

Welcome to Yearsley Grove Early Years - Reception

2025 - 2026

Welcome!

We're so pleased your child is joining our Reception class! This booklet will help you understand what happens in our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and how you can support your child as they settle in.

Our Unit

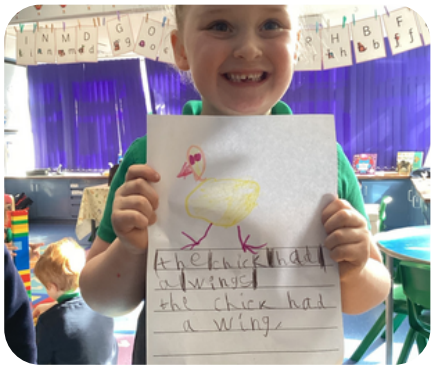
Our unit includes a Nursery (15 or 30 hour places) and two Reception classes. Children enjoy time in their own classroom as well as shared spaces including The Studio and our outdoor area.

Daily Routines

8.45 - 9.00 Morning jobs (handwriting etc)
9.00 - 9.15 - carpet input
9.15 - 9.55 accessing classroom provision (includng a guided read session)
10.00-11.00 - free flow (studio, outdoors and Nursery)
11 - 11.15 Maths input
11.15 - 11.45 accessing classroom provision (including a maths focus group)
11.45 -12.15 Lunchtime
12.15 - 1.00 Lunchtime play
1.00 - 1.20 Phonics
1.20-2.00 classroom provision
2.00-3.00 - free flow (studio, outdoors and Nursery)
3.00 - 3.15 Story time









How We Learn in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

In order to make excellent progress children need to have the skills to learn. These include a motivation to learn, perseverance, collaboration with adults/children and their own ideas. Therefore we support children to develop the characteristics of learning.

These characteristics are:

- Playing & Exploring
- Active Learning
- Creating & Thinking Critically

At Yearsley Grove we understand young children have a wide range of different experiences, skills and interests when they join us. We provide a well-planned and resourced curriculum to take their learning forward and provide opportunities for all children to succeed. This is with a caring, safe and inclusive environment.

Well planned play is a key way in which young children learn with enjoyment and challenge. They can concentrate for much longer whilst having fun. So, play is integral to our teaching and learning in Early Years at Yearsley Grove Primary School.

Early Learning Goals

At the end of Reception children will be assessed against the statutory Early Learning Goals. These are only looked at towards the end of the year and are used to help plan for what your child will need next. They are also reported to the York education authority to monitor yearly performance.

Prime Areas

Communication & Language
Listening and Attention | Understanding | Speaking

Physical Development
Moving and Handling | Health and Self-Care

Personal, Social & Emotional Development
Making Relationships | Sense of Self | Understanding Feelings

Specific Areas

Literacy
Reading | Writing

Mathematics
Mathematics

Understanding the World
People and Communities | The World | Technology

Expressive Arts & Design
Creating with Materials | Being Imaginative and Expressive

Prime Areas of Learning

Communication & Language
Listening and Attention | Understanding | Speaking

Communication & Language involves giving children opportunities to speak and listen in a range of situations and to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves.





Physical Development
Moving and Handling | Health and Self-Care

Physical Development involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive and to develop their coordination, control and movement.





Personal, Social & Emotional Development
Making Relationships | Sense of Self | Understanding Feelings

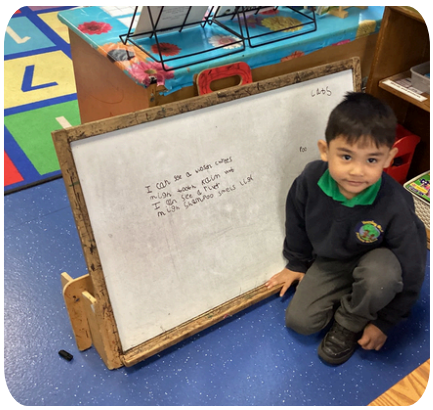
Personal, Social & Emotional Development involves helping children develop a positive sense of themselves and others, to form positive relationships and develop respect for others.

