



HERONSGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

RECEPTION INFORMATION

Reception timetable

Each Reception classroom has a carpet area and a whiteboard for whole class carpet sessions. This is where the children will have daily phonics and maths lessons, as well as shared reading sessions, class assemblies and circle time. Each classroom has different learning areas to reflect the areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. You will see a reading den, writing and mark making area, maths area, role play, creative area, investigation station, construction area, and sand and water play provision.

During child-initiated learning, children are able to access the different areas of the classroom. The staff carefully plan weekly activities and resources for the different areas based on the half termly topic and children's interests.

The outdoor learning environment also reflects the different areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. Children are able to free flow between the indoor and outdoor learning environments throughout the Reception day. During child-initiated learning, staff will be supporting children in their learning through play, taking observations on children's learning, and teaching small focus group lessons in writing, reading, maths and creative.

Physical activity (PE)

Children in Reception will have weekly P.E. lessons. In these lessons children will develop a range of physical skills including balancing and gymnastics, dance, bat and ball skills, and team games and sports. For indoor P.E. lessons children will need to change into a P.E. kit. More information about our school uniform is available on our school website.

Forest School

We have a trained Forest School lead who runs sessions for children in the EYFS and smaller groups across the school. These sessions take place each week where children are able to explore the outdoor environment and get messy! Activities are planned each week to support the Early learning goals and develop skills.

Staff and class size

Each class will have 30 children. In Reception, each class will have a class teacher and an Early Years Practitioner (EYP).

Assessment for Learning- Tapestry

In Reception we use a program called Tapestry to record observations on children's learning. Parents are able to set up a secure account to have access to their child's Tapestry learning journal, and are able to comment on the observations, as well as add pictures and observations of home learning and special events at home.

School Dinners/Packed Lunch

Children have the option to either have a hot dinner at school or bring in their own healthy packed lunch from home. The dinner menu is published on our school website and children are given an option for their main dish. For dessert, children also have an option of a pudding or fruit. There are halal options available should you want your child to have a halal meal. Children in Reception and Key Stage One are currently entitled to free school dinners.

Fruit and Milk

In Reception and Key Stage One, children are also provided with a daily piece of fruit. Reception children also have milk available. All children are encouraged to bring their own water bottle to school daily.

Educational visits

Class trips take place in the summer term for children in Reception and termly for children from Years 1-6. Children visit a range of places such as historical sites, museums and art galleries. Parents will be encouraged to volunteer to help on these visits. In Year 6 children will be invited to take part in a week-long residential visit accompanied by school staff.

Transition to Key Stage 1

As the EYFS is a play-based curriculum, many children can find it difficult to change the routine as they begin in Year 1. We therefore begin to transition children into Year 1 at the end of the summer term they are in Reception. Children will visit their new teacher, classroom and playground several times before starting in Year 1. Reception children begin to attend assemblies with the rest of the school once a week. At the beginning of Year 1, activities similar to the play-based activities in Reception will be set up and completed by the children to ease them into the new routines.

As children move into Key stage 2 (Years 3-6), they will change playgrounds and use the KS2 hall for PE and lunches.

Extra-curricular clubs

Extra-curricular clubs are available for children from Years 1-6. These vary each term and are run by school staff. There is a small charge for these sessions.

Heronsgate School Values

We offer a values-based curriculum at Heronsgate. There are six values that we consider to be universal: respect, responsibility, resilience, kindness, honesty and co-operation. These values are woven into our teaching and learning and ensure the children develop the skills to become good citizens in the future. These values are also explicitly taught in PSHCE lessons and school assemblies.

Frequently Asked Questions

Am I able to apply directly to the campus of my choice?

When you apply for a place at Heronsgate Primary School, the decision will be made based on home to school distance to our Thamesmead Campus. If you are offered a place at Heronsgate Primary School, we will determine which campus your child will attend based on the following criteria:

1. Children with a sibling, living at the same address, attending the school at the time of the child's admission (sibling means full/half/step/adopted/foster brother or sister only).
2. Children with an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP).
3. Looked after children.
4. Children, or an immediate family member, with an acute medical or social need for a particular campus (Work commitments and childcare arrangements are not as being an acute medical or social need).
5. Other children based on home to school distance.

What phonics program and reading scheme does Heronsgate follow?

Heronsgate uses the Letters & Sounds phonics program in the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage One. Reception uses the Jolly Phonics rhymes when learning single letter sounds. Heronsgate uses a range of books for early readers, including Oxford Reading Tree and Phonics Bug. For more information about English learning at Heronsgate, please refer to the Learning page on our website.

<https://www.heronsgate.greenwich.sch.uk/learning/curriculum/>

How is the air pollution monitored at Heronsgate Royal Arsenal campus?

The air pollution levels are monitored by the Royal Borough of Greenwich's Environment department.

Is there wrap around childcare available?

Heronsgate offers an on-site breakfast and after school club child care facility for parents and carers at both campus' There is a charge for this service.

Am I able to defer the Reception place?

Please arrange to discuss this with the Head of School.

My child has special educational needs, how will they be supported?

Information on how the school supports children with additional needs can be found on our website.

Please email the school office if you would like to discuss your child's individual needs with the SENDCo.