

Menston Primary School

Reception 2026 Welcome Evening

19th May 2026



Moorlands
Learning Trust

Reception Teachers for 2026-2027

Miss Lain

Phase Leader
Oak Class teacher



Mrs Hardiman

Acorn Class teacher



Each class also has a teaching assistant.

Reception Teaching Assistants for 2026-2027



Mrs Garbutt



Miss Bunney



Miss Campbell

Reception Ethos



Our ethos in Reception

Our ethos in Reception is to support the children so that they:

- love coming to school
- are cared for by kind, committed and knowledgeable staff
- are able to access an engaging and well-thought-out learning environment
- are kind, respectful and tolerant of all others
- are independent and able to take care of their own needs
- are curious and excited learners who show high levels of involvement
- look after the school environment including our resources
- have a passion for the natural world
- make good or better progress from their starting points
- have a developing awareness of the past and life outside Menston Primary.

School Readiness

School readiness has been a topic of discussion nationally in the last few years as a number of children have been starting school without the basic skills needed to support their independence. A definition of what constitutes school readiness has been agreed on by a number of UK organisations. The definition is found here: <https://startingreception.co.uk>. A handout is included in your pack and on the slides following.

If you have any concerns about your child regarding school readiness, talk to Mrs Gilmour, our SENDCo at Menston Primary.

I Am Independent: School Readiness Checklist for Children

I can...

Colour in the happy face when you can do this.

...fasten my shoes.



...do up my coat.



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
- Counting, building and doing puzzles
- Sharing story books with caregivers, looking at pictures and talking about the characters
- Exploring the world around them (e.g. looking closely at the natural world, noticing numbers, patterns and shapes, 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)

What should I do if I have concerns about my child's development?

- If you're worried about your child's progress, talk to your childminder/nursery/pre-school team, health visitor, local children's centre or Family Hub.
- If your child has developmental delays or SEND (suspected or confirmed), speak to their nursery, childminder, or health visitor/nursery/pre-school team well before they start Reception and discuss their needs when you are selecting schools.
- You can work with your child's early years setting to help your child with self-care, managing emotions, social skills and communication in a way that suits their stage of development.
- You might want to share details about: their development, needs, what motivates them, what might trigger difficulties, how they learn best, and what strategies work well.
- Make sure you share important information with everyone supporting your child, including their new Reception teacher.

Resources for families with additional needs:

There are many organisations who can support you with information and strategies to prepare you, your child and their educational setting, ensuring a smooth transition and setting them up for future success.

These include:

- [Family Lives](#)
- [Speech and Language UK](#)
- [Dingley's Promise](#)
- [KIDS](#)



If you would like to book an assessment or have any concerns about the development of your child(ren), please contact us on **01274 221203**.

Dates and Times of Clinics:

DATE	TIME	HUB	DATE	TIME	HUB
Friday 1st May:	9.30-1pm 1-4.30pm	Barkerend Farcliffe	Weds 15th July	9.30-4pm	Gateway
Friday 8th May:	9.30-1pm 1-4.30pm	TFD Gateway	Thurs 23rd July	9.30-4pm	Reevy
Tues 12th May:	9:15-12:45 1-4.30pm	ShIPLEY Lib Farcliffe	Tues 28th July	9.30-4pm	Rainbow
Thurs 21st May:	9.30-1pm 1-4.30pm	Reevy Rainbow	Weds 5th Aug	9.30-4pm	Farcliffe
Thurs 28th May:	9.30-1pm 1-4.30pm	Farcliffe Barkerend	Thurs 13th Aug	9.30-4pm	ShIPLEY Lib
Tues 2nd June:	9.30-1pm 1-4.30pm	TFD Gateway	Weds 19th Aug	9.30-4pm	TFD
Friday 12th June:	9:15-12:45 1-4.30pm	ShIPLEY Lib Farcliffe	Weds 26th Aug	9.30-4pm	Barkerend

Yours sincerely,

BDCFT School Nursing Team



Developing School Readiness

We do not expect children to be able to write their own name before they start school. However, if they are interested, please do not teach them to write their name all in capitals because children can find it difficult to move to lowercase letters later on.

Encourage all aspects of mark making (such as painting, chalking, colouring).

Support gross motor skills development by going to the park, playing outside, walking and running, climbing and scooting.

Support fine motor skills development with Playdoh, jigsaws, games and construction.

Give your child the opportunity to learn how it feels when things do not go their way. For example, develop resilience and turn taking by playing board games and card games such as Snap.

Support mathematical learning by counting out items, cooking, and using everyday language such as talking about time and prepositions (e.g. on top, underneath).

Develop listening and attention skills by sharing books together every day.

