



Reception 2021/22

Head Teacher: Ms L. von Buchenroder

*Deputy Head Teachers
Mr Carbutt, Ms Jennings and Ms Poulteney*

*Assistant Head for Early Years
Mr M Ramonet*

~ Reception Staff~

Teachers - Miss C Saggiu, Miss A Bounford and Miss H Barber

1 Support Assistant per class

Extra staff to support children with learning needs



Our telephone number is: 020 7476 5336



Our email is: info@star.newham.sch.uk

Reception 2021/22

Welcome to *Star Primary School*

In Reception our aim is to

- *Provide a variety of challenging learning opportunities*
- *Help your child build positive relationships*
- *Support children in becoming independent and confident problem solvers*

Please remember:

- Always tell a member of staff if your child is worried about anything which may have happened either at school or at home.
- Make sure that we always have an up to date telephone number so that we can contact you immediately if your child is ill or has an accident.
- Always tell us who will be picking up your child if it is someone other than you.
- Encourage your child to be independent so that they can take off their own coat and put it on, dress and undress for PE (including taking off and putting on their shoes and socks), and go to the toilet unaided, washing their hands afterwards.
- Please do not let your child bring toys to school as they may become upset if the toys are lost or broken.



Bringing your child to school and collecting your child at home time

Please wait **outside the Reception main entrance**, in the designated spaces. Please wait outside the Reception main entrance at the end of the school day. We want to ensure every child's safety, so please do not come in to the building but wait outside for a member of staff to bring your child out to you. There are designated waiting spaces so please look out for these spots. Please notify the school of the adults who will be collecting your child. This information is requested on the school's admissions form. **An unknown or unauthorised adult will not be allowed to take your child from the school.**

100% Attendance

We expect your child to attend school every day. It is essential that they are present in order to achieve their full potential. At the end of each half term there is a special assembly, the children who achieve 100% attendance during that half term will receive a Bronze, Silver and then Gold certificate. Children who receive a Gold certificate will be entered into a special prize draw at the end of the year.



How you can be involved with the school

Home school agreement -At Star, we work in partnership with you to give your child the best possible start at school. When your child begins school you will be asked to sign a home - school agreement, which outlines our commitment to your child and to you, as well as asking for your commitment and support in return.

Reading and spelling - We ask you to support your child at home with their reading and spelling. Your child will receive two reading books per week and a set of Reception words to read and then later learn to spell. You will also receive a reading journal which we ask you to leave a comment about your child's progress in reading at home.

Parent workshops -We hold frequent parent workshops and meetings on various curriculum topics to help you support your child with their learning at home and we encourage all parents to come along. Refreshments are usually served and it is a chance to get to know other parents.

Parent consultation evenings -Our parent consultation evenings take place twice a year. These will give you a chance to meet with your child's class teacher, discuss their work and progress and any concerns you may have. You will also receive a written Annual Report for your child.

During the year, children in the Reception classes will take part in a sports day and special performances at Christmas and at the end of the school year. You will be invited to all of these activities. Everyone thoroughly enjoys these events and appreciates the opportunity to come together and celebrate the achievements of the children. You may take photographs during these events for your own home use, but please do **not** put them on any internet sites such as Facebook.

Reception Staff are always available for a brief word at the end of the day. If you have concerns that you need to discuss further with us, please let us know and we will make an appointment for you to see the teacher so that you can have a longer meeting.

Trips - A series of excursions and experiences are planned throughout the year to enhance the curriculum and provide additional learning opportunities. There will be opportunities for parents to volunteer as support on external visits.

Special books- Your child's progress and achievement is displayed in a 'Special Book.' We invite you to spend time sharing this book with your child and leaving a comment on a sticker at parent consultation evenings and 'book look' days.

Homework- Throughout the year we take part in termly Home Learning Projects. This is a selection of tasks to explore and investigate with your child.

How you can help your child at school

Do your best to make sure that you:

- help your child to be **independent**- practise dressing independently.
- your child comes to school **every** day
- your child gets to school and is picked up from school **on time** everyday
- your child does not miss school without a very good reason, like sickness. If your child does have to miss school, you must telephone the school explaining why
- your child goes to bed early so that they do not have trouble getting up in the morning
- your family does not take holidays in school time
- your child takes care of things at home and returns reading books and homework at the correct time
- your child wears full school uniform **every** day

Girls' School Uniform

- Sweatshirt
- Cardigan
- White Polo Shirt or Blouse
- Black Skirt
- Black Trousers
- Black Knee length Shorts
- Red, Black or White Tights/ Socks
- Red and White Summer Dress/Knee Length
- Playsuit
- Smart Black School Shoes

Boys' School Uniform

- Sweatshirt
- Polo Shirt
- Black Trousers
- Black Knee length Shorts
- Red, Black or White Socks
- Smart Black School Shoes



Children in Reception will have P.E. once a week. This information will be on our digital signage. There is a school P.E. kit which they must wear for this lesson - a white top, black shorts and black plimsolls. Please make sure that your child brings their P.E. kit to school every week, and that you encourage them to be independent by dressing and undressing themselves.

