



Reception Welcome Booklet



Oakfield Acorns



Welcome



The Governors and Staff would like to welcome your child and your family to our Reception classes.

We hope you find the welcome booklet a useful guide for your child as they begin their learning journey in Reception.

Oakfield Primary School

Ferntree Drive, St Mellons, Cardiff, CF3 0AA

Head Teacher: Mr D Harris

Telephone: 029 2079 9396

Email: oakfieldprm@cardiff.gov.uk

Website: www.oakfieldprimary.com

Twitter Handle: @OakfieldCardiff

Class Dojo – Please see attached invite

Reception Opening Times:

Doors open to classes at 8.55am


(Doors open at 8.45am in cases of rain or severe weather)

School finishes at 3.15pm





We strive to:

- Provide a happy, safe and secure environment full of kindness, care and respect for each other.
 - Create a stimulating and fun environment with child-centred and adult initiated play which promotes children's learning and fosters enquiring minds and happy learners.
 - Deliver a broad and balanced Early Years Curriculum based on the 4 Core Principles and 6 Areas of Learning outlined in the Curriculum for Wales.
 - Work in partnership with parents and value the help and guidance they give to their children.
 - Help children to make sense of the world they live in and help them to take a positive role in it.
 - Encourage children to make their own decisions and choices.
 - Provide an environment rich in language to encourage communication skills.
 - Form positive relationships built on mutual trust and respect.
 - To develop their basic literacy and numeracy skills to support learning across the curriculum.
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2023-2024 Staff

Class Teachers



Mrs Doyle
Rec D



Mr Johnson
Rec J

Learning Mentors and Learning Coaches

To Be Confirmed





Teaching and learning in Reception class with follow the 'Curriculum for Wales' 6 Areas of learning.

New Curriculum for Wales aims to develop pupils who will be:

- ambitious capable learners
- healthy confident individuals
- enterprising, creative contributors
- ethically informed citizens.

The Six Areas of Learning are:

- Language, Literacy and Communication (English and Welsh)
 - Mathematics and Numeracy
 - Humanities
 - Science and Technology
 - Expressive Arts
- Health and Well Being

Young children learn most effectively through structured play and this is what underpins learning within the Early Years environment. You can find our more about what we learn here: [Reception Learning Information](#)



You can find out more about how the Curriculum for Wales looks at Oakfield here: [Oakfield - Curriculum for Wales - A Summary](#)





Outdoor Learning

Children in Reception have open access to the outdoor garden area and take part in weekly 'Muddy Monday' sessions in the forest area.

We consider our outdoor area as an 'outside classroom', as we greatly value the learning opportunities that the outdoor environment offers to young children.

We hope that you appreciate that there can be times when the children's trousers, socks or tights may get dirty!

We ask that all children bring in a complete full set of clothes (including socks and pants) in case a change is needed. This can be left in class until needed.



What you need to know about Reception

Does my child need to wear school uniform?

Yes. Each child will be expected to wear full school uniform.

This can either be ordered from YC Sports with the logo, or from a supermarket as long as it's in the school colours. This will assist us in helping the children establish the strong ethos and identity of our Oakfield team. If you choose to order the uniform with the logo, it can be purchased through

https://www.ycsports.com/School-uniform/My-School/Oakfield_primary_school or in person at the YC Sports shop.



Please ensure that your child's coat, hat, lunch bag and any other items are labelled with their name.

We discourage jewellery as it should not be worn for safety reasons.

Snack

In Reception, we have a snack time when the children are provided with milk and a healthy snack. Please tell us if your child does not drink milk as water will be provided.

During this time, we talk about healthy food and where food comes from. Please let us know if your child has any allergies or shouldn't eat certain types of food.

Tuck Fund

We ask for a payment of £1 per week to provide your child with their healthy snack. This includes items like fruit, crackers and cheese and yoghurts as an example.

This can be paid weekly or half termly.

Classroom Water Bottle

All children need to bring refillable bottle of water to drink throughout the day. This may be in addition to their lunch time drink. Please note no fizzy or sugary drinks are allowed. We encourage water.

Lunch Provision

Reception children eat their lunch in the PS1 & 2 Hall and those that would like will be provided with a school meal prepared by our wonderful kitchen staff. Welsh Government provide all Reception pupils with a free school meal should they wish. You will need to use the ParentPay system to order your child's lunch. You can view the menu options through ParentPay.

If your child is not having a school meal you will need to provide them with a packed lunch. As we are a healthy eating school we would encourage all parents and carers to provide a well-balanced lunch each day.

P.E day will be... (TBC)

To begin with your child will not be expected to bring PE kit. Children will begin with taking socks and shoes off if we are doing indoor PE or keep their trainers on if we are outside. .

Please practice with your child dressing and undressing themselves in preparation for PE sessions.



Reading Bag

Our reading bags are used to carry our sight words, home learning, letters and eventually, reading books.

If you wish to purchase an Oakfield reading bag the cost will be £4. These will need to be brought to school every Wednesday and will be given to take home every Friday.

Details of when these are available will follow in the Autumn Term



Absences and Illness

We expect good attendance and your child should be in school every day. Punctuality is important as lateness results in pupils missing lessons and can also be upsetting for the child. If your child is late you will need to enter the school via the main gate.

If your child is ill or absent for any reason it is very important that you contact the school directly on 02920799396 as early as possible or send a message through Class Dojo.

Our school has a whole school Attendance initiative called "Oakopoly" where classes "move" around the board based on their attendance and have the chance to win prizes for good attendance..

