

Sebert Wood Primary School



Parent's Guide to Starting School



The Classes

At Sebert Wood Primary School all the classes are numbered from 1 to 14 (the Reception classes also have names).

The Reception area consists of two classrooms. Class 1, is known as Sunshine Class and Class 2 is Rainbow Class. We have a shared base area and a large outdoor area too.

Staff

Miss Mitchell and Mrs. Maddock teach in Sunshine Class

Mrs. Matthews and Mrs. Maddock teach in Rainbow Class.

Mrs Dade is the Early Years, Inclusion and SEND Leader for the school.



Our Team of Teaching Assistants

Mrs Reynolds supports children in Sunshine Class. Mrs. DeBoick and Mrs Alderdice support children in Rainbow Class.

Our Senior Leadership Team

Headteacher: Mr Dewhust

Deputy Head: Miss Bradburn

Assistant Headteacher and Key Stage 2 Leader: Mr Tottie

EYFS, SEND and Inclusion Leader: Mrs. Dade

Key Stage 1 Leader: Mr Winch

Uniform

Please, please **label all the clothing** your child brings into school. It makes it so much easier for the children and us if their clothes are labelled. You are more likely to get it back if it goes missing too!

Clothes which children can manage by themselves help children develop self-esteem because they can "do it myself".

Think carefully about buttons, laces, zips, tight jumpers - if your child needs an adult to help with these please try to avoid them.

Please be aware that Jewellery is not allowed to be worn in school and hair should be tied up.

Full details of the school uniform can be found on the school website. Most items can be obtained from supermarkets and items embroidered with the school logo are available from Aubryn Davies.

Outdoor Learning

Outdoor learning is a fundamental part of learning in the EYFS at Sebert Wood and in Reception we operate a free flow system where the children can choose whether to learn outside or inside. We do not have set playtimes and the children will be able to access the outdoor area throughout the day. The outdoor area will be set up with activities that support and enhance the learning of the indoor classroom.

In order for your child to fully benefit from this way of learning we ask that you provide them with the appropriate clothing according to the weather, hats, scarves, gloves and wellies or a change of shoes when it is wet or snowy and sunhats in the summer.



We go outside whatever the weather!

Daily routine

The school day starts at 8:50. The doors will open at 8.40 and close promptly at 8:50am. Please ensure your child is in time for the start of the school day. If you arrive late please use the front entrance.

One of the Teaching Assistants will be waiting at the door each morning ready to take any messages you may have or let us know if someone different will be picking your child up.

Once the children are settled they should be encouraged to be as independent as possible in the mornings. They will soon remember where to put their things so please encourage them to put their book bags and water bottles away and their fruit in their trays themselves. It is also easier for them to remember where they have put their things if they have put them there to begin with.

At the end of the day we will bring your child to meet you at the Reception door. We will only let the children go with their parent unless we have been told otherwise. Please let us know of any changes to who will be picking up this can be on a daily basis or for regular pickups for example, other family members or childminders.

Drinks and Snacks

We have a 'rolling snack' which means the children have the opportunity to choose when they feel hungry and would like a snack and milk. The school provides one piece of fruit and you can provide a healthy snack if you wish. No sweets, chocolate, products containing nuts or items that require refrigeration.



Named water bottles allow the children to have access to water throughout the day. As part of our commitment to being a healthy school, we are a water-only school and we ask that you do not send squash or juice to school.

Children under 5 years of age are entitled to free school milk. Which is available in the morning.



Lunchtime

Children have the option of a hot or cold school lunch or bringing a packed lunch into school. All Reception children regardless of personal circumstances are entitled to Universal Free Meals.



We go into lunch at approx..12:15pm; the Reception staff and Midday Supervisors help the children and encourage them to eat. The children then go outside to play.



Allergies and medication in school

Make sure you complete all the medical forms sent by the school and keep us informed of any changes. Medicines can only be given in school following set procedures. Please see a member of staff for more details. We can supervise the children putting on sun lotion, please bring a named bottle.

Illness

In cases of vomiting or diarrhoea, your child should remain at home until 48 hours have elapsed since the last episode. Any contagious diseases or COVID symptoms need to be reported to the school immediately.

Cooking

Each week in small groups we cook buns, biscuits and things made from the fruit and vegetables we have grown in our garden. These will be shared with the rest of the class in the afternoon. Please ensure we are aware of any allergies or food intolerances.



Themes and Topics

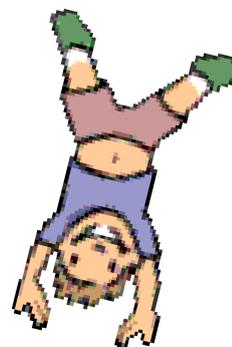
Our planned activities are based around the children's interests and therefore we do not have a set long term plan. We have an broad themes across the EYFS which in September will be 'It's Good to be Me'. We will then follow the children's interests and see where it takes us!