Use every opportunity to engage in two-way conversations to support spoken skills and understanding.

Limit access to electronic devices. The World Health Organisation recommends screen time of no more than an hour a day for this age group.



Our Favourite Picture Books About Starting School

There are plenty of other things you also might want to do with your child to support their transition, such as taking about Menston Primary and sharing the PowerPoints about our school, dressing up in the uniform and playing at schools, making new friends in advance of starting and learning how to recognise their own name.

Children develop at varying rates and staff are always mindful of individual needs. If you have any concerns about your child whatsoever please do not hesitate to contact us.

If you would like to learn more about how to get your child ready for school, there is more information here:

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/starting-school/getting-ready-for-primary-school/>

Top tips to get your child ready for starting at Menston Primary School!



Starting school is an exciting time for some children. Other children may be feeling a little apprehensive. We work hard at Menston Primary to make your child's transition as smooth as possible and there are many ways you can support this change too.

Some might think that it is vital for a child to be able to write their name before starting school. In fact, there are other things which are much important. A child who is resilient, independent in all their needs and able to talk about their feelings will settle quickly into school life.

Here are some great ways you can help your child prepare for school.



Speech

Speaking skills are very important in school. Through speech, children can communicate their thoughts and needs, develop relationships and grow in confidence. Speaking is central to children's learning and to literacy in particular.

Children can struggle with speech for many different reasons. It can be difficult to know what is typical for a child. Parents may understand that their child is saying but others might struggle. Children may have clear diction but find it difficult to link ideas together or follow a conversation.

Seeking support early for speech and language needs is hugely beneficial for a child. If you have **any** concerns about your child's speech, talk to your child's current setting, the teachers in school or Mrs Gilmour.

Parents of children up to six years old can self-refer to Airedale Speech and Language Service on 01535 292821. There is a waiting list so please contact services now if you think that your child needs support in this area.

For more information of what language development at different ages looks like is available here:
<https://speechandlanguage.org.uk/help-for-families/ages-and-stages>

Practicalities

Menston
Primary School



Starting School
Information Handbook
Summer 2026

Information about school routines can be found in the Starting School Information Pack. Please also note:

- Every day, your child needs to bring a **named** waterproof hooded coat, a named water bottle and their school reading book.
- They do not need to bring pencils or paper.
- If your child is too ill to attend school, you need to call school by 8.30am on the first day of their illness, and keep school updated as appropriate.
- Requests for term-time holidays cannot be authorised.
- Some families are eligible for Pupil Premium funding. Please talk to Mrs Smitheringale in the office if you think this may apply to your family.
- Treat immediately any headlice found and inform school. Check your child's head regularly for head lice.
- Menston Primary uses Medical Tracker to notify parents of injuries incurred in school. If your child receives first aid treatment you will be notified by email with details of the injury/accident. If it is serious or a member of staff feels it is important to discuss it you will also receive a phone call.

Arbor and Forms

Menston Primary uses the management information system Arbor to store information about the children. You will need to download the Arbor app, add a minimum of three emergency contacts to your child's record and input any medical/dietary needs or requirements. It is parents' responsibility to keep their child's Arbor record updated, and also to inform school directly about any significant changes (e.g. to medical needs). On Arbor you will be asked to agree to or decline a number of consents (e.g. to your child receiving first aid, attending local school trips and having their photograph in the school newsletter).

Your pack has several paper forms that need completing and returning to school. Thank you for your support with this.

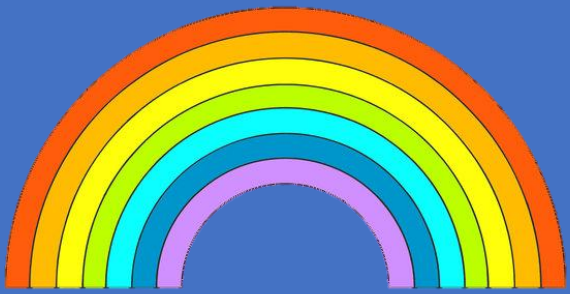


Tapestry

The children in Reception have online learning journeys using Tapestry software. You are asked to complete a Tapestry form to provide consent. Tapestry enables parents to see what children are doing in school. Staff load photographs and videos to showcase learning. Photographs are typically of whole class activities. Parents are also encouraged to load photographs of their child displaying their learning at home that can be shared with their teacher and sometimes the rest of the class.

Please note that we do not continue Tapestry accounts from other settings.





Positive Behaviour



Always rules!

ready, respectful,
safe



Kind hands, kind feet, kind words.



The Reception rules are 'kind hands, kind feet, kind words'. Children also learn the whole school rules, 'ready, respectful, safe'. Behaviour is supported through verbal feedback, certificates, stickers and a rainbow system.



