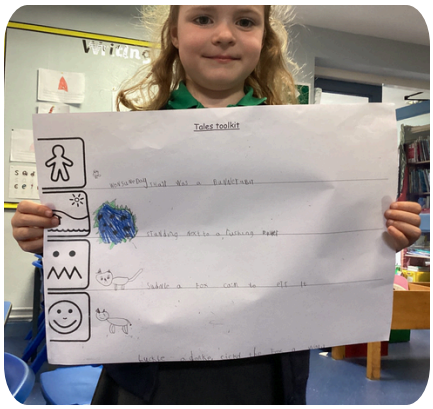




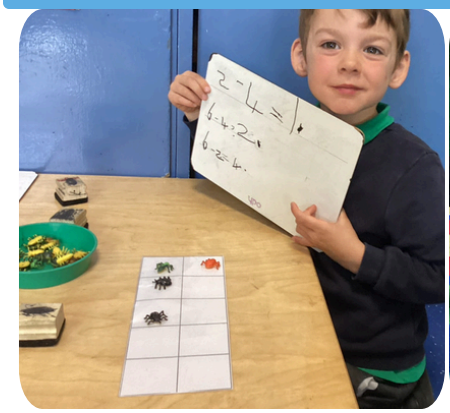
Specific Areas of Learning

Literacy
Reading | Writing





Mathematics
number / number pattern





Understanding the World
People and Communities | The World | Technology





Expressive Arts & Design
Creating with Materials | Being Imaginative and Expressive





Our Staff



Miss V Kerr - Headteacher



Mr Dambrauskas - Deputy Head



Mrs Husband - EYFS Phase Leader & Reception Teacher



Mrs Weatherall - Nursery Teacher



Mrs Gleave - Reception Teacher



Miss Young - Nursery TA



Mrs Lee - Reception TA



Mrs Arnold - Reception TA



Mrs Suddaby - Teacher

Arrival & Departure

Our doors open at 8.45am each morning. Please wait with your child in the EYFS/KS1 playground until the staff arrive, at which point the children will line up and staff will welcome them into their classrooms to self-register.

At the end of the day (3.15pm), please collect your child from the back of the building. For safeguarding reasons, we will only release children to named individuals on your collection list, so please let us know if someone different will be picking up your child.

On Thursdays, parents are welcome to join us at our lending Library from 8.45-9.00am.



Lunch & Snack

All children are entitled to a free school meal until they leave KS1 (Year 2). We encourage children to have a school meal as it helps us develop their eating skills and teaches them about healthy choices. Children also have the option of bringing a packed lunch, and families can mix and match these options as the year progresses.

Each day, a piece of fruit and a carton of milk is provided for every child. They can access this whenever they wish during free-flow sessions, which also supports their learning about healthy eating. Milk is provided free of charge throughout the EYFS.

Class Fund

Some of our snack provision is funded through a government initiative, however we kindly ask families for a voluntary donation of 50p per week (collected during Library time) so we can provide extra resources that enrich our curriculum. This includes things like different snacks to try, play-dough ingredients, baking resources, and pumpkins for soup during harvest time. These contributions mean the children enjoy a really rich and exciting curriculum with a wide variety of experiences they may not have at home.



Clothing

All children are asked to wear a school uniform at school, this consists of:

a grey dress, skirt, trouser or shorts
a green polo shirt
navy cardigan or jumper
white, black or grey socks/tights
plain balck shoes

In the foundation stage we encourage the children to be independent. You can help by making sure your child is dressed in school clothes which he/she can deal with unaided and by encouraging them to have a go at dressing and undressing themselves. We do provide aprons for messy activities, but accidents do happen! (see the school website for information about uniform or on the tapestry observation links sent out)

In the Foundation Stage we believe well planned play indoors and outdoors is a key way in which young children learn. We, therefore, provide opportunities for teaching and learning both indoors and outdoors. Please provide your child with a pair of named wellies that can be kept in school. One complete session will be outdoors every week. Please could you ensure your child has appropriate clothing to work outdoors in any weather conditions!

Physical Education

The Reception children do P.E. once a week. Please could you provide black/navy shorts, white t-shirt and trainers for them to get changed into. Jewellery should NOT be worn and long hair must be tied back. Please provide a small named bag with a P.E kit and trainers, which should stay in school for a whole half term. This can be taken home half termly to be washed; this ensures all children have their P.E kits every week.









