



Wednesday 27th August 2025

Welcome to Reception

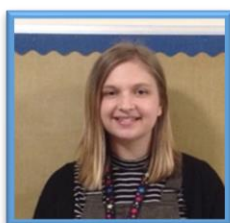


Dear Parents and Carers,

I am so excited to welcome you to Kingstone as your child's begins their school journey with us. I cannot wait to get to know you all. We have some fantastic activities and opportunities planned throughout the year and we will be here to ensure that your child has the best possible start to school.

Below you will find important information about life at school. There is a lot of information, so please take the time to read through it and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Meet the Reception Team



Mrs Perrin

Class Teacher



Miss Payne

Teaching Assistant

Getting in touch:

One of the keys to success as your child moves through school is open and positive contact between home and school. Each morning either myself or Mrs Preece (our Head of School) will greet you and your child at the classroom door. This is quite a busy time of day so there isn't often chance for long conversations, but it is a good opportunity for passing over any messages for that day. We are a very welcoming school and actively encourage collaboration between parents and teachers. We have two Parents' Evenings each year, with the first one in the Autumn Term, before Christmas. However, we are always more than happy to arrange additional face to face meetings if there is something you would like to discuss or ask about. The best way to arrange this is to email me:

pperrin@kingstoneacademy.co.uk. Please also feel free to use this email address if you have a message to pass on.

ParentPay:

You will soon be set up with an account for ParentPay. This is where you will be able to book lunches, pay for school trips and give consent for things such as swimming. Your login details will follow in the coming week – you don't need to do anything at this stage.

Lunches:

Each week, please remember to order and select your child's lunches on Parent Pay. It is important that all children's lunches are ordered, even though they are free for infants. This needs to be done by a Thursday each week. If you would like any help with accessing Parent Pay or ordering lunches, please do not hesitate to ask at the office. You do not need to order lunches for your child's first day and first full week as you are not yet set up on the system. We will confirm your child's menu choices for this period during home visits. If you are unable to have a home visit for any reason but would like to book a hot dinners, please email ktpsadmin@kingstoneacademy.co.uk, and a member of office staff will be able to help you with this.

Morning Snacks:

Children will be provided a healthy morning snack in school as part of the government fruit and veg scheme. We encourage children to try the snack on offer – often when eating with friends they are open to trying things that they often refuse at home. Please ensure your child brings a fresh bottle of water to school each day where we will encourage and monitor regular drinking throughout the day. The bottle should be clearly labelled with your child's name to avoid it getting lost.



Labels:

We do our very best to teach the children to look after their belongings, but please help us by making sure that you label all your child's uniform items, shoes, wellies, and any other belongings with their name. Should you realise that any belonging is missing, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can locate and return it to you.

Toys:

We ask that no toys are sent in to school. We find that toys are easily lost or broken in school and therefore all children are asked to leave their toys at home.

Wellies:

In Reception, we make the most of our wonderful outdoor space and enjoy our Outdoor Learning Day each week. It would be appreciated if you could send your child with a pair of named wellies to keep in school all year, so that we can use the school grounds appropriately. If you do not have a spare pair that can be kept in school, please let us know - we have some spare pairs that we can assign to your child.

PE:

We will begin our PE sessions in Autumn 2 (after October half term). On 'PE day,' children will need to come to school in their PE kit and stay in their kit for the day. More information on this will be included in the Autumn 2 Reception newsletter.



Outdoor Learning:

Our Outdoor Learning Day will be on a Tuesday. This is led by qualified Forest School Leaders, Mrs Morgan and myself. On these days, we spend the whole day outdoors in Forest School exploring nature, experiencing different weathers and learning new skills. Children will need to come into school in their Forest School clothes and stay in these for the day.

PE and Forest School uniforms consists of:

- Plain navy hoodie or school branded hoodie / school jumper / cardigan.
- Plain navy or white t-shirt (we do get a little muddy in Forest School, so navy is best for this!)
- Plain navy or black bottoms - shorts when warm and joggers when cold for PE. Please note that children are always required to wear leggings or joggers during all seasons for Forest School to avoid cuts and stings.
- White, black or navy socks.
- Trainers for PE (any colour is fine), suitable footwear for Forest School (to later change into the wellies kept in school).
- As we move towards Christmas, the colder weather appears. Please ensure that your child wears plenty of layers on Forest School days to prevent them from getting cold.

