

Reception Newsletter

Friday 18th September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

The children have continued to settle into school well this week and are quickly making new friends. It has been a long but exciting week for the children and they will probably be tired this weekend! The children have done really well coming into school independently at the gate, and we are very proud of them for this. Well done everyone!

We are enjoying getting to know the children and supporting them to learn the school routines and make new friends. Throughout the year, we will plan our topics based on the children's interests and what the next steps in their learning are. Our primary focus is their personal, social, emotional and physical development, as well as their communication and language. Alongside these Prime areas of learning, there are the Specific areas of Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design. This year, as we observe the children and track their progress, we will be able to share this with you via their online learning profile on Seesaw.

Message from Mrs Crane – Attendance

I would like to highlight the importance of children attending school every day that they are well enough to do so. Regular attendance in Reception is vital for children's social, emotional and academic development. Coming to school every day helps children build friendships, develop confidence and independence, and establish good habits from the very start of their school journey. Learning in Reception moves on quickly, particularly in phonics, where children learn a new sound every day. Missing even one day can mean missing an important building block in their learning, making it harder to keep up. We also strongly discourage holidays during term time, particularly in Reception, as time away can disrupt both learning and the development of routines and relationships.

Thank you for your support in helping your child have the best possible start to school.

All children will need their PE kits in school ready for their PE lessons on Thursdays. Please make sure that long hair is tied back and no earrings are worn. It is also helpful for girls to wear trousers or skirts/dresses with socks on these days as tights can be tricky! PE kits will be sent home for washing at the end of each half term. Please ensure all items of clothing, including shoes and pumps are labelled so they can be easily returned to the right owner if they become mixed up.

As part of our Enquiry Learning next week, we will be learning about 'Who are my family and where do I live?' We will be talking about the family that we live with and extended family members before creating our very own family portraits. We will be talking about how we are all different and that there are many different types of families. To help us to prepare for this we would like to ask your child to bring a family photograph to school at the beginning of next week or email a picture to newsletters@woodhouse.calderdale.sch.uk. Please ensure you include your child's name and class.

Each week, we like to include a 'Talking Topic' and a 'Word of the Week' on the weekly newsletter. This may be related to work in school or it may be connected to the children's interests or further learning. We would like you to use the Talking Topic as an opportunity to chat with your child and help encourage good speaking and listening skills.

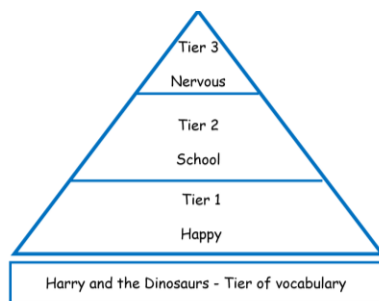
This week's 'Talking Topic' is: words that rhyme. e.g. **cat**, pat, sat, hat / **pig**, dig, wig

Following on from the brilliant week the children have had and how confident they have been during their first full week at school, our Word of the Week is: **Unique**

Our class reader this week is: **Harry and the Dinosaurs go to school.**



Here are the key words below that we have been exploring with the children this week.



Please click on the link below if you would like to share our song that we have been singing with your child this week - Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes.

[Heads, shoulders, knees and toes](#)

As your child continues to settle into school, the Reception team will be undertaking the Reception Baseline Assessment which is a statutory assessment for all pupils. This short assessment provides a snapshot of where the children are when they arrive at school to provide a starting point for the DfE to measure the progress schools make with their pupils between Reception to the end of primary school. Please click on the link below for more information about the Reception Baseline Assessment.

[Reception Baseline Assessment](#)

On Tuesday 29th September at 5:30pm we will be holding a Reception parents' information evening to present information about the Early Years curriculum, how we teach the children to learn here at Woodhouse and how best you can support your child with their learning at home. There will be a focus on reading as we introduce our exciting phonics scheme and share with you how we teach the children to read. We will share some top tips and techniques for helping your child learn to read and show the resources that will be sent home to help you support their phonics at home. The information evening will last for approximately 30-40 minutes. Please note this is an adult only event and you will be able to book your place on Arbor.

Please send your child to school with their reading packet every day. Any letters or forms being sent into school should be put in your child's reading packet and will be taken out by a member of the Reception Team. If your child bumps their head at school you will be informed of this via email.

If you do have any concerns or questions do not hesitate to write these in your child's orange home/school book.

Many thanks,

Mrs Molloy, Miss Vine, Mrs Rothwell and the Reception team