



# Welcome to Reception



Principal: **Miss S Baxter**  
EYFS Phase Leader and  
Class Teacher: **Mrs R Moulam**  
EYFS Class Teacher: **Mrs C Dolling**

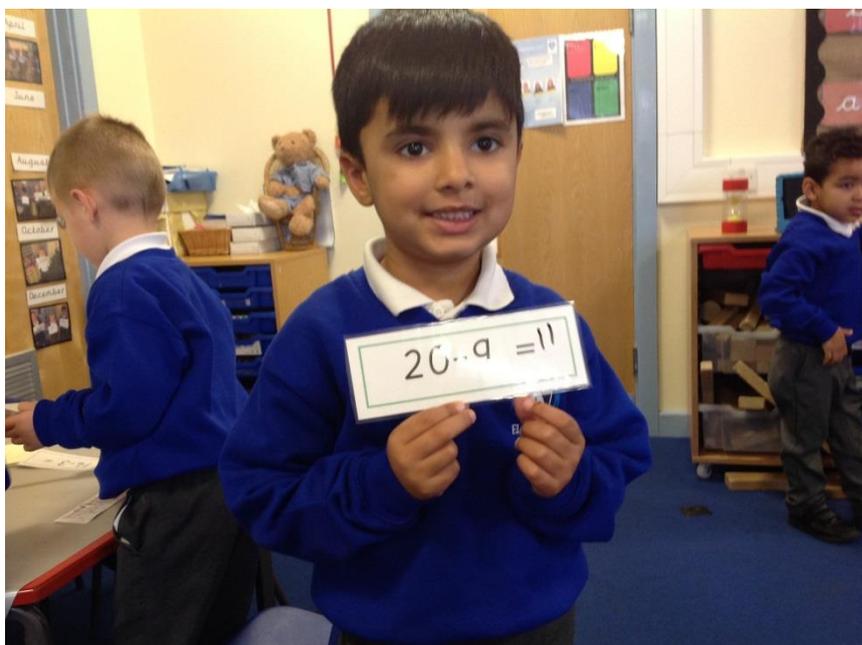
*Elstow School,*  
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Tel: 01234 302300 e-mail: [office@elstowschool.co.uk](mailto:office@elstowschool.co.uk)

## Welcome to Elstow School!

At Elstow School we welcome children into our Reception Classes in the September after they turn 4.

This is such an important time in your child's school life, where routines are established and relationships are built between home and school. We will always do our best to work closely with you, to ensure that your child has a smooth start to their school careers.

At Elstow School the children will be given the opportunities to work independently, in pairs, and in groups. During their child led learning children time the children will be able to interact with the activities and resources on offer as part of learning through play and exploration. Much of the learning will be practical, allowing the children to develop both their understanding and their fine motor skills.



*For more information about what the children have been learning in Reception please see the Robins and Owls Class pages of the website.*

*Also see our weekly EYFS weekly Newsletter*

**If you would like to make an appointment to view the school please contact the school office**

**Email: [office@elstowschool.co.uk](mailto:office@elstowschool.co.uk)**

**Tel: 01234 302300**

## Starting School - The first few weeks

When your child starts in Reception Class it may be the first time that he or she has been away from you for any length of time, in surroundings that are quite new and with faces that are still unfamiliar.

It will be very strange and will certainly be exciting for both you and your child.

We understand that for many parents this is a new experience, and one that can be an occasion of some anxiety and emotion. We will try to help you and your child to keep the parting cheerful and positive. This way, your child will feel confident, secure and happy as he or she sets out on this new adventure.

All children will attend school part time. Examples of dates and timing are below. This helps the children to become familiar with their new environment and help them begin to develop relationships with their teacher and new friends. If they feel confident, they will settle down quite quickly and look forward to each new day.

### Example of the Starting School Process at Elstow School

*These dates are for all children whose surname is between A-K.*

| Date  | Event  | Time  |
|---|--|---|
| 13 <sup>th</sup> June   | New Parents Meeting  | 6:00-7:00pm   |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> July  | Stay and Play<br>Parents and children come and explore their new class   | 9:30-10:30am  |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> July  | Stay and Play<br><b>Children only</b>  | 9:30-10:30am  |
|   | New Parent Coffee Afternoon in The Big Hall hosted by Liz Polson. Come and meet other new parents.<br><b>Parents and younger siblings</b>                                    |   |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> September | Home Visits  | Sign up for times at the New Parent Meeting or please ring school office (01234) 302300 |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> September  | Morning visit<br>Children come dressed in school uniform.<br><b>Children only</b>  | 8:30am – 11:30am  |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> September  | First half day at school, lunch at school. Children come dressed in school uniform. Children to choose school dinner or bring a packed lunch from home. <b>Children only</b> | 8:30am – 12:30am  |
|   | Early reading, writing, phonics and maths session for parents and carers. A crèche will be provided for Reception children and their siblings.                               | 1:00pm until 3:00pm in The Big Hall   |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> September  | Start school full time   | Drop off from 8:30am<br>Pick up from classroom doors at 3:30pm.                         |

