



Chawson First School

Independent



Aspirational



Welcome to Reception 2025

Meet the Staff



Miss Peck
Headteacher



Mrs Sage
Deputy Headteacher
SENCO



Mrs Wood
Assistant Headteacher
Safeguarding Lead
Attendance Lead



Mrs Bartle
Assistant Headteacher
Pre-School Lead
Reception, Yr 1 and Yr 2 SENCO



Mrs Rudkin
Class Teacher RR
EYFS Lead



Miss Willis
Class Teacher RW

Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are so excited to meet and welcome you and your child to Reception. We are looking forward to getting to know you all in September and hopefully meeting many of you during our Stay and Play sessions in June.

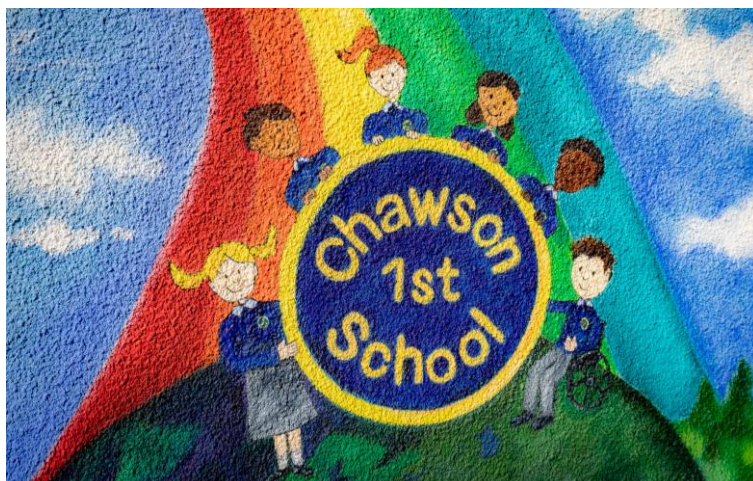
We understand that starting school can be a daunting prospect for both children and adults, but we aim to support you all every step of the way.

Our wonderful reception team is always on hand to support at the beginning and the end of the day and emails to the office are always swiftly passed on too.

Please take a moment to read through this pack before grabbing a cuppa and making yourself comfortable to fill in all the important forms that you need to return.

Welcome to the Chawson Family

Mrs Rudkin and the Wonderful Reception Team.



The First Week



All children will start Reception on a part-time basis. This will allow the children to gradually settle into school life. We spend this time building up all the important routines of the school day, so your child feels happy and secure from the start of the school year.

On the first day please make your way to the classroom doors where you will be greeted by your child's teacher. At the end of the morning your child will come out of the same door. Please be patient with us as we learn who you are and remember that Children will only be allowed home with **their parent/carer**, unless staff have been informed before the end of the school day.

Tuesday 2 nd September – Friday 5 th September	Mornings only Arrive: 8:30am - 9:00am Collect: 11:40am
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Parent Drop Ins

In the afternoon of the first week, you will have an opportunity to make an appointment to meet with your child's teacher. Helping to build a strong home school relationship and allowing you to share important information about your child – helping us get to know their interests, likes and dislikes.

