



Meet the Teacher
September 2026

Thank you

- ▶ The children have made a fantastic start to Reception.
- ▶ Thank you for your support.





EYFS Reminders

- ▶ Make sure your child has their PE kit in school with them.
- ▶ Children are allowed to wear stud earrings but no hoops.
- ▶ All children are entitled to a free school meal.
- ▶ Children do not need to bring a snack to school. Fruit, toast and milk is provided.
- ▶ If you choose to send a packed lunch, please make sure it is healthy. Please limit sugary options.
- ▶ No toys from home to come into the setting.
- ▶ Seesaw App.

Supervised toothbrushing

- ▶ The AP Smilestars supervised tooth brushing programme was launched in September 2022 and is being delivered by AP Smilecare on behalf of Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council. Supervised tooth brushing is an evidence-based intervention which helps to prevent tooth decay; develop a healthy habit and improve children's willingness to brush their teeth.



Eating Safely



EATING SAFELY in Early Years

Helping us keep every child safe at mealtimes



At school, we follow current guidance to reduce the risk of choking and to ensure all children can enjoy their meals safely.

When preparing your child's packed lunch, please:

- ✓ Cut grapes, cherry tomatoes and similar round fruits lengthways into quarters.
- ✓ Remove stones, pits and seeds from fruits where appropriate.
- ✓ Cut sausages and other round foods lengthways.
- ✓ Ensure food is prepared in bite-sized pieces suitable for your child's age and stage of development.
- ✓ Include foods your child can manage independently and safely.

✗ WHOLE GRAPES	→	✓ QUARTERED GRAPES
✗ WHOLE CHERRY TOMATOES	→	✓ QUARTERED TOMATOES
✗ WHOLE SAUSAGE	→	✓ CUT LENGTHWAYS THEN CHOPPED
✗ LARGE PIECES	→	✓ SMALL, BITE-SIZED PIECES

PLEASE DO NOT SEND:



Whole grapes



Whole cherry tomatoes



Whole nuts



Hard sweets, boiled sweets or chewing gum



Large chunks of hard fruit or veg that may be difficult to chew



Children are always supervised while eating, but we need your support to help make mealtimes as safe as possible.



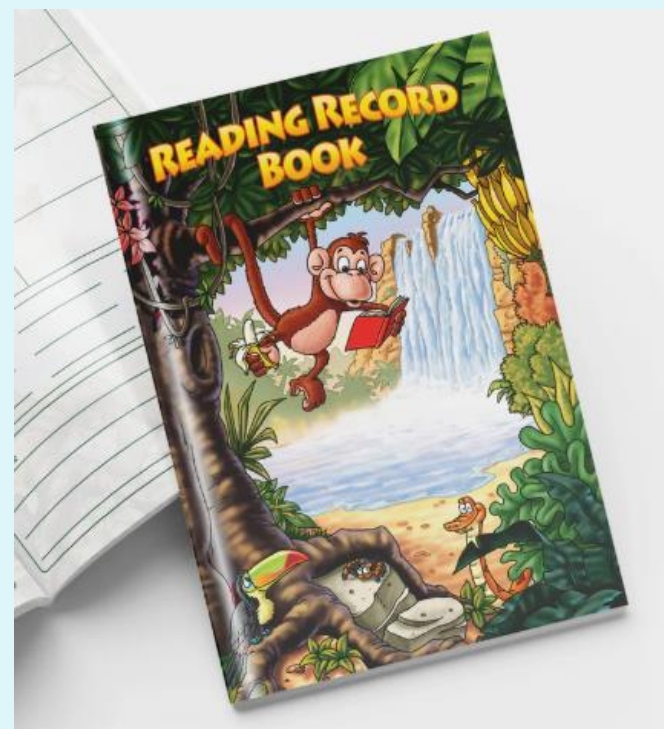
Thank you for working with us to keep all our children safe.

If you are unsure whether a food item is suitable, please speak to a member of staff.



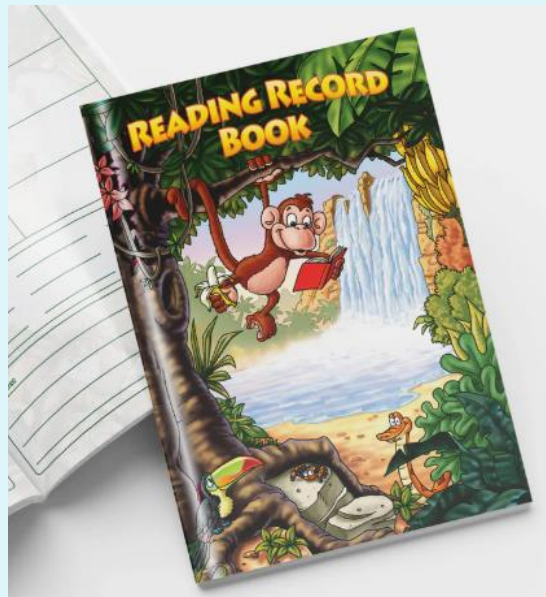
Reading

- ▶ Your child will receive a reading book and reading record. This needs to be in school with them each day.
- ▶ **Please make sure your child looks after and respects the books.**
- ▶ Read together 3 times a week and sign the reading record.
- ▶ Sharing books is incredibly valuable.
- ▶ We will also send home a library book as a reading for pleasure book. This is for you to read to your child.



Helping at home

- ▶ Reading at home 3x a week.



Phonics



There are **26 letters** in the alphabet but there are **44 sounds** and over **100 different ways of spelling them**.

This is why English is one of the most complex languages to learn!