*These dates are for all children whose surname is between L-Z.*

| Date  | Event  | Time  |
|---|--|---|
| 13 <sup>th</sup> June   | New Parents Meeting  | 6:00-7:00pm   |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> July  | Stay and Play<br>Parents and children come and explore their new class   | 1:30- 2:30pm  |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> July  | Stay and Play<br><b>Children only</b>  | 1:30-2:30pm   |
|   | New Parent Coffee Afternoon in The Big Hall hosted by Liz Polson. Come and meet other new parents.<br><b>Parents and younger siblings</b>                                    |   |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> September | Home Visits  | Sign up for times at the New Parent Meeting or please ring school office (01234) 302300 |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> September  | Afternoon visit<br>Children come dressed in school uniform.<br><b>Children only</b>  | 1:30pm - 3:30pm   |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> September  | First half day at school, lunch at school. Children come dressed in school uniform. Children to choose school dinner or bring a packed lunch from home. <b>Children only</b> | 8:30am – 12:30am  |
|   | Early reading, writing, phonics and maths session for parents and carers. A crèche will be provided for Reception children and their siblings.                               | 1:00pm until 3:00pm in The Big Hall   |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> September  | Start school full time   | Drop off from 8:30am<br>Pick up from classroom doors at 3:30pm.                         |

## Parents' Guide to the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework

### What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

Welcome to the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)**, which is how the Government and early years professionals describe the time in your child's life between birth and age 5.

**This is a very important stage as it helps your child get ready for school as well as preparing them for their future learning and successes. From when your child is born up until the age of 5, their early years experience should be happy, active, exciting, fun and secure; and support their development, care and learning needs.**

Nurseries, pre-schools, reception classes and childminders registered to deliver the EYFS must follow a legal document called the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework.

### What is the EYFS Framework – why do we have one?

The EYFS Framework exists to support all professionals working in the EYFS to help your child, and was developed with a number of early years experts and parents.

In 2012 the framework was revised to make it clearer and easier to use, with more focus on the things that matter most. This new framework also has a greater emphasis on your role in helping your child develop.



#### It sets out:

- The legal welfare requirements that everyone registered to look after children must follow to keep your child **safe** and promote their welfare

- The 7 areas of **learning and development** which guide professionals' engagement with your child's play and activities as they learn new skills and knowledge
- Assessments that will tell you about **your child's progress** through the EYFS
- Expected levels that your child should reach at age 5, usually the end of the reception year; these expectations are called the "**Early Learning Goals (ELGs)**"

There is also guidance for the professionals supporting your child on planning the learning activities, and observing and assessing what and how your child is learning and developing.

## **How my child will be learning**

The EYFS Framework explains how and what your child will be learning to support their healthy development.

Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through **7 areas of learning and development**.

Children should mostly develop the **3 prime areas** first. These are:

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

These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning.

As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in **4 specific areas**. These are:

- Literacy;
- Mathematics;
- Understanding the world; and
- Expressive arts and design.



These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. The professionals teaching and supporting your child will make sure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs.

Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes **place** both indoors and outside.

### **When your child is 5**

At the end of the EYFS – in the summer term of the reception year in school – teachers complete an assessment which is known as the **EYFS Profile**. This assessment is carried out by the reception teacher and is based on what they, and other staff caring for your child, have observed over a period of time.

**Another important part of the EYFS Profile is your knowledge about your child's learning and development, so do let your child's class teacher know about what your child does with you: such as how confident your child is in writing their name, reading and talking about a favourite book, speaking to people your child is not so familiar with or their understanding of numbers.**

In order to help you communicate with us (in addition to the **informal conversations** with staff) we send home a set of **WOW** that you can fill in, cut out and return to your child's class teacher whenever you observe something **significant**:

- What a lovely surprise! I had no idea my child could...
- I was so happy with my child because...
- I was over the moon with my child today because...
- What a brilliant time we had together recently...

**Observations should be about:**

- New learning
- Progress
- Developing interests
- SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

**What kind of observations would be useful?**

*See enclosed sheet for a brief list of examples – be as creative as you like! To be significant a number of these will be ‘firsts’*

We’ll be delighted to supply you with more slips as and when you require them – please ask! We’ll also put the pro-forma on our website and have a pack of spare slips on each classroom door.

All of the information collected is used to judge how your child is doing in the 7 areas of learning and development. Finding out at this stage how your child is doing will mean that the teacher your child has in their next school year – year 1 – will know what your child really enjoys doing and does well, as well as helping them decide if your child needs a bit of extra support, what that support should be and if they are already getting it.

The school will give you a report of your child’s progress, including information from his or her EYFS Profile.