School Milk, Snack and Meals

Reception children are entitled to free lunches and a daily fruit snack. Milk is free until the week children turn five and then parents can choose to pay for it via <https://www.coolmilk.com>. There is be a form to complete that gives consent for children to have milk in school.

There is a three week rotating menu of school meals that includes hot and cold options, vegetarian and Halal food. The school kitchen caters for specific food requirements. Make sure your child's Arbor record contains information on your child's medical/dietary needs. You may be asked to fill in additional paperwork for the caterers before your child starts school.

Packed lunches must **NOT** include food containing sesame seeds, nuts, fizzy drinks, sweets or chocolate.

School Meals


	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main Meal  OPTION 1 OPTION 2	Margherita pizza & oven baked wedges 	Mixed bean bolognaise with penne pasta   	Vegetable sausages with roast potatoes & gravy 	Pea-powered vegetable stir fry with carrot rice  	Vegetable nuggets, chips & tomato ketchup 
	Pepperoni pizza & oven baked wedges	Beef & lentil bolognaise with penne pasta  	Roast gammon with roast potatoes & gravy	Creamy coconut chicken & chickpea curry with carrot rice  	Fish fingers, chips & tomato ketchup
Veggies 	Broccoli 	Carrots & peas 	Carrot & cabbage 	Broccoli & Cauliflower 	Baked Beans 
Sandwiches 	Ham Cheese Tuna mayo	Ham Cheese Tuna mayo	Ham Cheese Tuna mayo	Ham Cheese Tuna mayo	Cheese Tuna mayo
Sweet Treats 	Lemon shortbread biscuit 	Chocolate & banana brownie sponge 	Apple Strudel & Custard 	Baked apple & cinnamon sponge 	Chocolate Shortbread 


Available Every Day – Crunchy colourful Salad Bar & Jacket Potatoes with Cheese, Beans, Tuna Mayonnaise & Cheese & Beans



KEY

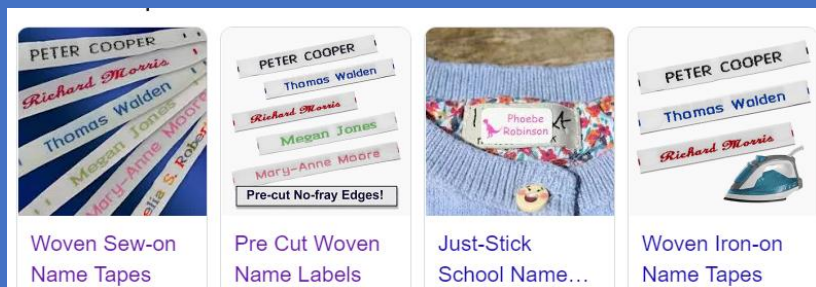
Wholegrain  Vegetarian 

Nutritionist's Choice 

Vegan 

Uniform

Name **everything**, including shoes and water bottles.



Please support our fundraising initiative by ordering name labels from [Stikins](#). Quote our Fundraising Number: **13253** and we will earn 30% commission on orders



For details about our school uniform please see:

<https://menstonprimary.co.uk/parents/school-uniform/>

Uniform can be purchased from several suppliers and also our PTA, who sells second hand clothing. Reception children will also need a pair of named wellies that are left in school for the year.

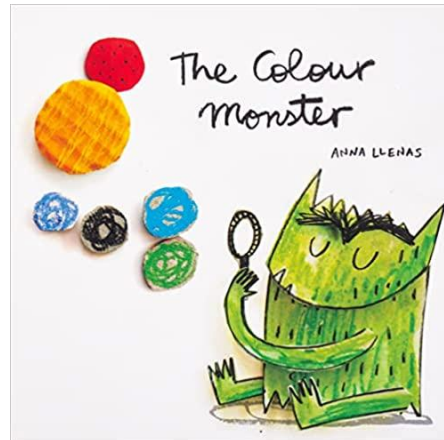
On days when the children do PE they will be asked to come to school already in their PE kit.

The Curriculum

Reception Stage Curriculum (0-5 years)

Communication and Language
Personal, social and emotional development
Physical Development
Expressive Arts and Design
Literacy
Mathematics
Understanding the World

Religious Education



Children follow the Early Years Reception Stage Curriculum. They learn through adult inputs, adult-led activities, play, following their own interests and from peers. More information about how we teach in Reception will be available at the Curriculum Evening on 15th September.

There will also be three morning workshops over the year, on phonics, writing and maths. At these, parents are invited to a presentation and then will have time to spend with their child in class.

