**Uniform**

Our children are expected to wear a blue school jumper or cardigan, grey/black bottoms white polo shirt and black school shoes. We suggest that our younger children wear elasticated bottoms of some sort to enable their independence when visiting the toilet. It would be helpful to provide spare items of clothing in a clearly labelled bag, which can be brought into school on a Monday and left on their child’s peg all week in case of little accidents. Please let us know if your children have any issues in this area and we will support in any way that we can.

Mrs Gamsby, Mrs Gash and I are very pleased with how well the children have settled and are looking forward to continuing to work with you and your children this year. I can tell they are going to really enjoy Reception! Miss Starkie will also be popping in and working with groups of children this year completing phonics and reading activities.

Please don’t hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

Miss Simpson (Reception Teacher) r.simpson300@kingstreet.durham.sch.uk

**Medication** - Should your child require any medication whilst in our care, forms are available in our school office and must be completed by a parent to ensure that the medication is given correctly and safely. If your child has a temperature, they should not attend school. If you are unsure, please contact our school office, who will be happy to help. Children who have sickness or diarrhoea must not return to school until 48 hours after the last episode.

Please ensure that the school office is kept up to date with changed to your information such as a new address or phone number. This is to ensure that we can contact you in case of an emergency.

**Tapestry** - Forming a good partnership between home and school is really important to us. We will be continually adding information and evidence on your child's development to their learning journals via the Tapestry app, so please let us know of any proud moments that you have at home with your child, as this helps us to gain a better picture of your child both at home and school and how best to support their learning and development. If you haven’t yet completed the consent forms to join Tapestry, please let us know and we can send an invitation via email which will let you see your child’s progress throughout their time with us. More than one parent/carer/family member can be added. Please ensure that you check your email junk folder for the invite if you have not yet received it. No one else, other than EYFS staff can see you child‘s account as it is only visible by account holders. I would like to remind you that sharing of information or media from your child’s journal on social media is not permitted to ensure the safeguarding of all our children. We would also be grateful if you ‘liked’ or commented on each post, so that we can see that you are getting all the information sent. Home-learning tasks and information will be sent via the memo feature.

**Fresh Air Friday**

We are incredibly lucky to be able to offer a Forest School session once a week, whatever the weather! Please ensure that children come to school ready in their outdoor clothing each Friday and bring waterproofs and wellies with them. Wellies can be left all week for outdoor play if you prefer. We do have a limited supply of waterproofs and wellies if you don’t have your own.

**Movement Monday**

Our active ‘Movement Monday’ sessions take place on Mondays. Children can come ready in black jogging bottoms or leggings if this is easier so they just need to change from a jumper and polo shirt to their PE

t-shirt. The clothing, shoes and PE bag need to be labelled with your child’s name.

**Phonics and Reading**

In Reception, we teach Phonics using Bug Club. The children will take part in Phonics sessions every day.

Through phonics children are taught how to:

 • recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes

• identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make - such as ‘sh’ or ‘oo’

• blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word Children can then use this knowledge to ‘decode’ new words that they hear or see. This is the first important step in learning to read.

All children have brought home a reading book and a library story book of their choice to share with you at home. At King Street, we value reading and believe that sharing stories together will spark a lifelong love of reading. Reading is the key to unlock children’s potential so learning to read is vital for future success..

 Books are changed on a Monday and we listen to children read every day, so it is important that books bags and reading records are **brought in to school every morning. Please keep a look out for some login details which will be sent home soon for bug club, so that children can read e-books using bug club at home.**

The first few weeks of this term will be spent getting to know the children a little better. Our focus will be on building the children’s confidence, independence, self-esteem and the social side of children’s learning as we introduce them to new experiences. We will be finding out their interests and finding out what they know so that we can tailor our provision to help them to enjoy their time in Reception.

This term we will be exploring sounds, textures, language, feelings, mark-making, movement, pattern, shapes and numbers through our play and focused learning time. Our overarching themes this term are: ‘This Is Me’ and ‘In The Town Where I Was Born’. We will be encouraging the children to understand how to listen carefully and understand why listening is important. The children will be taking part in group times and story times. We will be playing listening games with the children which will prepare them for phonics. We will begin phase 2 phonics in Autumn 1 where the children will be learning sounds and segmenting and blending to read. Each child will read daily with an adult.

**Reception Phonics Event**

Monday 8th September

3:30 – 4:00 pm or 4:00 – 4:30pm

**Welcome to Reception**

The children have had a brilliant start to the year and are settling in well. In the past few days our staff have been spending time with the children, getting to know them and introducing them to all of the new areas to explore. We have already been building amazing structures in our construction area, cooking in the kitchen in our home corner, reading in our cosy reading nook and writing our names.

**Reception Class Newsletter**

**Autumn Term September 2025**



**Reception Baseline Assessment**

Your child will be participating in the Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA) within the first 6 weeks of starting reception. The purpose of the assessment is to provide the starting point for a progress measure that will help parents understand how well schools support their pupils to progress between Reception and Year 6.

Please find information attached to this letter about the Reception Baseline Assessment.