



# Birchwood Avenue Primary School

Headteacher: Miss E. Hall

[www.birchwoodavenue.herts.sch.uk](http://www.birchwoodavenue.herts.sch.uk)

Birchwood Avenue, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, AL10 0PS

☎01707 262503 ✉[admin@birchwoodavenue.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@birchwoodavenue.herts.sch.uk) 📱@birchwoodavesch

## Reception Class 2025-2026 Autumn Newsletter

A very warm welcome to all the families of our Reception children. We are really looking forward to a fantastic start to your journey with us at Birchwood Avenue. Our learning superpower this half term will be 'Resilience' where children will begin to understand the importance of continuing to try hard and put in effort. We feel as a school that our values underpin our learning behaviour, and this is reflected in our work.

### PE

On Tuesdays, we will teach PE to the children. Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school on this day, for them to change into. Your child's PE kit should include their house colour t-shirt that has been provided by the school. All items (including the bag) must be clearly named.

We advise that, rather than plimsolls, trainers are better at supporting children's ankle development. We will be working to develop the children's gross motor skills, moving in a variety of ways such as hopping or jumping. We will also be spending a lot of time working on awareness of space around us. To support your child, we suggest the encouragement of independent dressing and undressing at home.

### Phonics

We teach phonics every day in Reception. At first, these lessons will be whole class and then, as we start to assess progress, we may split the children into smaller groups, which will allow us to better target their specific needs. At Birchwood Avenue, we use a scheme called **Read Write Inc.** The children are taught a different sound each day, practice forming it correctly and find words that start with that sound. As the children meet more sounds, we will start to blend them together into words of increasing length and complexity. Each week we will send home a copy of the sounds we have taught, along with the handwriting rhyme used to form it, so that you can reinforce this at home. It is important that we focus on the sound of a letter, not the name. Parents will be invited to attend a phonics workshop this term and have the opportunity to observe a phonics lesson being taught to the children.

### Reading



Reading is one of the most important aspects of our Reception curriculum. We will be reading at least one story to the children every day and we encourage you to do the same. We model the way that we read with expression and enthusiasm and talk about the things that we see and hear. As we develop our phonics, we will be asking the children to read simple words and sentences with us. A Reception reader should be able to read a book that matches their phonic ability by the end of the year. Once they can blend sounds, they will be bringing



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books home, which are linked to their phonics. We will meet new stories and revisit old friends as we move through the year. The children have access to puppets and a stage area to support them in acting out the stories and changing them to make stories of their own.

We will be sending home reading books and reading diaries shortly, with more information following soon. We expect them to read for at least 15 minutes each evening with an adult and ask that the reading diary is signed daily.

## Writing

Chances for Reception children to develop their writing can be found everywhere in our classroom and in our curriculum. A Reception child should be able to write simple phrases and sentences with recognisable letters by the end of the year. We support them to reach this point with activities linked to the stories we read and with a variety of writing tools available to them throughout their play. We encourage the children to begin with simple labels for their pictures and their name. We celebrate writing in all areas of the classroom and in all aspects of their play so that it becomes a regular part of their routine. You could support this at home by helping them to practice writing their name and by encouraging them to include writing in their play at home. An example could be to write a shopping list before playing shops or make a ticket before playing with trains.

## Maths

Number will be our main focus in maths this term. Children are taught to recognise and use numbers up to 20 with confidence. They learn to subitise (to recognise an amount without counting) numbers up to five and you can support this at home by asking them to spot numbers in the world around them. For example, wheels on their bike or rolls left in a packet. We will compare numbers and make them in different ways using concrete resources, images, and verbal counting. As we become more confident, we will start to add and subtract numbers. Again, there will be an emphasis on using concrete resources to support us.

## Themed learning

Each half term we will have an overarching theme to our learning. In the first half of this term, we will be learning about 'All about Me!' and 'People who help us'. We will think about our families and things that make us special and unique before moving on to learn about people who help us in our everyday lives. In the second half of the term, our theme will be Celebrations. We will focus on celebrations across several religions including Christmas, Diwali and Hanukkah. If there is an important celebration that your family will be participating in, please feel free to let us know or even consider coming in to talk to us about it. We will be making comparisons between the different celebrations and use them in our art, role-play and construction.

## PSHE



During our PSHE lessons, the children will have the opportunity to think about and discuss 'What it is to be me in my world'. We will discuss why it is important to be kind and care for others as well as reflect on why everyone has the right to learn and play.

Although the emphasis for learning is child led, the curriculum is carefully planned to ensure that the Early Learning Goals are worked towards and that the children experience broad and exciting learning



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opportunities. Further details regarding our curriculum can be found on our website alongside a suggested reading book list.

A positive partnership between school and parents is essential to the happiness and success of your children in this vital learning year. Please come and speak to me or any other member of the Reception team, if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your support,

Mrs Dyos, Mrs Chalk and Mrs Cristia



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