



# Reception New Starters Booklet 2023-2024





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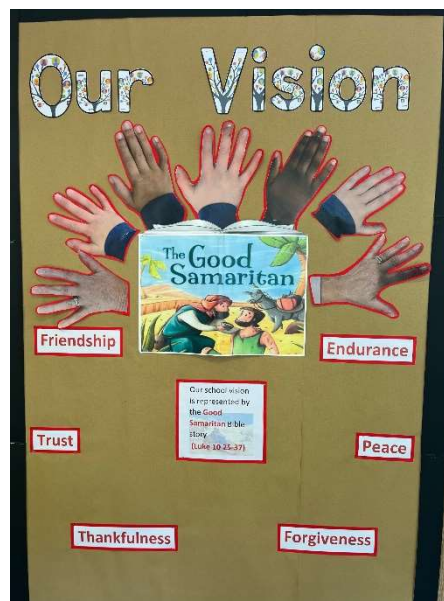


# Headteacher Welcome

Welcome to our Roberttown school family! We are looking forward to welcoming you and your child to Roberttown.

We value the partnership between home and school and want to get to know you and your child so that we can all work together to support your child's learning and development. It may seem hard to believe now but the next seven years will fly by!

We are a church school and we have close links with our local church, All Saints'. At the heart of our school are the story of 'The Good Samaritan' and our school vision.



This booklet, along with the parent meeting should give you the information you require before your child starts at Roberttown, in September.

**Sam Laycock-Smith, Head Teacher**



# Welcome to Roberttown

We are so excited to welcome you and your child into the Roberttown family. The first year of school is such an important milestone in a child's life and we are looking forward to helping them learn, grow and express themselves. We aim to create a positive partnership with our parents and as a team we will enable your child to reach their full potential.

## The Roberttown EYFS team:



Mrs Clayton,  
Reception Teacher



Mrs McCann  
Reception Teacher



Mrs Burgin  
Reception/Year 1 Teacher



Mrs Brunt  
HLTA



Mrs Schofield  
Education Teaching Assistant



Mrs Wadsworth  
ETA Reception

## School Times

The school day starts at **8.45am** each morning. You will be met each morning at the door of the classroom by the EYFS team, who will take your child inside.

- Any messages can be passed on to staff here, including changes to collection arrangements.
- Any late arrivals (after **8.50am**) need to come into school through the main entrance door, as the classroom door will be locked.
- The school day will end at **3.15pm**. Please collect your child from the same door you dropped them off. Please wait in the playground area and when we see you, we will bring your child out to you.

## A typical school day

8.45am	The school bell rings, the children wait outside their door and are met by their teachers or a member of the early years team. Children come into the class on their own and put away their coats and book bags independently.
8.50am	Doors close. Welcome, Morning jobs and Register
9.00am	Phonics input: this will be a whole class input on the carpet.
9.30am	The children are able to explore & play both inside & out with a range of resources and activities set up to enhance their learning. A focused adult led activity will be completed at some point during the morning session.
	Snack and milk will be available for children to enjoy during the morning session. Water bottles are always available for children to access when they require a drink.
11.30am	Maths input on the carpet.
11.50am	Wash hands and prepare for lunchtime.
11.55am	Lunchtime in the hall and then children play in our outdoor play area with our midday supervisor.
1pm	Afternoon registration. Children stay on the carpet for an input session which is usually a focus around developing Understanding the World, Physical Development or Expressive Art and Design.
1.30pm	The children are able to explore & play both inside & out. A focused adult-led investigation or creative activity will be set up which all children will complete at some point in the afternoon session.
2.30pm	Tidy up time.
2:45pm	Candle Time: We have our daily Collective Worship together as a class.
3pm	Story time
3.15pm	Parents will wait in the playground and staff will bring children out.



# Learning in Reception

During the reception year, the children will be learning through structured adult-led activities and play. The play within the classroom and outdoor learning environment is both challenging and fun and it helps children develop a positive attitude towards learning for the rest of their school life.

The children will have daily Phonics and Maths focus sessions, which build over time in length and independence as we work towards Year 1. Phonics teaching is taught using The Little Wandle synthetic phonics scheme.

The children will engage in a range of different activities related to broad topics and inspired by books. Some of these activities will take place in large groups, some in smaller groups and some individually. There will be a mix of adult led and child-initiated activities.

There are seven areas of learning that shape the Early Years Curriculum. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. The three prime areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

The Three prime areas are:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development.

There are four specific areas through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are:

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



## Absences

Please notify us if your child will be late or absent by 9.20am

<b>Telephone:</b>	01924 403532
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:office@rjis.org.uk">office@rjis.org.uk</a>

We will contact you if we have not heard from you by this time. For sickness - we follow the 48 hour rule - if your child is suffering from sickness or diarrhoea they need to be clear of symptoms for 48 hours before returning to school.

