner.

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More information

You will find a wealth of knowledge on the school website so please do have a good look.

Thank you and we look forward to meeting you,

The Reception Team