Assessment

One of our roles as a practitioner is to observe children in the setting and make an assessment of each child's achievements, interests and learning styles. We then respond appropriately to help the children make progress.

Your child's teacher will keep the following evidence for each child and we also ask YOU to provide evidence towards this as well:

- An electronic record of progress towards and through the Early Learning Goals (Tapestry Online Learning Journey - observations, samples of work, video clips and photographs). We use Tapestry in school and record children's progress using iPads. (see Tapestry letter)
- Evidence of achievements at home (uploading observations and photos onto your child's electronic profile)

All children's assessment is monitored using an electronic Group Assessment chart. Reception children are also assessed using the Foundation Stage Profile at the end of the EYFS.

Please ask your child's teacher if you would like more information on the assessment data for your child.



Reading, Phonics & Language

Every week your child is able to choose a library book to take home. Please could you share this book to promote the enjoyment of reading for pleasure.

Children will also receive some phonics activities and a home reading book to be read 3 times a week. Please sign your reading record so we know you have read at home.



Planning Days

Once a week, Teachers will have planning and assessment time for half a day. The children will be taught by teachers and teaching assistants to aid continuity.

On these days, children will take part in a range of activities including sports skills, team games, creative tasks and consolidation of learning from the week. This is a valuable part of our provision and helps children build relationships with other adults in school.

Your child's planning day will be confirmed at the start of term.

Volunteers

At certain times of the year there will also be students following a variety of teaching and child care courses who will be working with us. They are fully supervised and DBS checked before working with children.

We also encourage parent and community volunteers to work alongside us. Volunteers help with activities such as:

- Listening to children read
- Supporting creative activities
- Helping to garden in the outdoor area
- Assisting on school trips
- Sharing skills or hobbies with the children

All volunteers will need a DBS check, which school can arrange for you. If you would be interested in volunteering, please see Mrs Husband for more details. We really value the support of our parent community!





Parents & Carers

We are very keen to build very good relationships with Parents and Carers. You know your children best so we want you to feel free to share any information with us you would like. Therefore we would like you to know you can come and talk to us at any point, if we cannot talk to you at that time, we will be happy to organise a meeting at another time convenient to you.

Parent's Evenings

There is an opportunity each term for you to meet with your child's teacher to discuss their progress and set targets/next steps for the following term.

Working Alongside Your Child

You will also have many opportunities to come and work alongside your child. Most recently parents have supported enterprise events, reading breakfast, Christmas concert, forest school days, craft activities and much more. We look forward to getting to know you more as your children progress through school.

Thursday Library

Come and choose a book to read with your child at home. This is also an opportunity to read your child's reading book to secure it before it is changed.

PTA

We are always looking for new parents to join our Parent Teacher Association - ask the office for details.

Volunteering

Many of our parents also volunteer in school. If this is something you would be interested in please contact the school office.









How Can You Help Your Child?

- Encourage your child to do things for themselves - put on their coat, fasten buttons, tidy away toys and see to their own toilet needs.
- Let them help around the house by tidying up, setting the table or washing the dishes.
- Talk about the things you see and do together.
- Give children lots of opportunities to run, jump, climb and enjoy other physical activities.
- Give children opportunities to play with playdough, clay, sand, paint and other materials to develop motor skills and creativity.
- Count things around the house. Talk about the colour, size and shape of things.
- Play lots of games such as dominoes, snakes and ladders and other games including dice.
- Give them the chance to build using blocks and Duplo, then let them make up stories with their creations.
- Share books - look at the pictures together and ask questions like "What do you think will happen next?" to develop language and discussion.
- Read their reading book three times a week.
- Draw your child's attention to print in the environment such as street signs.
- Encourage mark-making - drawing and writing - and let them see you writing for real reasons (lists, letters, cards).
- Help them make and write their name and other words using the phonics packs we send home.
- Talk about objects beginning with certain letter sounds (it's the sound that's most important, not the letter name).
- Explore rhyme by playing games and reading books.
- Visit your local Children's Centre for parent groups, speech & language drop-in sessions and other support.

Please see our Fun Ideas for Home booklet for more guidance on activities to support your child at home.