Whole Scheme Sound Mat

a a	e e ea	i i	o o	u u oo o	ai ai ay a_e a	ee ee ea e_e e	igh igh ie i_e y	oa oa ow o_e o	oo oo ue u_e ew
ar ar	or or ore aw al au a	ur ur er ir	ow ow ou	oi oi oy	ear ear eer	air air are ear	ure ure	u_e u_e ue u ew	b b
c c ck k ch	ch ch tch	d d	f f ff ph	g g	h h	j j dge g ge	l l el ll al le il	m m mb	n n gn kn
ng ng	p p	qu qu	r r wr	s s ss c	sh sh ch	t t	th th	th th	v v
w w wh	x x	y y	z z zz s	zh s	tion tion	ture ture			

twinkl phonics

Phonics Terminology



Phoneme	the smallest unit of sound in words
Grapheme	the written representation of a sound
GPC (Grapheme-Phoneme Correspondence)	being able to match a phoneme with the correct grapheme and vice versa
Blending	joining individual speech sounds together to read a word
Segmenting	breaking down words into individual speech sounds to spell a word
Digraph	two letters making one sound e.g. 'sh'
Trigraph	three letters making one sound e.g. 'igh'
Split Digraph	two letters making one sound which are divided by a consonant e.g. the i_e sound in the word 'side'
Tricky/Common Exception Words	words that are not fully decodable such as 'the' and 'was'
Sound buttons	circles or spots that can be written underneath a sound to support reading
Sound bars	lines that can be written underneath digraphs or trigraphs to show that the letters make one sound
Mnemonic	a visual prompt to help children remember a sound



Phase / Level 2 Coverage



Level 2 Coverage

In Level 2, children will learn the first 24 GPCs (19 letters, 4 digraphs and an alternative pronunciation) and the first 5 tricky words for reading.

Teaching Week	GPCs	Tricky Words for Reading
1	s a t p	
2	i n m d	
3	g o c k	
4	c k e u r	to, the
5	h, b, f, l	no, go, l
6	ff, ll, ss, 's' saying /z/	all level 2 tricky words
7	Recap of all Level 2 sounds	all level 2 tricky words

Level 2 Actions and Mnemonics

s  Make a snake's head with your hands and wiggle your body like a snake!	a  Pretend to bite into a crunchy apple.	t  Pretend to stir a teaspoon around a teacup.	p  Make one hand into a puppy's head and pat it with your other hand.	i  Flap your hands like an insect's wings.	n  Make your fist into a nut and tap it.
m  Yummy! Rub your tummy.	d  Pretend to play your drum kit.	g  Pretend to wrap your scarf like Gabi.	o  Pretend to squeeze a juicy orange.	c  Wiggle your finger like a caterpillar.	k  Pretend to spread your hand like a kite and fly it in the air.
ck  Make a duck's beak with your hands and pretend to pick up sticks.	e  Make an egg with one hand and tap it with the other.	u  Make one hand into an umbrella and sprinkle rain on it.	r  Move your arms like a robot.	h  Pretend to open the door of the house.	b  Pretend to throw and catch a ball.
f  Pretend to wave a magic wand.	l  Pretend to lick an ice lolly.	ff  Pretend to switch off the light.	ll  Pretend to ring a bell.	ss  Blow a kiss.	

Every sound has a corresponding action and mnemonic which helps children to remember them. You can support your child by modelling the same sounds and actions at home.

Uniform



Light Blue polo shirt	Light Blue polo shirt
Grey trousers or shorts	Grey skirt or pinafore dress Regulation grey school trousers
Grey or White socks	Grey or White socks or tights
Royal Blue sweatshirt with school logo	Royal Blue sweatshirt/cardigan with school logo
	Blue and White summer dress

P.E

House coloured t-shirt

Royal Blue shorts

Black pumps

Each child has been allocated a house. This is included in the important information sheet.
There is a flyer on where to order the £15 set from.

Children will also require a reading bag and a pump bag. Please do not send rucksacks or large bags due to limited storage facilities.

Please also send a refillable bottle of water in each day.

PE Kit



Each child has been allocated a house.

<https://www.lpes.uk/>

Uniform



<https://www.whittakersschoolwear.co.uk/product-category/blackburn/st-annes-rc-primary/>

Uniform



- ▶ Please practise getting changed and unchanged together.
- ▶ Can you child unfasten their trousers to use the toilet?
- ▶ Can they zip up their own coat and fasten their shoes?
- ▶ Please ensure that names are in **everything**.
- ▶ Send coats every day
- ▶ Sensible black school shoes
- ▶ No jewellery
- ▶ Long hair to be tided back
- ▶ Please don't send any toys into school
- ▶ Please send a water bottle in to school each day





Other matters...

Safeguarding

- ▶ Please let us know if someone different is collecting your child. Each child has a collection password.

Medical

- Any sickness, diarrhoea, must be followed by at least 48 hours absence from the last incidence of vomiting/diarrhoea.
- Please let us know if your child has any medical conditions.
- If your child has asthma, they will need an inhaler with a **care plan** from the GP.
- Head lice are common. Please check regularly and treat as recommended.
- Any absence requires a telephone call to the school office by 9:00am
- If your child requires medicine during the school day we would prefer it if parents came into school to administer it. However, it is school policy, whenever possible; to assist children and parents by administering medicines in school time if a Medication Policy form has been completed and handed to the school office. No medicines of any kind should be sent to school with children unless the school office has been contacted.

Other matters...

- ▶ In case of emergency, this will be used to contact you, so it is very important that you keep it up-to-date. You must contact us with any changes.
- ▶ It is vitally important that we should be informed of any medical conditions which may give rise to difficulties in school. For example: diabetes, epilepsy, heart disorder, rare blood groups, asthma, food allergies etc.

Thank you

- ▶ We look forward to a happy partnership in your child's first year at school and beyond.
- ▶ Useful website: www.stannesblackburn.co.uk
- ▶ Also check out our Facebook page.