All uniform **must** be clearly labelled with your child's name.

All our uniform can be purchased directly from the MyClothing website.

www.myclothing.com/school-uniform/25800.school

Fit Friday

Fit Friday is an initiative set up to promote health and well-being to all of our pupils, staff and the wider community. From Tai Chi to Jazz dance, Yoga to cross-country running, we all elevate our heart rates, boost our brainpower and widen our smiles. It's a fantastic afternoon enjoyed by all. We cannot wait until next week! How will you keep fit next Friday? During Fit Friday all children should wear their Fit Friday t-shirt (and optional hoodie during colder weather) and black P.E. shorts or jogging bottoms.

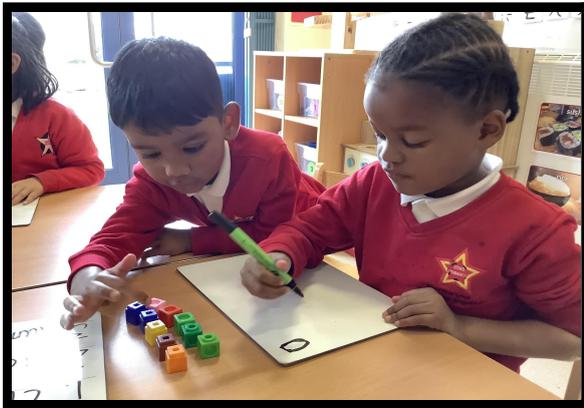
You can purchase your Fit Friday t-shirt here
<https://www.personalisedjustforyou.org.uk/back-to-school>



How children learn in the Foundation stage

In Reception the children learn through a combination of adult led and child initiated play. The classroom environment has been planned to promote engagement and curiosity so the children can select and challenge themselves independently. The role of the adult is to facilitate this learning by questioning, modelling and other ways that will extend the children's thinking and learning.

The children have the opportunity to explore and learn outdoors. Learning outdoors is specifically important for children's physical development. Accessing the outdoors in all weathers is also critical to learning about the world around them. Your child will take part in daily phonics, maths and reading sessions. The rest of the school day will be for exploring the environment and choosing activities that interest them.



Because your child will learn outside as well as inside, it is essential they are dressed appropriately every day. If it is raining, please ensure your child wears wellies and brings in a pair of indoor shoes for them to change into when they come indoors. Plimsolls are kept in their P.E. bag in the cloakroom.

Wellies



Plimsolls



What your child will learn

In the Early Years Foundation Stage there are three prime areas and four specific areas.

The **prime areas** are fundamental and work together to support development in all areas of learning, they are -

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Communication and Language

The **specific areas** include essential skills and knowledge, they are-

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design.

Within these areas the staff assess the children's development daily to see how the children's knowledge and skills are growing. On the following pages you can read some of the ways in which children are helped to learn in the Foundation Stage.

Children relate to people and their environment through **the characteristics of effective learning**, which underpin all the areas of learning. The characteristics of effective learning are -

- playing and exploring
- active learning
- creating and thinking critically



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

In Reception, we ensure the children feel safe and secure in their new class by offering staggered start times and a welcoming and engaging classroom environment. The different learning areas in the environment encourage the children to interact with others, take turns and negotiate. Children learn how to interact with their peers appropriately and develop their self-confidence.



Physical Development:

The environment includes structures and resources to aid the development of both gross and fine motor skills. In the outdoors there are climbing structures and large scale resources to encourage children to develop and strengthen their upper body and core strength whilst inside there are resources available for children to develop their fine motor skills by using cotton buds to paint, tweezers to pick objects up and play dough to squeeze and manipulate. These activities develop the strength needed to be a competent writer.



Communication and Language

In Reception all areas of learning are set up to encourage children to speak to both their peers and adults. The adults support children's learning by modelling new words and sentence structures. Adults facilitate the development of children's communication and language through story-telling, role-play and by being present in their pursuits so new language can be modelled relating to their chosen interests.



Mathematics

In the Reception class, children will count to a hundred and beyond, count in 2s, 5s and 10s, add up and take away small numbers. They will recognise shapes and talk about where things are (on top of, underneath, behind etc). They also learn about measuring, weighing and capacity. Children are encouraged to use mathematics in their play (for example pricing the shoes in the shoe shop and measuring in the builders' yard). Sand and water play, puzzles, threading numbers and making patterns all help children to learn the first skills of mathematics.