## Leave of Absence in Term Time

We believe that holidays should be taken in the thirteen weeks of school holidays each year. Dates are published in the Newsletter early in the academic year and are also on the website. Leave of absence is only granted in exceptional circumstances. For full details of our attendance policy please visit our website.

## Car Parking

You will appreciate that at the start and end of the school day there is considerable congestion on the roads around school. Please park considerately, remembering not to block any access points to drives and so that our children can cross safely. **Please do not park in the school car park.**

## Contacting Us

You will appreciate that at the start and end of the school day it can be quite busy getting the children in and out of class safely. We are available at drop off and pick-up should you wish to ask or let us know anything. If you need to talk to us in more detail or wish to do so privately, please feel free to arrange a phone-call with us or you can email us.

Please use the office email address [office@rjis.org.uk](mailto:office@rjis.org.uk)



# Parent Participation

Here at Roberttown we view your child's education as a partnership between home and school. In order for your child to reach their full potential it is important that we work as a team. At the beginning of the school year, parents are asked to sign a contract: The Home School agreement. This identifies what we will do together, what we as staff will do, what we expect you as parents to do and finally what we ask of the children. Extracts from this can be found with this document.

In normal circumstances, we hold regular whole school events which the children really enjoy and we encourage families to be involved as much as possible. Going forward, as we learn of new guidelines we will keep you updated on how we can co-ordinate such events.

## Creative Home Learning Projects

You will be able to work with your child at home on creative projects such as an 'All about Me' bunting project and an Easter bonnet competition.



## Instagram

We have a private Instagram account for each class, where you can see our learning journey and all the things your child is getting up to each week, with your permission of course. You will be kept up to date with what the children are learning about and any special times that are happening in class. More details for this will be sent home in September.



# Preparation and Transition

Many parents ask what we want children to do before they come to school. Here are the things which help to make the school day and routines simpler:

I can use the toilet independently and can wash and dry my hands.

I can put on and fasten my own coat and shoes.

I can use a knife and fork and spoon.

I can dress and undress for PE and can keep my belongings together.

Here are some nice activities that will help prepare your child for transition to school. The Kirklees 50 things to do before you're five also offers some great suggestions of activities that will prepare your child for school.

<https://kirklees.50thingstodo.org/app/os#!50thingstodobefore5/kirklees-activities>



## Transition Story



We have recorded a reading of the story 'Be Brave Little Penguin' by Giles Andreae.

This is a lovely story which has underlying themes of being brave, trying new things and facing your fears.

We would appreciate it if you could play the video or read the story to your child over summer to get them familiar with the story and themes within, and get them excited to start school and learn more about this topic.



# Top Tips for Parents

Share books with your child every day.



Bring maths into everyday life. Tip: While preparing a recipe, children can help in the task of measuring or weighing ingredients or counting steps, bricks or even sweets. Sharing out resources fairly between family members and recognising which group has more or less.

Help them recognise their name - display it around the house.

Establish morning routine. Have breakfast + get dressed+ brush teeth = off to school!

Fill in the calendar - know when the important school dates are.



Be prepared - find out what items your child will need to bring with them

Keep in touch with school - always read letters sent home.



Be positive about your child's learning. Ask positive questions - "what was good about your day?"

Things to remember:

- Please bring your child's book-bag every day
- Reading book, reading record, phonics book
- Coat, hat and sun cream in the summer months.
- Label all clothing with your child's name.



# Food and Drink

## School Lunches

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are all entitled to a 'universal free school meal'. At Roberttown our lunches are freshly cooked in our own kitchens. We offer choices each day, including a vegetarian option. Fresh fruit is always available. Please speak to us straight away if your child has any allergies as we will need to put specific arrangements in place.



## Water



Children need to bring a named water bottle to school each day to keep well hydrated during the school day. Please note, to protect teeth juice is not allowed.



## Milk

A small carton of milk is available each day. Please see the school milk letter in your pack for further details.



## Snacks

At Roberttown, we strive to promote a healthy lifestyle. Children are offered fresh fruit and vegetables. This includes a different choice each day e.g. banana, carrot, pear, apple, tomato or orange.

**Please note we are a nut free school. As a school we have a responsibility to keep our pupils, staff and visitors safe and to reduce risk of harm. Please do not bring any products containing nuts into school.**





# School Uniform

- Grey or black trousers/shorts, trousers, skirts, pinafores or culottes.