Please help us continue to improve our attendance



Start and End of Day **Entry and Exit into Oakfield**

Entry/Exit points via Meadowlark Close, Ferntree Drive or Willowbrook Drive

During the First week of your child starting Reception we ask that you use the entrance and exit point on Willowbrook Drive. This is due to Reception having different start and end times and so a member of staff will open the gate for you to collect each day



Bringing and Collecting Children

Children must be brought and collected by a person over the **age of 16 years**.

Please let us know if someone different will be collecting your child that has not been added to your child's collection list. Alternatively, if you are running late for any reason please let us know.

Please note, doors open at 8.55am, unless there is extreme weather, in which case doors will open at 8.45am.

Partnerships with Parents

We want to work closely with you. Good communication between staff and parents enables us to inform each other of relevant matters concerning your child. We appreciate being informed of any change at home that might affect your child and will treat anything you tell us in strict confidence.

Updates and News

We want to inform you about the activities and learning experiences that your child will be taking part in. We update parents using the following:

- Weekly Newsletter (also accessible via our Class Page)
- Our Class Page – accessible via Oakfield Primary School Website
www.oakfieldprimary.com
- Weekly updates showcasing the wonderful things we have been doing via Twitter/Class Dojo @OakfieldCardiff

Partnerships with Parents

Consultations

We hold two Parents' Evenings each year when you will be invited to discuss your child's progress. However, there is no need to wait for these if you have questions or concerns. We want you to feel welcome within the school and Reception staff will always arrange a time to speak to you should you need.

Oakfield Parent, Friend & Teacher Association (PTA)

We have an active PTA who organise events throughout the academic year with the whole purpose of raising money for the school and children. We are always looking for new members and fresh ideas so if you would like to be involved then please speak to a member of staff.



Keeping in Touch

Class Dojo is our main method of communication with our Reception Parents. We use it to share work, important messages and inform parents of events. We share our weekly newsletter on there and give out Tocynnau Ty (Dojo points) to pupils showing excellent effort and behaviour.

We also use the below to keep in touch with our Oakfield families.

Primary Site App – Enables the school to contact you about important events, notifications and information about school life.

Parent Pay system (for school dinners) – Log in details will be given out on your child's start in September.

School notice boards – These are displayed around the school with important news and updates. These are also sent out digitally on Twitter, Class Dojo and the school website.

Staying in Touch

To receive regular push notifications, please download the apps using these QR codes.



Events and Celebrations

There are a number of annual events that your child will be involved in and we value your support and contribution to these events.

These include:

- Christmas Concert and Party
- St David's Day, Easter and Mothering Sunday Celebrations
- Multicultural Celebration such as, Ramadan, Eid, Diwali and Chinese New Year
 - Sports Day
 - World Book Day
 - Summer Picnics
- Community Visits – Garden Centre, Shops, Post Office, Library etc.
 - School Trips
- End of year Celebration Assembly



These are just some of the activities that we plan for the children in order to broaden their experiential learning.

We also invite visitors into Reception to talk and work with the children. For example, Zoo Lab and Vets/Police.



Reception Learning Environment



Our Reception classrooms adapt to the needs of our learners. We have different areas we call "Labs" that help develop skills across our 6 Areas of learning.



Adjacent to the Reception class doors you will see a large forest area that includes an Eco Classroom. Reception pupils regularly enjoy bug hunts, circle time and team building activities in this area!



Our Reception pupils benefit from a private, enclosed outdoor area that is accessible throughout the day for all learners. Here we develop their gross motor skills, alongside learning about the natural environment.



How do I prepare my child for reception?

To help them get ready to start school, you can begin preparing for reception before the summer term kicks off. Here are some tips...

Support their independence

Building up their confidence with small, everyday tasks like using a knife and fork or putting their shoes on independently can help prepare them for school life.

Calm their nerves

It's normal for your child to be worried about the first day of school. Talking to them in advance about their emotions and what will happen on their first day can help to put their mind at ease.

Get them used to instructions

From helping to lay the table to family games night, getting them used to simple instructions will help to make your child feel comfortable following their teacher's requests.

Social skills and self-confidence

A few playdates in the lead up to reception year can help get your child used to socialising with others their age. All good practice for sharing, taking turns and spending time away from the family home.

Bedtime stories

A story before bed is a wonderful way to boost their literacy and reading skills and provides a calming routine to continue as school gets started and life gets busier.

Literacy and maths skills

Why not try using games to make learning part of everyday life? From counting apples during the weekly shop to word games in the car – practising simple literacy and maths skills ahead of school can help them feel more confident in the classroom.



Things to practise at home:

Here is a list of some things you may want to practise with your child as they prepare to enter Reception:

I can...



- recognise my name
- write the first letter
- copy my name
- write my name

I can...

- hold my pencil carefully
- draw a face
- colour in carefully
- name the colours I use

I can...

- put on my socks
- find my shoes
- put on my shoes
- do up my shoes



I can...



- count from 1 to 10
- recognise each number
- place 1 to 10 in order
- write 1 to 5 in order



I can...

- sing simple rhymes
- sing and clap to a song
- tap a beat
- move to music

I can...

- find my bag
- zip up my bag
- dress myself
- do buttons



I can...



- eat with appropriate cutlery
- pour myself a drink
- taste different foods
- wash my hands before and after meals

I can...

- tidy away my toys
- clear away things I've used
- put my clothes away
- help at home



I can...

- use phrases to describe how I feel
- use age-appropriate sentences when explaining recent events
- wait my turn to talk
- answer 'wh' questions accurately

I can...

- clean myself
- wash my hands
- dry my hands
- go to the toilet when I need to

I can...

- use the stairs hand rail
- hold hands on the street
- take turns when playing
- share toys with a friend

I can...

- cut along a line
- cut 'snips' into paper
- cut out a shape
- cut out shapes to make a picture