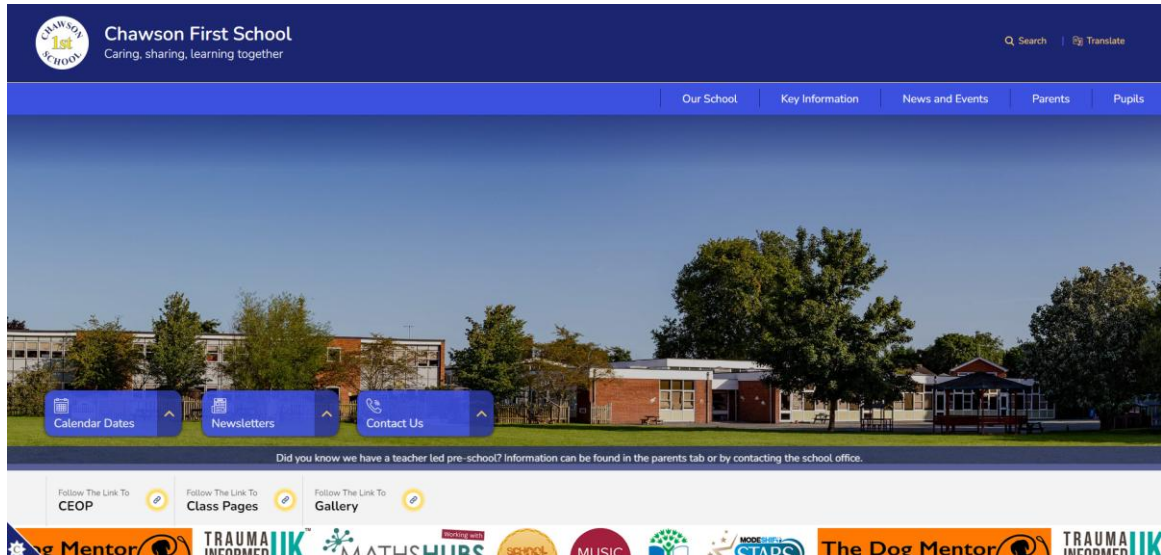
The Second week

From the second week the classroom doors will open at 8.30am and close at 8.40am ready to take the register and start our first lesson.
We open the doors for collection from 3.00pm.

School Communication

Website

The school website provides lots of important information including the school calendar, news and events and much more.



Newsletter

The school sends out a fortnightly Newsletter via email and can also be accessed via the website.



Facebook

We also have a Facebook page where we share events and information.



Instagram

Our phonics-based Instagram account – ChawsonFirstPhonics will help support you and your child when learning their phonics too.

Email and Text

Letters are sent via email and additional reminders and information are sent via text

Lunchtime

Children will have the option of either a free hot dinner or to bring a packed lunch. They will eat their dinner together in the classroom with a lunchtime supervisor.

We encourage all children to try a hot dinner within the first couple of weeks as we find it a great social experience for the children. Plus, you will be surprised what your child will eat alongside their friends!

AiP caterers supply hot meals to our school. They are cooked freshly each day and transported to us. You are able to choose from the menu what meals you would like your child to receive using ParentPay. You will not be asked for payment when using this system.

All parents will need to use ParentPay to choose meals for their child. We will give you more information on this at the beginning of term.

Snack time

Your child is entitled to a free piece of fruit each day along with a carton of milk. Milk is free until your child turns 5. You then have the option to pay for milk if you would like to do so.



Pupil Premium

We would ask you to consider if your child might be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM). This is different from the free hot meal that is provided for all children as part of the Government's Universal Infant Free School Meals provision (UIFSM) which entitles all children to a free hot meal from Reception to Year 2.

Applying for Free School Meals enables the school to **access further funding for your child**. This funding is called Pupil Premium and is used by the school to increase provision for our children.

You can get Pupil Premium if you receive one of the benefits below:

- Income Support (IS)
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA-IR)
- Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance (IB-JSA)
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit or Universal Credit
- Child Tax Credit and are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and your annual income, as assessed by the Inland Revenue, does not exceed £16,190.

If you receive benefits or earn less than £616 a month please go to the following website and apply online.

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20062/schools/684/applying_for_free_school_meals





What to bring to School



- Wear a waterproof coat
- Named **Wellies** (these will stay in school for outside play and Forest School)
- Named **water bottle** that they can open independently
- **Book bag** – available to buy during the first week



Reception Uniform



Blue Polo Shirt



Logo Jumper or
Cardigan



Blue Check Dress



Grey



Black School Shoes



Velcro Fastening



Forest School/PE Uniform

Your child will visit our forest school area once a week. This is a wonderful opportunity to take our learning outside. We go out in all weather and provided waterproof dungarees for wet and winter use. Your child will need to have a jumper/cardigan with them all year round as we need to protect arms in Summer too.