At Star, we are passionate about teaching maths for mastery. This involves using approaches which help to ensure the children's knowledge is deep and secure before they are moved on to new areas of learning. This way, the children are more confident and better equipped to confront new challenges and they can draw upon their deep and secure prior knowledge too.

At Star, we use the Maths - No Problem! scheme of work. This approach has drawn upon a wide range of research and evidence as well as the features of maths lessons in high performing countries such as Singapore.

A typical lesson will firstly introduce a concept through exploration of concrete materials/objects before progressing through to exploring the concept through picture form. At this stage known as the "seeing stage" - the children make strong connections between the concrete materials/objects and the pictures and diagrams which can represent the materials/objects they have handled in a problem.

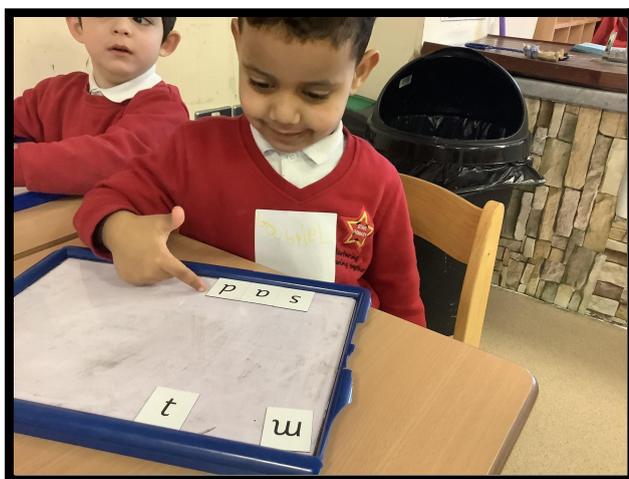


Having acquired a strong knowledge of the concept through this exploration, the children are much better equipped to explore abstract questions e.g. introducing a mathematical symbol to represent addition.

Literacy

Reading is a very important part of the Reception class routine. The children will have a daily Read Write Inc lesson. This is a structured and systematic approach to teaching Literacy. The aim is to create fluent readers, confident speakers and willing writers. There is also a home reading programme to accompany the learning in school as well as an additional reading scheme to challenge our children.

The children will also be learning to read key words. They will bring these words home too, to practise reading with you. We recommend magnetic letters to play with at home, or you can make games like 'matching pairs' to help children learn their key words. Once they have learnt to read about 50 key words by sight, then they will learn to spell and write them.



All children will need to bring their book bag to school **every day** with their reading books and key words inside.

Children's mark making in the nursery develops into word and sentence writing in the Reception class. They have their own writing books and learn handwriting skills. They have opportunities to write alongside the teacher in a structured Read Write Inc lesson and then they practise these new writing skills in their role-play, for example writing party invitations, shopping lists and labelling items in the shop.



Understanding the World

Young children are interested in the world around them. In the Foundation Stage they are encouraged to find out about their environment and learn to describe what they see. They may explore all sorts of textures in collage, talk about their families, and find out about different food, mix colours and watch ice melting. They will investigate life cycles and watch chicks hatch from eggs in the incubator. All sorts of activities in the Foundation Stage challenge children to explore, observe, and ask questions.



Expressive Arts and Design

Children are helped to explore different ways of using and expressing their imaginations. There is always the opportunity to role play, and to paint or draw. Children regularly are able to explore different art techniques such as collage or printing. Children learn and sing songs and dances throughout the week.

