

Welcome to Reception—Autumn Term 2023

A Wedding name change

Your child might have come home and explained that Miss Holdsworth has a new name! At our welcome meeting and transition days I have introduced myself to parents and children alike as Miss Holdsworth. However, over the Summer, I got married and my new married name is **Mrs Ollerton**.

I know this will take some time to adjust, however, thank you in advance for supporting your child remember my new name!

Welcome!

On behalf of the Reception team, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome both you and your child to the Twiss Green Primary School family! We are really looking forward to getting to know your little treasures and finding out all about what makes them the special people that they are! We have lots of exciting learning opportunities planned to cover all curriculum areas and information about this can be found overleaf, but your child's first year at school is so special as they begin to learn to read and write and develop so much new language. I am a full-time class teacher and will therefore be teaching the class every day except for Tuesday afternoons, this is when Mrs Bishop will be covering my PPA time to plan each of our exciting lessons for the week to follow! We have a fantastic team of adults who will support the children's learning in Reception, but the adults who will spend each day in class with your children is myself and Mrs Bishop. I realise that there is lots of information in this letter and that many of you may have further questions, or matters you wish to discuss. I am always happy to speak to parents - feel free to make an appointment if you need to, or if it's a quick query you will be able to catch me before or after school most days (with the exception of Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons). Alternatively, I am happy to respond to email: rollerton@twissgreen.net

Snack

Children are provided with a piece of fruit or vegetable each day as part of their snack.

On a Friday, children get to bring their own Friday 'treat snack' of their own choice. Please ensure this is a nut free snack.

Homework

The learning that takes place in Reception forms a huge part of the foundation to your child's school life and education. To prepare children and provide them with the best possible start, it is important that we encourage children to be as independent as possible both at home and school. This supports children to build important problem solving skills that are vital to being an independent learner. In Reception, your child will receive some simple reading, phonics, maths and handwriting homework each week. Homework will be sent home on Friday's and is to be returned to school by Wednesday so that it can be marked and new homework can be added to your child's folder.

Play

Each day your child is likely to arrive home from school and tell you that they have done lots of playing. Play is a key part of the Reception curriculum and a key part of how our youngest pupils learn. Your child will be 'playing' whilst completing learning activities that they don't even realise they are doing. The adults in Reception work hard to develop meaningful interactions with the children to continuously challenge and move their learning on. Our Reception classroom has challenges added weekly and daily into the continuous provision in order to ensure your child is engaged and motivated.

Autumn Term—Reception will be learning about...

PE

The PE units this half term are 'Introduction to PE' and 'Fundamentals'.

PE days are Mondays & Friday's. On these days, children should come to school in their school PE kits and trainers. This is to ensure that time is spent carrying out the PE curriculum effectively. We will support the children with dressing and undressing skills throughout continuous provision, dressing up clothes and putting outdoor waterproof suits on. We would also encourage you to encourage your child to be as independent as possible when dressing at home.

Reading & Phonics

At Twiss Green we follow a phonics scheme called Little Wandle. Our first half term will begin by teaching children a letter, the sound that it makes, it's letter name and how to correctly form it. Your child will then be taught to blend sounds together to read short decodable words.

To support your child on their reading journey, your child will first be sent home a reading book with no words—this is to support their language development and to discuss illustrations and develop imaginative story telling skills. Once your child is able to blend confidently, they will be allocated a reading book with words that is matched to their phonetic reading ability. Little Wandle is a well-developed scheme which states that *'it is crucial that children are able to read their reading book with at least 90% accuracy. If children have an accuracy rate below 90%, then they do not have enough fluency in reading the GPCs and words at the level they were tested. This could be a barrier to progress and affect the child's confidence.'* For this reason, the book that is sent home with your child is carefully matched to their assessment level and may seem simple to begin with, however this is intentional and will support your child on their reading journey. **A new reading book will be sent home each Friday and must be returned to school the following Thursday** in order to be collected for reallocation the next day. Additionally, your child will be able to choose one book from our class library to take home and share with their special grown ups. This book is not decodable for your child to read independently, it is to develop reading for pleasure with their grown ups at home.

Literacy

Our focus text is '**The Something**' by Rebecca Cobb and in our Literacy lessons, we will be ...

- Continuing a rhyming string
- Hearing and writing initial sounds
- Exploring and using new vocabulary
- Sequencing stories
- Developing a love for reading
- Making predictions

Maths

In maths, this term we will be learning about numbers 1-10. We will explore numbers by learning how to recognise and write them correctly. We will learn about their value and what they are worth. This includes simple oral addition e.g. "3 is the same as 2 and 1 more."

Vocabulary & Equipment - We will introduce new mathematical vocabulary and equipment that will support children throughout their maths journey's across school. E.g. fives frames, tens frames and part whole models.

Shape - We will explore simple shapes, discussing their properties.
Pattern - We will continue repeating patterns e.g AB, ABB, ABC patterns.

Curriculum

During our first term there will be a large focus on emotional awareness, friendships and creating a safe and comfortable classroom environment for every child. Your child will develop their history, geography, science, music and art skills through afternoon lessons, play and exploration of our outdoor area.