



Welcome to Reception at Risley Avenue Primary School!

'..learning at the heart of living..'

We know that coming to school is a big step for your child and we want you and your child to feel secure and happy with us. This handbook aims to give you an understanding of what you can expect here at Risley Avenue Primary School.

This handbook is also available on the school website, along with a wide range of other information about the school.



Your child is in Class _____

Class Teacher: _____ Nursery Nurse: _____

Start date and time: _____

Once your child is settled, the full school day runs from 8.55am to 3.15pm.

Risley Avenue Primary School, The Roundway, Tottenham N17 7AB

ph 020 8808 0792, www.risleyavenueprimary.org.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs Linda Sarr

Working with you

We will always try to keep you up to date with what is happening in school, from day to day incidents, to topics we're studying, and ways you can support your child's learning at home.

There are many ways of keeping in touch with what is happening in school:

Talk with your class teacher; come to your 1:1 meeting when your child is in the observation cycle; borrow your child's Special Book, come to whole class open sessions to support learning at home.

To read our newsletters, find out what's happening in class, in school and to manage online payments, download these apps:

Risley Avenue Primary School



Parent Mail



Class Dojo



- **Risley Avenue Primary School:** For easy access to our website (www.risleyavenueprimary.org.uk) on your phone
- **Parent Mail:** Day to day messages to parents from the school office are sent through this app. Our school is completely cashless. All online payments (trips, school meals etc) are made through Parent Mail.
- **Class Dojo:** to see our weekly newsletters and get reminders about events in class and across the school. This is also a great way to communicate directly with your child's teacher.

If you have any difficulty with these apps, please go the school office.

Become part of the Risley family: join our parents' association, 'Friends and Families of Risley', join the adult choir, sign up for a wide range of adult learning, help out when your child has a trip, volunteer as a reader in school. Your class teacher can give you more information.

We must have current phone numbers and email address we can reach you on at all times. Please update your contact details as soon as they change.

Getting started

Your child's first days:

- Please enter and leave the school through the Early Years gate on The Roundway.
- Every child in Reception will do a few half days while they get to know us and settle in. Times are as follows:

Mornings 8.55am -11.45pm

Afternoons 1.00pm-3.15pm

Full time 8.55am - 3.15pm

- We aim to get every child in for their full offer as soon as we can. Your class teacher will talk to you about how your child is settling in.
- Please be aware that this will be different for each child.

For full attendance, a child should be able to:

- Separate from parent/carer easily
- Move independently around the classroom and playground
- Stay awake and energetic through the session
- Cope with changes of adults in class without distress
- Stay within the set boundaries of the playground and classroom
- Behave appropriately and non-aggressively for the majority of the time
- Manage their own personal hygiene including using the toilet and feeding themselves

Regular attendance

Please attend every day. This helps your child settle quickly and make rapid progress. If your child is unwell, please call the school to let us know your child cannot attend. Once your child is 5 years old, we are legally required to expect 100% attendance.

Medical evidence may be required for absence through illness.

What to wear to Reception:

- Children from Reception to Year 6 are required to wear full school uniform.



- Our uniform is sold in local uniform shops:
Divine Schoolwear, 3 Northumberland Park, N170TA, ph 02082169113, www.divineschoolwear.com
or
Star School Uniforms, 32 Church Rd N178AQ ph 02088856575, www.staruniforms.co.uk

Please make sure that your child's name is written on any clothing they might take off at school.

What to bring to Reception:

- A pair of wellington boots to keep at school for rainy days.
- A full spare set of uniform in case of accidents. Please make sure this set of clothes is clearly labelled with your child's name.
- We ask for a voluntary contribution of £1 per week towards buying ingredients for cooking, making play dough and so on.
- We will give your child a plastic zip bag to use as a reading folder. Please keep this folder in their Risley school bags and send both folder and bag into school every day.