We pride ourselves on being a school where children dress smartly and are proud to wear their Kingstone uniform. Children are expected to arrive at school dressed smartly and wearing the correct uniform items each day. We have an Eco-rail in school where second-hand uniform can be bought at low prices. If ever you are in need on uniform items, please speak to the office who will be happy to help you source the items you are in need of. Our uniform policy states:

- for safety reasons, jewellery should not be worn at school. Whilst discouraged, small, single, studs may be worn. In this instance, they must be taped up for PE lessons and removed during swimming sessions.
- Make-up and nail polish may not be worn.
- Children should not have hair styles which step away from what the school considers normal styles or natural colours. This includes shaved patterns into hairstyles.

More detailed information can be found in our Uniform Policy on the school website.

Spare Clothes:

Please bring in some spare clothes in a named plastic bag should your child have an accident or get wet. This should include underwear, socks, bottoms (plain black / navy) and a t-shirt (plain navy / white). These clothes do not need to be school uniform, but in order to not bring attention to the child, we ask that they are the school uniform colours. This bag can

remain on your child's peg in school, rather than being brought between home and school each day.



The Importance of Phonics and Reading:

In this first half term, your child will be provided with a Reading folder. To begin with, your child will bring home story books for parents / carers to read, to promote a love of reading. This will be followed by wordless books for children to use their imaginations to make up their own stories related to the pictures, repetition books for you and your child to repeat together, and sound cards of the sounds they have been learning in their phonics sessions.

Please send your child to school with their reading folder every day as books are changed as often as they are needed, and sounds / words will be updated regularly.

In Reception, we do not have formal homework expectations, aside from reading daily at home. We have made this decision to ensure that ample focus can be given to reading and supporting children with their phonics development in this important first year of school. The expectation is that children read daily at home – just 5 minutes is ample!

At Kingstone, Parents are asked to log their child's home reading on a platform called Boom Reader. We check this platform daily in class in order to track the children's engagement and celebrate those that are meeting the expectations of regular home reading. Your child's log in details will be sent home with them in the coming weeks. If you have any trouble accessing your child's account, please let me know.

On Monday 15th September (at 5:30pm), we will be holding a phonics information evening. We strongly encourage parents to attend this as it will give you an insight into how your child will be taught to read and give you some tips and tricks on how to support them with this at home. We will also show you how to use Boom Reader at this event. Reading is such an important skill and encouraging a love for this early on in a child's school career makes a huge difference. More information about this event will follow nearer the time.

Seesaw:

Your child will also have access to a platform called Seesaw; their login will come home with them in the coming weeks. On here, optional homework activities will be posted, should children wish to do some learning at home. This is also a platform where children can upload any other learning they have done, share any out of school achievements or post photos from an exciting trip that they would like to share with school. This platform will also be used for setting work for any children who are away from school for an extended period and require learning to complete from home.

Attendance and Absence:

Good school attendance is paramount in ensuring your child settles well into school and makes good progress in all aspects of school life. If ever your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please inform the school office by 9:00am. When you call the school number, there is an option to report your child as absence. If we are unaware of the reason for a child's absence, we have a statutory duty to contact Parents and Carers to ascertain a reason for the child's absence. If your child requires time off school for a planned absence, please collect a copy of a Leave of Absence form from the school office which will need to be completed ahead of the absence. Please note that there are only a very few, specific

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Head of School: Mrs Amy Preece

reasons why a request for leave of absence can be approved. More information is available in the Attendance Policy which can be found on the school website.

Celebration Assembly:

Every Friday, at 9:00am, we hold a whole school Celebration Assembly. Parents and Carers are welcome to join us for this assembly. Each week two 'Stars of the Week' are chosen from each class. If your child has been chosen, you will receive a text from school the evening before letting you know. We ask that you don't tell your child so that it is a surprise for them in the assembly.

Classes take it in turn during Celebration Assemblies to deliver a showcase of their learning. You will be notified of the dates of the Reception Showcases on the calendar of events document that the admin team will email out.

So that the assembly can be a reflective and celebratory time for both pupils and parents without distractions, we put on a crèche for any younger siblings during the assembly. This is staffed by our wonderful members of support staff.

Please note that Reception do not join the school for Celebration Assembly for the first few weeks whilst they are still getting used to the routine of school. We will let you know when they do.

Reception Topics

The topic titles for this year are:

- Autumn 1 – There's only one me!
- Autumn 2 – Fantastic fossils
- Spring 1 – Superheroes!
- Spring 2 – Beneath my feet
- Summer 1 – The skies above my eyes
- Summer 2 – Rumble in the jungle



During our first topic, 'There's only one me', we will be spending time getting to know each other a little better. We will be focussing on making new friends and will have discussions about our families. Please see the Autumn 1 Topic Web (attached to this email) for further details.

I am really looking forward to sharing your child's first year at school with them. I know we will have a fantastic year, and I can't wait to get to know you all better in the coming weeks and months.

We look forward to welcoming you on Friday 5th September.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Perrin'.

Mrs Perrin