

Welcome to Reception! *A Guide for Parents Before the Big September Start*

A Warm Hello

Dear Parents and Carers, We are thrilled to welcome your child to our Reception class this September! Starting school is a major milestone—not just for children, but for families too. This information is here to support you in preparing your little one for the exciting journey ahead and to offer cheerful, low-cost ways to keep summer joyful and enriching.

What to Expect in Reception

- **Play-Based Learning** – Reception is where children build curiosity, confidence, and friendships. Most learning is through play, exploration, and discovery.
- **Settling In** – Your child will be gently introduced to routines, classrooms, and new friends. Teachers understand children settle at different speeds—we'll support each child individually.
- **Communication** – You'll receive regular updates and be encouraged to share anything that might help your child feel comfortable at school.

Helping Your Child Get Ready

Simple, fun ways to support your child over the summer:

Build Independence

- Encourage putting on socks, shoes and a coat by themselves
- Practice using the toilet independently
- Try using cutlery with little support

Develop Language & Listening

- Read stories and sing songs together every day
- Ask open-ended questions: "What do you think will happen next?"
- Play turn-taking games e.g. rolling a ball, buckaroo, o and x, connect four, snakes and ladders etc.

Grow Confidence

- Praise effort, not just results
- Talk positively about starting school—share books and your own warm memories
- Encourage them to talk positively about themselves – "I am kind," "I can try my best," "I am loved"...

Summer Fun in South East London – Low Cost & School-Ready

Activity	Location	Cost	How It Helps
Picnic	Crystal Palace Park, Mayow Park	Free	Exploration and conversation
Animal Encounters	Mudchute Farm, Surrey Docks Farm	Free (donations welcome)	Vocabulary, empathy, independence
Interactive Play Zones	National Maritime Museum, Greenwich	Free	Imagination and social play
Butterfly House & Aquarium	Horniman Museum, Forest Hill	Free museum; small fee	Observation and conversation
Castle Views & Woodland Walks	Severndroog Castle, Greenwich	£2.50 per person	Exploration and historical awareness
Cable Car Adventure	Emirates Air Line, North Greenwich	~£2.30 child fare	Confidence and spatial awareness
Stick Man Trail & Toddler Club	Woodlands Farm Trust	Free	Listening and nature play
Splash Pads & Playgrounds	Beckenham Place Park, Kelsey Park	Free	Physical skills and social interaction

Rainy-Day Fun – Visit Your Local Library

Libraries in **Lewisham, Greenwich, Southwark**, and **Bromley** are wonderful indoor spaces for little learners to play, discover, and grow:

- **Story time sessions** support attention, imagination, and early language development
 - **Book borrowing** encourages ownership and excitement about reading
 - Many libraries include **puzzles, craft tables, and play corners** for under-fives
 - Signing up for a **library card together** helps children feel part of the community

Final Thoughts

Above all, enjoy this special time with your child. Playful learning, reassurance, and connection are the best preparation for Reception. We'll be ready to greet your little one in September with smiles, stories, and plenty of nurturing fun.

We're always happy to help so please speak with a member of staff if you have any questions. We can't wait to begin this exciting journey with you and your child!

With warmest wishes, *The Reception Team*