

Frequently Asked Questions Prospective Parents/Carers, for Reception places, 2020-2021

- How many pupils are at each site?
270 infants, 360 juniors. 630 capacity with a few spaces currently.
- What will my child learn at school?
Please refer to our Curriculum Overview document on the home page of the website for curriculum content. The breadth of learning is incredibly wide and there are lots of photos on the website that demonstrate this better than we could do by listing subjects here.
- Do you teach foreign languages?
We teach Spanish from Y3 (KS2)
- How do you cater for children with special needs (SEND)?
We have 2 SENDCOs, Mrs Holbrook (for early years) and Mrs Davies (on the junior site). We educate children of all abilities. There is a section on our website where you can read all about the school offer for children with SEND. The earlier you get in touch with Mrs Holbrook to discuss your child's special needs the better we can support them starting school. Please ring the office for an appointment.
- How do you cater for children who are able or gifted?
We use the term AIM to describe those children who are Able, Interested and Motivated. As stated above we educate children of all abilities, taking the child from where they are to where they need to get to next. We want children to be engaged and inspired by learning so we aim to make it sufficiently challenging for each child so they are being stretched and supported on their educational journey, whatever their ability.
- What sort of school trips do you take the children on?
Trips are part of the curriculum, with visits linked to work and topics. Unfortunately, visits are currently restricted but in normal times classes would visit local parks, the zoo, museums, SS Great Britain and as they get older pupils are taken further afield including visits to Glastonbury and on camp.
- What afterschool extracurricular clubs are available?
Clubs are currently limited due to Covid but in normal times we offer sport, music, cookery and art clubs. Clubs start in Y1 (not usually in YR) and the offer gets broader as children get older. We have had teams swimming in the English Swimming Finals in Sheffield 3 times in the last 6 years. We have had boys' and girls' teams reach finals in football tournaments at local and regional levels, including playing at Ashton Gate and in Plymouth.
- Do you provide wrap around care?
Yes, we have Breakfast and After School Club which operate out of the junior site (for all ages). Please email the office when you get an offer of a school place to get details of how to log on to the booking site.
- Are there any holiday clubs available?
No. We signpost to local holiday clubs we know about.
- Communication – how does the school communicate with parents?
We hold parents' evenings twice a year. You are able to arrange to see the class teacher after school whenever you need to, as you pick your child up each day. You have a written report once a year. We have Tapestry in Reception where you will see what your child is learning on a regular basis. We give you all the instructions once you start.
We communicate with you through parentmail. There's a fortnightly newsletter via parentmail and during Covid we get in touch with regular updates/ information.
- Do Holymead Reception staff visit local nurseries/preschools?
We visit nurseries in the summer term. As we take from a large number of nurseries, we cannot visit all but will endeavour to make a visit if you ring the office, after getting your place, to ask if a visit can be arranged.

- What is the transition period like when they start Reception? When can Reception children attend wrap around care from?

Details of transition are explained once you have been allotted a place. In September ALL children, regardless of whether they have attended full time nursery or not, will start part time for 2 to 2 and a half weeks. This is either mornings or afternoons. After that it's full time for everyone where parents and staff are in agreement. YR can start using wrap around club when they are full time.

- Are there PTA/social events for parents/carers?

We have a Friends' group which all parents and carers are invited to be part of. They are currently meeting by zoom and organising what they can during these restrictive times. In normal times they organise social events and things like the summer fayre. Everyone is welcome to get involved in as little or as much as they want.

- How do I apply for a place?

You must apply online, through the Bristol City Council website where you can also see the criteria for allocating places. If you can't get online, please ring the office for help.

If you have further questions please check out our Prospectus on the website, under the Parents' tab or give the office a call on 0117 3772381. We look forward to hearing from you.