Please can children come to school wearing this uniform on Forest School Days. Children are to wear plain sports trainers on these days for use in our PE lessons. We always wear wellies when visting Forest School.



White Polo Shirt



Logo Jumper or
Cardigan



Black joggers
or leggings



What will your child learn in Reception?

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework. Your child will learn through a play-based curriculum where seven different areas of learning contribute to your child's learning journey in Reception.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

Playing and Exploring

ENGAGEMENT

Finding out and exploring
Playing with what they know
Being willing to 'have a go'

Active Learning

MOTIVATION

Being involved and concentrating
Keep trying
Enjoying achieving what they set out to do

Creative and Critical Thinking

THINKING

Having their own ideas
Making links
Working with ideas

Areas of Learning and Development

Birth to 5 Matters Aspects

Prime Areas

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Making Relationships

Sense of Self

Understanding Feelings

Physical Development

Moving and handling

Health and Self-care

Communication and Language

Listening and Attention

Understanding

Speaking

Specific Areas

Literacy

Reading

Writing

Mathematics

Mathematics

Understanding the World

People and Communities

The World

Technology

Expressive Arts and Design

Creating with Materials

Being Imaginative and Expressive

At the end of the year, your child will be assessed against 17 different Early Learning Goals which can be downloaded from our website.

<https://www.chawson.worcs.sch.uk/curriculum/>

The curriculum is designed to be very flexible and is adapted to the children's needs and interests. We have six themes across the year. Marvellous Me, Where do I Live? Frozen Planet, Come Outside, Grow the story and Ticket to Ride

Learning to Read

A significant part of your child's learning journey in Reception will be learning to read. This begins with your child recognising individual sounds, then moves on to reading simple words and sentences.

Your child will take part in a daily phonics lesson and three reading practice sessions per week. We teach our phonics sessions using a programme called Little Wandle.



The link on the left will take you to their parent page which will give you further information on how we teach phonics.

We need your help with reading too. We will invite you to take part in a phonics presentation and reading workshops throughout the year.

Children who read regularly at home make better progress. We can't wait for you to share the reading journey with us. It is such a magical one!

Keep an eye on our Instagram page ChawsonFirstPhonics for regular updates too.



Speech and Language

Our speech and language therapist comes to the school on a weekly basis to assess and support children. Children are identified early through Wellcomm assessments and supported using SEN Teaching Assistants who deliver individual programmes.



Wellbeing Mentor Dog

Bonnie is our school wellbeing mentor dog and spends time with children in the classrooms on a weekly basis and with individual children, supporting to reduce anxiety, boost confidence and enhance wellbeing.

To find out more about her work keep an eye out for updates on the school Facebook page, newsletter and in the curriculum enrichment section of the website.



Attendance

100%	0 days off school	0 lessons missed	Perfect!
97%	Equates to 5 days off school each year	Equates to approx. 25 lessons missed.	Good
95%	Equates to 10 days off school each year	Equates to approx. 50 lessons missed.	Slight concern
90%	Equates to 20 days off school each year	Equates to approx. 100 lessons missed.	Concern
85%	Equates to 30 days off school each year	Equates to approx. 150 lessons missed.	Major concern

Why Attendance Matters

Children who attend school regularly and punctually are more likely to:

- Feel secure and confident in the school environment
- Keep up with the learning and curriculum
- Develop strong social skills
- Build good habits for the future

Legal Requirement

By law, parents and carers are responsible for ensuring their child attends school regularly. Poor attendance can have a long-term impact on your child's learning and wellbeing.

What to Do If Your Child is Absent

If your child is going to be absent, please contact the school office as soon as possible on the day of absence and subsequent days. You can do this by phone or email.

If your child is absent due to illness, please provide details of the symptoms or diagnosis.

If your child is absent due to a medical appointment, we do ask to see confirmation of this.

Requesting Leave During Term Time

If you need to take your child out of school for any reason other than illness (e.g., a family event or travel), you must complete a Leave of Absence Request Form in advance. These forms are available from the school office.