(No denim/tracksuit bottoms/cycling/jersey shorts)

- Plain white polo shirts/ blouses/ shirts.
- A school sweatshirt/sweatshirt cardigan (bearing the Roberttown logo) or a plain royal blue/navy cardigan/jumper/sweatshirt may be worn.



(Grey/white jumpers/sweatshirts/cardigans are not allowed.)

- A blue and white checked/striped school dress may be worn.
- Black shoes/trainers that allow the children to be active. **Slip on shoes/boots are not allowed.**



- Book bags/sweatshirts/cardigans with the school logo are available from Term Time Wear, a local company. Uniform may be purchased online, bought from their Huddersfield store or ordered and delivered to school for you to collect.
- Jewellery should not be worn in school for safety reasons.



Children with pierced ears may wear one small stud in each ear, however the Governors advise that these should not be worn during the school day.

## PE kit:

PE kit is a yellow t-shirt with logo and plain blue/black shorts. This should be kept in a drawstring bag on the child's peg. Don't forget to 'name' all items. The PE kit is not usually needed straight away, so please do not rush to buy these for September so that your children do not grow out of them!





# Starting School

Starting school can be an exhausting business, both emotionally and physically. Despite many children attending nurseries and playgroups, the new arrangements, style and pace of teaching and learning can be a surprise to both children and parents.



Don't be disheartened if your child comes home feeling very tired and doesn't want to talk about the day at school. Use the Instagram app for an update on what your child has been doing as this is a great conversation opener.



Our staff are friendly and approachable, they will be available at the beginning and end of each day or you can organise a convenient time to meet.

## All our children are different


Our children are different shapes and sizes, come from different home backgrounds and are interested in a wide range of varying hobbies. We embrace this and believe that our children are not to be moulded, but individuals to be unfolded.





# Communication

We will send you regular information and updates. When your child starts in September we will send you more information about Parent Hub, Parent Mail and Parent Pay. Signing up to these will make sure you are up to date with all our information.

 ParentHub - will be used for short reminders of dates and meetings.

The details for Parent Hub will be sent out on a separate letter.

Please contact the school office if you have any issues accessing the information.



Parent Mail - will be used for letters and items requiring permission e.g trip letters



Parent Pay - will be used for payments for school meals, Rascals and Breakfast Club, after school clubs and trips.

We also send out a newsletter every half term to celebrate our school achievements and inform you of any important information.

## Breakfast and After School Club:

Children are welcome at our Breakfast Club and our After School Club, 'Rascals'. We will send out a letter with more information about these clubs and how to sign up.

# Building a Partnership

In line with our home school agreement, we will all work together.

## **Staff at school will:**

- ensure that parents are informed about their child's progress and behaviour through regular parent/teacher meetings;
- contact parents/carers at other times if there are particular concerns about a child;
- listen to the concerns of parents and do our best to help.
- provide a happy, secure and stimulating environment so that pupils may develop their talents to the full and use them for the good of others, as well as themselves
- involve parents in all aspects of the children's learning;
- provide a broad, balanced and interesting curriculum.
- ensure that bullying and racist, sexist and other discriminating behaviour is not tolerated;
- try to enable all children to take part in all activities.
- use rewards and sanctions fairly;
- make sure that all pupils, staff and parents know what behaviour is expected and will work together to help the pupils achieve it;
- inform parents and work with the children to develop and uphold school and class codes.
- inform parents as soon as possible if their child is absent without an explanation from home.
- maintain an accurate record of attendance.

## **In return we ask that our parents and guardians:**

- tell school about any issues which might affect their child's welfare or progress;
- share their concerns directly and promptly with the school and work in partnership with all staff in the best interests of the child;
- ensure that the school always has up-to-date emergency contact information;
- follow and uphold the online safety and Internet Agreement.
- read to and with my child frequently.
- take an interest in and support the education of their child by attending parents meetings and workshops.
- help their child to understand that everyone is of equal importance;
- encourage their child to appreciate and respect their own views and beliefs and those of others.
- support the school's behaviour policy and encourage their child to follow the school and class codes;
- encourage their child to care for school property both at school and at home.
- contact school promptly when their child is absent



- ensure that pupils attend school regularly and on time, wearing the correct uniform.
- be mindful of the effect of term-time holidays on continuity and consistency of education, and negotiate any such holidays in advance

In return we ask that our pupils will:

- talk to an adult if there is a problem;
- follow the school rules and abide by the values in our vision;
- do all my classwork and homework as well as I can;
- be polite and helpful to adults and children;
- take care of the school and its environment;
- come to school on time and bring all the equipment I need each day.

We hope that this booklet has answered any questions that you might have had so far.

We hope you have a good summer and we look forward to welcoming you in September.

Thanks,

Your EYFS team