Eating and drinking in Reception:

- Risley Avenue Primary School is an accredited Healthy School. We teach our children the importance of healthy eating and keeping active and we ask for your support in this.
- We provide fruit and a choice of milk or water at snack time every morning.
- All Reception staff prioritise the safety children with food allergies. Please ensure your class teacher is kept up to date with allergy information.
- Children have a lunch break from 11.45-1.00 and they eat lunch in the canteen.
- School dinners are free to children from Reception to Year 2. If your child does not like school dinners, you are welcome to send in a healthy packed lunch. Please inform the school office if you are changing from school dinners to packed lunch.
- Canteen menus run on a three week cycle and are available on the website.

Extended day:

- We have both breakfast and after school care provided on-site.
- We run our own breakfast club with the support of The Magic Breakfast. All Risley children are entitled to a free breakfast after 8.15am. Any children who arrive before 8.15 am will be asked to pay £2 child care cost.
- After school provision is run by Kidscape (www.kidscapeafterschoolclub.vpweb.co.uk).
- More details about both clubs can be found on the school website, or from the school office.

Learning at school

The Reception curriculum builds on the Nursery curriculum.

The Early Years curriculum has 7 areas of learning:

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development** – helping children develop self-confidence and to be able to work as part of a class
- **Physical Development** – whole body co-ordination to run, jump, climb, ride bikes and scooters, and eye-hand co-ordination to hold a pencil and dress and feed themselves
- **Communication and Language Development** – speaking clearly, using a wide vocabulary, listening carefully, making up their own stories
- **Literacy** – reading and writing
- **Mathematics** – counting, adding and subtracting up to 20, recognising 2D and 3D shapes, measuring in a range of ways
- **Understanding the World** – developing a sense of community, observing the natural world, and understanding the technology we use everyday
- **Expressive Arts and Design** – experimenting with role play, making music, singing and dancing, painting, junk modelling to develop their own ideas.

There will be much that your child will recognise about the Reception day. The main difference is that in Reception children also learn to read and write.

We teach reading and writing through the phonics programme 'Read, Write Inc'. You will be invited to a meeting early in first term to see how the programme works and to explain how you can help your child with their homework.

Phonics sessions happen first thing every morning, so if your child is regularly late to school, this is what they will miss out on.



When children are not working directly with an adult, they choose how they spend their time. Through planned play, we develop children's capacity to think critically, to communicate effectively, to solve problems and to enjoy new learning. We aim to support your child to develop great learning habits which will stick with them through their lives.

The Observation Cycle

Your child will be a focus child about once a term. We observe and record your child's interests and learning. We will ask you for information about their interests at home and we will invite you to talk about his/her progress and the next steps of learning.

Special Books

Every child in Reception will have their own Special Book. We hope this will be a souvenir of their time in Reception that you will treasure for a long time. We will ask you to contribute to this book and to bring it home to show the family about your child's progress.

Learning at home

Developmentally, the best things you can do for your child at home are:

- **Talk** with your child - listen to what they say and answer their questions. Make up stories about toys as your child is playing - they will soon take over from you as the story teller!
- **Support independence skills** - it is a real boost to children's confidence to learn these skills. Encourage your child to use the toilet, put on their own coat and shoes, and eat and drink by themselves.
- **Exercise** - walk to school if possible, play in the park, learn to ride a scooter or bike, kick a ball
- **Read** - make sure your child gets a bedtime story every night.
- **Join the local library** - Coombes Croft Library, 4 High Road, Tottenham N17 8BY
- Once we begin teaching reading and writing, your child will bring home a reading folder. Your support to get your child reading is vital.
- **Please read with your child for a few minutes each day - as little as 10 minutes reading will make a HUGE difference as long as it is regular!**
- We will also send home writing homework. This will be personalised for your child to practise whatever they need to.

Useful websites for learning at home

CBeebies: especially the Alphablocks and Numberblocks programmes

Lovemybooks: sign up for newsletters about the best children's books and ideas for story-linked activities to enjoy at home.

**We look forward to welcoming you into Reception at
Risley Avenue Primary School!**