Please be aware:

- The local authority strongly advises against taking children out of school during term time.
- Leave of absence is not automatically authorised and may be refused unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- If a child is taken out of school for 5 consecutive days or more, a penalty notice (fine) may be issued to each parent by the local authority.

Need Help?

If you are struggling with getting your child to school or need support with attendance, please speak to us. We are here to help and can work with you to address any challenges.

Getting Ready for School

New skills take time to learn. Practising these skills at home before they start school will help your child transition more easily and with increased confidence.

Growing independence

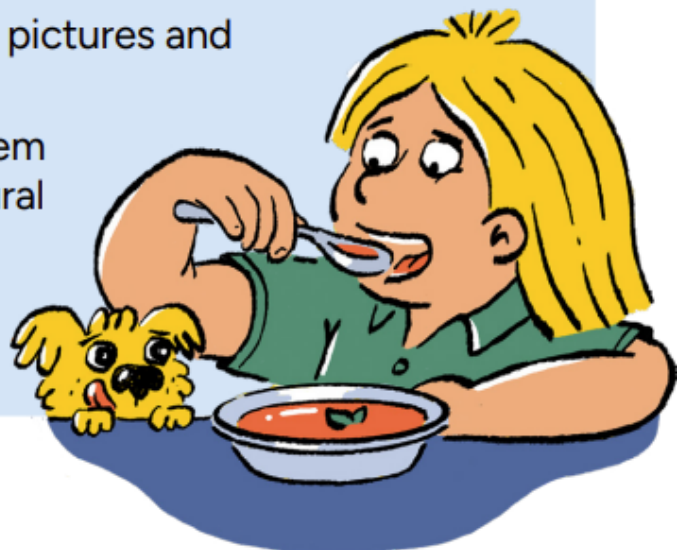


Taking care of themselves

- ✓ Putting on/taking off their coat and shoes
- ✓ Using the toilet and washing their hands
- ✓ Getting dressed with little help, e.g. after using the toilet or doing PE
- ✓ Using cutlery (e.g. fork and spoon, chopsticks) and drinking from an open cup
- ✓ Spending time away from you, learning they can be looked after by caring adults

Play, creativity and curiosity

- ✓ Taking part in imaginative play (e.g. role play)
- ✓ Drawing, painting, colouring and sticking
- ✓ Sharing story books, looking at pictures and talking about the characters
- ✓ Exploring the world around them (e.g. looking closely at the natural world, playing safely with objects at home)



Building relationships and communicating



Being with others

- ✓ Practising sharing and taking turns with toys
- ✓ Talking to them about **how** they are feeling and **why**
- ✓ Looking at story books together and speaking about what characters are feeling is a good way to do this
- ✓ Beginning to recognise what others are feeling, e.g. understanding if a friend is sad
- ✓ Encouraging them to set boundaries for themselves and others (e.g. knowing how to say 'no')

Communication and language

- ✓ Singing along with songs and nursery rhymes
- ✓ Talking happily to others about activities, experiences and the world around them
- ✓ Showing they need help by speaking clearly (in basic English or sign language)
- ✓ Recognising the pattern of their name (so they can find it on their coat peg or jacket)

Listening and engaging

- ✓ Paying attention for short periods of time
- ✓ Listening to and following simple instructions
- ✓ Carrying on with a task even when it's difficult and bouncing back if things go wrong



Physical development

Getting moving for at least three hours a day

- ✓ Walking up and down steps (one foot at a time, using the wall for support)
- ✓ Climbing, running, jumping and playing
- ✓ Catching a large ball (most of the time)
- ✓ Doing simple puzzles and craft activities, strengthening their grip with cutting and sticking



Healthy routines

- ✓ Going to bed around the same time each night, waking up in time to get ready for school
- ✓ Limiting screen time to the recommended daily amounts (see advice)
- ✓ Eating a healthy diet and trying new foods
- ✓ Brushing their teeth with fluoride toothpaste twice a day (you'll need to supervise this until they are at least 7)