If you have any further questions please don’t hesitate to contact the school.



## General information, timings and settling into school life

### School times

The school day:

- 8:25 am Gates open
- 8:30am children come into the cloakroom and hang the belongings up and begin morning learning activities.
- 8:40 Gate closes (if you arrive after this time please come into school through the school office).
- 8:50am registration closes 9:00am writing input to the whole class followed by child initiated learning and adult led activities. Children can move freely between the two classrooms and the outdoor area.
- 10:30am Maths
- 10:45am Playtime 10:55 am Break time (15 minutes)
- 11:10 Phonics
- 11.30am Lunch and playtime
- 12:30pm Registration and afternoon session begins followed by child initiated learning and adult led activities. Children can move freely between the two classrooms and the outdoor area.
- 3.30 pm School ends



Please make sure that you are familiar with the times of school sessions. The class teachers will open the classroom doors promptly at 8:30am where you can drop your child off at the cloakroom door. The gates to the school shut promptly at 8:40am and the register is taken at 8:45am. Children do not like coming into class late when everyone else is settled and busy. If you are late, please take your child to the office so they can enter the school.

At the end of the school day it can be quite distressing if your child finds that there is no one there to meet them when they have been looking forward to seeing you. Please ensure you are there to meet your child at 3:30pm prompt.

All children need certainty about who will be there to collect them at the end of their day. If you do arrange for someone else to collect your child please inform your child's class teacher or an adult based in your child's classroom. In the first few days please feel free to bring your child into the cloakroom each morning. It is our aim to help your child to settle in quickly and you are very welcome to stay with them for a short time initially to help them settle in. After the initial 'settling in' period, we would appreciate it if, you could leave your child in at the classroom door where the class teacher will be there to meet them. The children will be able to walk in with their friends. This help to children to get used to coming into school independently.

Your child will be more insecure if he or she thinks that you are upset. We ask that you please try not to hang about near the door or look through the windows as this can make the children more distressed. We are more than happy to give you reassurance that your child has settled in the morning and you are very welcome to ask one of our office staff to check that your little one is alright by telephone.

By the end of the first half term it should no longer be necessary to come into school with your child. Any messages can be passed to the class teacher as you say goodbye to your child at the classroom door.

Please make sure your child has a good breakfast. School days are long and busy for little ones, so ensuring that they have a good breakfast will be really beneficial.

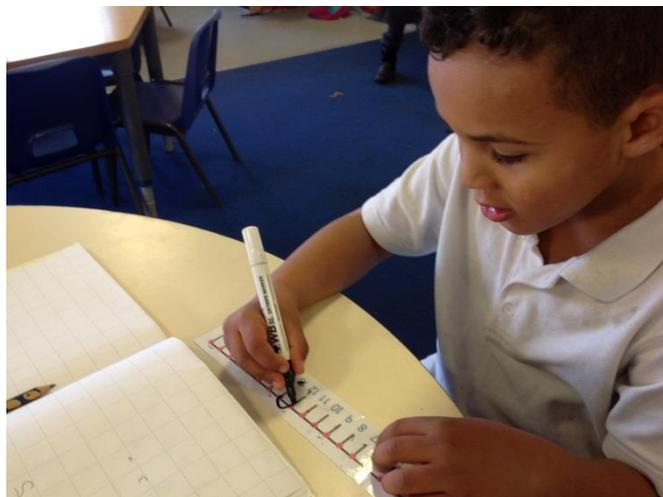
When the children come into the Reception cloakroom they will have a peg with their name above. Please encourage them to take off their own coats and hang them up. They will have to do this at playtimes and lunchtimes so it is a great help if the vast majority are independent and are encouraged to do it by themselves.

## **Snack Time**

All children are given a piece of fruit or vegetable daily for a morning snack as part of the Governments Fruit and Vegetable Five-a-Day Fruit and Vegetable Scheme. They will also have milk daily until their fifth birthday after this you have the option to pay for milk for your child.

## **Water Bottles**

Much research has been carried out into the effects of water consumption and brain activity with impressive findings. As a result we have adopted the policy of encouraging the children to drink as much water as possible. Children are requested to bring a transparent water bottle into school every day and leave it in the tray in the classroom. We will send them home with the children each day to be washed and re-filled with water. Please make sure your child's water bottle is named.



## School lunch- What happens?

Children may have a school meal or bring a packed lunch with them.

School meals provide a balanced diet and a variety of foods, which the children are encouraged to try. All children are encouraged to use a knife and fork, so plenty of practice at home will be very helpful. Every child is entitled to a school lunch under the government's new school lunch scheme.

Our school lunch provider is Innovate. All meals have to be ordered on line by midnight the Saturday before the following week. Alternatively you can send a packed lunch into school for your child. Packed lunches should be in a container clearly labelled with your child's name and class. We encourage that children have healthy options and nut-free options in their packed lunch to support healthy eating.