We will ask you throughout the year to let us know any new interests your child develops or activities that you do at home that we can build upon too.

We find out about different holidays and festivals such as The Chinese New Year, Eid, Easter and Bonfire Night. If you celebrate a religious or cultural holiday or celebration let us know so we can celebrate in school too.

Fitness Fridays

We have Fitness Friday each half term and we will do some additional sporting activities. The children come into school in their PE kit.



PE

We have PE once a week. We use the hall or go outside, and we find it easier if you keep the PE kit in school all week. We will send it home for washing periodically. Your child will need shorts and T shirt for indoor PE and jogging bottoms / leggings and trainers for outdoor PE. These items do not need to have the school logo's on.

For safety reasons long hair should be put up and jewellery including earrings, should not be worn on these days.

Please ensure all PE kit is labelled.

Learning Journey

We use a personalised online system called Tapestry. Using this we will record all aspects of the children's time at school, what your child is interested in, and observations of how they are learning and how this can be developed further. You will be able to have secure access to your child's learning journey and in addition to viewing our contributions, you can add to it by uploading your own photos and comments, let us know about things you have done at home. Please let us know about any new interests or any WOW moments like learning to ride a bike or scooter without stabilisers. We value your contributions and we think it is important to work together exchanging information about what is happening at home and school.

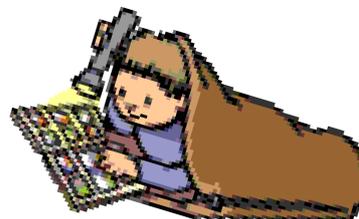


Phonics and reading

We use a variety of approaches to teach your child how to read and we will be inviting you to information meetings about how we teach phonics and give you further information in the Autumn Term. We have daily focussed phonics sessions and we teach the children in small guided reading groups to. At the beginning of the term we will be sending home activities for you to do with your child focusing on early reading skills. If they are ready we will choose a reading book with your child for you to share at home too.

Bookbags

Please provide your child with a bookbag so they take their books home safely. A bag embroidered with the school logo is available from Aubryn Davies.



Children will not need to bring in a rucksack.

Writing

Soon your child will begin to express an interest in writing (if they haven't already done so) they usually begin by wanting to write their name. We have included a sheet showing you how we will teach your child to write so please use this as a guide if they want you to help them. We always start by teaching them how to write their name with a capital letter at the beginning and all the rest of the letters in lower case.



Share and Shine

Each week we will have a Share and Shine time when a child from each class is invited to bring something into school to tell us about.



Please support your child by helping them to choose something that is special to them to talk about. We are hoping this will encourage the children's questioning skills as the rest of the class will be finding out why the object is so special.

Breakfast Club

We are fortunate to have this facility at school run by some very experienced school staff in the school hall. EYFS staff both work in Breakfast Club and they bring the children into the classrooms at 8:50am. The children can enjoy a variety of activities and a healthy breakfast too.

After School Club

Our After School Club is for children from Nursery, Reception and Year 1 and it is held in the Nursery building. A member of the Reception team always takes the children to meet After School Club staff at the end of the day.



All before or after school provision has to be booked in advance, full details including how to book are available from the office.



Birthdays

If you wish to provide some form of treat to celebrate your child's birthday we will give these out at home time.

Please can we remind you firstly that we are a healthy school and also that that we have children in the school with nut allergies so please check the treats are suitable. It is also school policy not to give out hard sweets, lollies or similar items on a stick.

Finally, please feel free to come and see us before school with any queries or concerns you may have however small. If you want a longer chat please email the school office to make an appointment after school.

Things you can do to help your child at home

Children need lots of opportunities to talk with others as they develop and practise speaking and listening skills. This helps build their confidence and improves their ability to communicate with people. In order to make a good start in reading and writing, children need an adult to talk to and to really listen to them. Everyday activities such as shopping and getting ready to go out offer you the chance to talk to your child, explaining what you are doing. They hear the way language is put together into sentences for a purpose.

Praise any attempts to write or make marks and let them experiment with different pens, pencils, felt tips and using their fingers and any other tools in the sand for example.

Practise getting dressed by themselves, we will help them but they prefer to do things independently. Make sure when you buy them a coat you practise putting it on, taking it off and doing it up.



Practise using a knife and fork.

Share and talk about books and stories and sing nursery rhymes. The library have reading games and activities over the holidays that are free to join and are great way of introducing new books.



Look for and recognise numbers whenever you are out and about.

Play board games and practice taking in turns.

Enjoy doing puzzles together.

