

FAQ'S for parents of children starting Reception.

1. What time does the school day start and finish?

The gates open at **8:45** and close at **8:55**. The school day ends at **3:25**. You will receive a transition booklet that shows the location of the drop off and collection points.

2. What should my child bring to school each day?

Children should bring a named water bottle, a book bag (provided free of charge by Charnwood) and a coat suitable for the weather. If your child is having a packed lunch, this should also be clearly labelled.

3. What uniform does my child need?

See welcome letter for details of the required uniform or go to [Weclome to SK School Uniforms – Just another WordPress site](#)

4. How will my child settle if they feel nervous?

It's completely normal for children to feel a little anxious at first. Staff are very experienced in supporting children to settle, and we will work closely with you to ensure your child feels safe and happy. They will be given a soft toy that they can name who will stay in their tray, so whenever they feel worried, they can fetch it for a cuddle.

5. Can my child bring a comfort item from home?

Yes, if it helps your child settle, they may bring a small comfort item. We may gradually encourage them to keep it in their bag as they become more confident.

6. How do you communicate with parents?

Our primary method is via Class Dojo. You will receive a log in prior to your child starting school. It is on here that we will celebrate your child's learning and share important information.

7. How do I order their lunch?

We use a catering company called Dolce. When your child starts at Charnwood, you will be given a link to register on Dolce. You will be able to choose your child's meal in advance via this online system.

8. What do I do if my child has a food allergy/ intolerance/ religious preference?

When you register with the caterers Dolce, you will be able to enter information about your child's food intolerance or allergy. This then sets the ordering system up so that only your child's safe foods can be ordered. This is exactly the same for children with religious food preferences.

9. My child is a fussy eater. What can I do?

We have lots of experience of dealing with children who are fussy eaters. We ensure that Reception staff are present in the hall for the first half term to help settle them and provide encouragement to try the food. There is always plenty of choice, including a hot and cold option such as a sandwich or pasta. Our meal ordering system allows you to view the menus in advance so that you can talk to your child about their meal choices and you can select them together. You can send them in with a packed lunch, however, we recommend that they try the meals for the first few weeks. Usually when they see their friends eating the food, they generally want to try it.

8. What will my child be learning in Reception?

Children learn through a mix of play-based and adult-led activities, covering areas such as

communication and language, early reading and writing, maths, physical development, and personal, social, and emotional development.

9. How will my child be supported with reading?

Your child will begin learning phonics and will bring home books to share with you. We will provide guidance on how to support reading at home by inviting you to a phonics and reading workshop in the Autumn term.

10. What happens if my child has an accident or feels unwell?

We will contact you if your child becomes unwell. Minor accidents are dealt with in school, and you will be informed as appropriate. Should they have a head injury, you will receive a text home. Should your child feel unwell at school. Our Office Administrator Miss O Neill will give you a call.

11. How do you support children who are still toilet training?

We want to ensure that where possible children are school ready, which means in pants. [The Potty Training Guide - Starting Reception](#) We recognise that children with additional needs might need more support with this and we will work closely with you to ensure that their needs are met.

12. Will my child have outdoor learning opportunities?

Yes, outdoor learning is an important part of the Reception day, so children should come dressed appropriately for all weather conditions.

13. Can I speak to the teacher if I have concerns?

Absolutely. We encourage open communication through Class Dojo in the first instance.

14. How much screen time will my child get? The children do not have access to tablets in Reception, Instead we have an interactive whiteboard which allows them to access learning games at some points throughout the year.

15. When do I need to return the paperwork?

We ask that this is returned at your earliest convenience and no later than the end of summer term (Friday 17th July). This is really important so that we have your child's emergency contact information

16. Will my child have any transition days?

Yes! We really appreciate how your child and yourselves might be feeling a little daunted by the prospect of starting school. Therefore we have transition sessions planned for the summer term in June and July. Please refer to the welcome letter that was emailed to you for this information.

17. Will my child bring home any homework?

Yes. We want your child to be able to share what they have been learning in school and the homework provides an opportunity to do just that. They will be given some tasks that they can complete with you at home as a way of consolidating and enriching all that they have been taught in school. They will also be sent home with a weekly phonics book that they will have read in school at least 3 times. We want your child learning to read as quickly as possible, so if you could encourage them to read their phonics book at home as well as listen to stories read by you, then this will really enrich their reading ability and language.