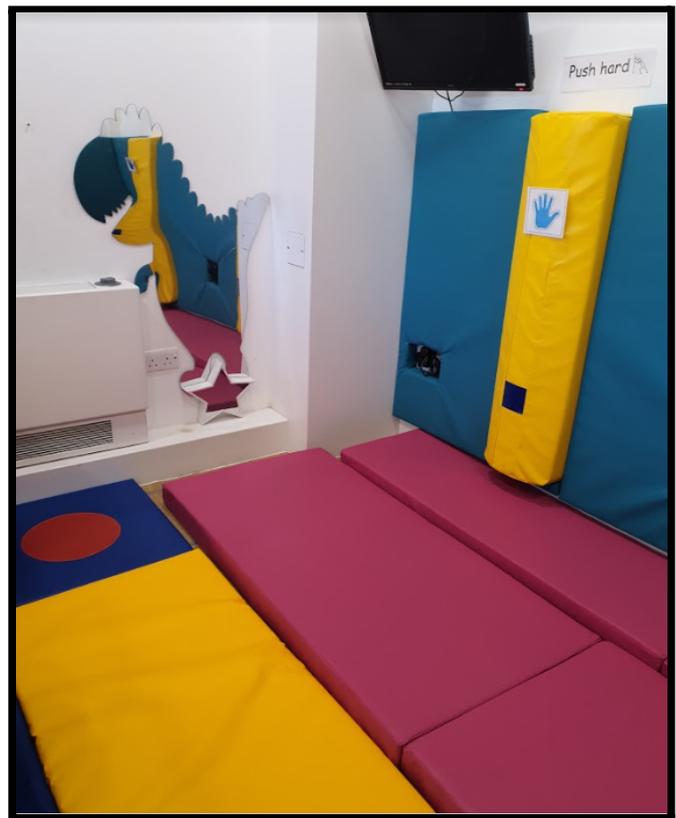
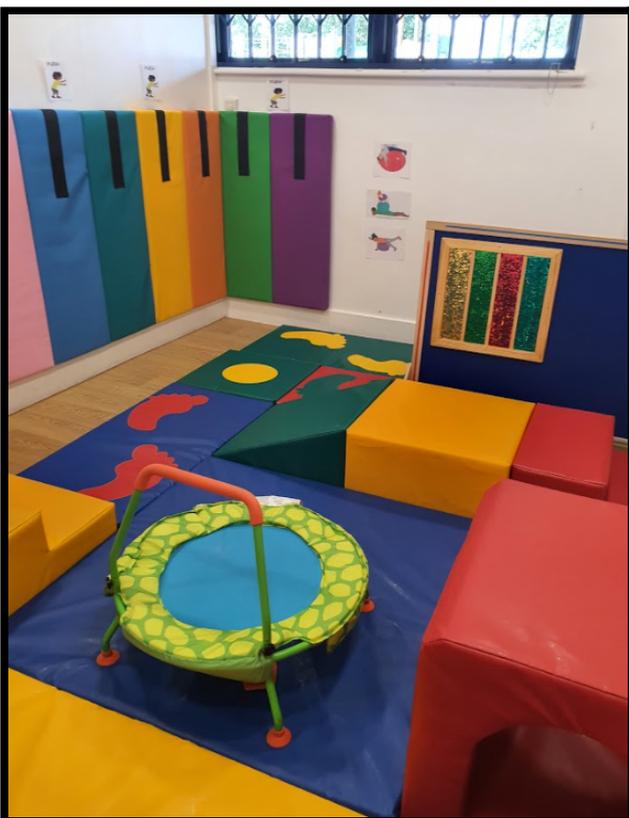


Inclusion

Star Primary school is an inclusive school. This means that we help all children, whatever difficulty that they may have, to take part in all learning and other activities and to do their best.

Our school has the Inclusion Quality Mark and we are a Dyslexia Friendly school. Many of our staff have training in autism as well as speech and language therapy. We also have a special learning room - The Sensory Room - specifically designed to house books, a sensory tent with toys and other equipment to help children with special needs. We can also support your child with help from specialised outside agencies.

If you feel that your child has additional needs with regard to their learning, behaviour or any physical disability - speech, vision, hearing, walking - please talk to the teachers or to the Special Educational Needs Coordinator who will be happy to advise and help you.



School Dinners

Children have a choice of hot school dinners or a healthy packed lunch from home.

School dinners are currently free for all Newham primary school children.

Children are expected to be independent. They collect their lunch from the school hall and then eat in their classroom alongside their teacher. Children are taught to select their own salad, bread and desserts as well as put away their own plates and cutlery.



Healthy packed lunch

A healthy packed lunch should contain something from each one of the following groups:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| GROUP 1
(1 item) | A filled sandwich/roll
A rice dish
A pasta dish |
| GROUP 2
(2 items) | A yogurt
A packet of crisps
A biscuit bar |
| GROUP 3
(2 items) | A piece of fruit
A cereal bar
Vegetable sticks |



Children may also be provided with a drink- either water or fruit juice. Water is always available in the dining hall.

Children are **not** allowed to have glass bottles, fizzy drinks, chocolate or sweets.

A free daily milk is provided for all children under 5.



Rainbow Club is an after school club designed to support children with their academic progress. Furthermore, Rainbow Club supports working families who have signed up to use Fit For Sport (our after school childcare provider).

During Rainbow Club, the children will use our online interactive applications such as Mathletics and Bug Club as well as further tasks to support their learning.

Rainbow Club runs on Monday-Thursday each week from 2:00-3:00.

You will be able to register your interest for Rainbow Club in September.

Fit for Sport

Our after school childcare is provided by Fit for Sports from 3:00pm to 6:00pm. Pupils are supervised by an experienced team to take part in a range of activities and are provided with a healthy snack.

Please use click on the link below for more information and how to register:

[Fit For Sport at Star Primary](#)

After School Club Activities

Each Autumn term, the Out of School Hours Learning booklet is printed with details of the clubs which staff at Star and outside companies will be running during the current school year. There is a wide variety of clubs before and after school, some of which are available for children in Reception. The clubs do change from time to time for different year groups so please look out for letters sent home with details.



If you have any further questions or queries please call the school or speak to a member of the Reception.