A Typical Day in Reception

A Typical Reception Day in the Autumn Term

There is no typical day in Reception. Each one is different and interesting. How a day looks will vary between children and timetables change over the year as learning progresses. However, here is a snapshot of how a day might look during the autumn term:

- 8.45am: Fine motor skills carousel
- 9am: Register then whole class literacy session
- 9.20am: Children learning in provision where they can choose to go outside or into the other classroom. They can read, build, craft, draw, play games, or access any resources. Children may be asked to do literacy and numeracy tasks or read to an adult during this time.
- 10.50am: Tidy up
- 11.00am: Whole class phonics
- 11.25am: Handwashing
- 11.30am: Eating lunch
- 11.55am: Lunchtime play outside with KS1
- 12.30pm: Register followed by whole class maths lesson
- 12.50pm: Children choosing their learning in provision
- 2.40pm: Tidy up
- 2.50pm: Story time

Over the week children will also have timetabled PE, PSED, RE and yoga lessons.

Care Club

Reception staff work very closely with staff in the school's before and after school club, Care Club. Reception children attend a settling-in session at Care Club during the school day before they start there.

Registrations for September must be fully completed (including a refundable deposit) by **31st May**.

Care Club Manager, Michelle Emsley, 01943 883927

Year 6 Buddies

Every Reception child will have their own Year 6 buddy, who they will spend time with during their first year in school.



Who are we?



The Friends of Menston Primary School (FoMPS) are our school PTA who support the school in two ways:

- developing effective relationships between staff, parents and others
- engaging in activities and providing facilities or equipment which support the school and advance the education of the pupils



What do we do?

1. Put on events for families and parents/carers:

- Christmas fair as part of the village Christmas Light Switch On
- WoMP ladies' walk
- YOMP men's walk
- Summer fair

2. Support school events and projects:

- Providing bookbags for new starters and leavers' books for year 6 pupils
- Donating Easter eggs for every pupil at the school Easter hunts
- Serving refreshments at school sports days
- Running our pre-loved uniform shop
- Buying a new school flag for cross country and other external school events





What do we do?

3. Raise funds for the school:

- Last year (2024-25) we raised nearly £6,000 to support the school
- In 2023-24 we raised just over £12,000



4. Fund projects across school – in the past 3 years we have funded:

- Pond refurbishment
- myHappyMind programme to support the mental wellbeing of pupils
- School mural and KS2 quiet area seating
- Raised bed planters for KS1
- Additional learning spaces for children outside of classrooms (part-funded alongside school)
- Book houses in the playgrounds



How can you help?



- Join the committee
- Volunteer to help with an event
- Donate towards an event (bake cakes, give tombola prizes, buy raffle tickets)
- Come along to support our events with your family

Keep an eye on the school newsletter and the FoMPS Facebook page to hear more about upcoming events.

Get in touch anytime by e-mailing **fompsinfo@gmail.com**



SAVE THE DATE!

SUMMER FAIR!

SATURDAY 11TH JULY

12:00 – 3:00 PM

★ **FUN & GAMES**

★ **STALLS**

★ **REFRESHMENTS**

★ **AND MORE!**

What happens next?

We understand the importance of a strong transition offer and there are a number of transition events for you and your child to enjoy.

Doorstep Visit: You are asked to complete a form in your pack to indicate when you are available to receive a visit. The visit will be conducted on your doorstep, rather than inside, and they are a lovely way for children to get to know their new teacher.

Phone Calls: The teachers have a day set aside to make short phone calls to new parents. There will be a list of set questions regarding school readiness and children's interests but the phone calls also provide an opportunity to talk in confidence about anything you wish to share or to ask questions.

Visits into School: All children are invited to a story time and a stay and play session with a parent/carer before the end of term. If a parent is not available then another family member is welcome to bring your child. Preschool, Railway Children and sometimes other childcare providers also bring children in for a visit during a normal school day.

School Fair: There will be a special event in the school grounds aimed at new starter children and their adults during the summer fair.

We appreciate that people have work and other commitments. If you have any problems regarding dates/times, do not hesitate to contact us.

Class Allocation

We talk to all nurseries, childminders and preschools before allocating children to classes. We take into account feedback given to us by them, but we are not always able to follow the suggestions they make. We work hard to balance classes so there are roughly the same number of boys and girls, an equal distribution of ages, not more than one child with the same or similar names in one class if possible and taking into account any SEND needs we have been informed about.

We know that some children start school with pre-existing friends, but we are unable to apportion classes based on parental request relating to friendships. Children have a class base where they have carpet time learning sessions with their own teacher, but for large parts of the day they can access either class and the outdoor area. This means that your child will continue to be able to spend time with any friends they have made before starting school regardless of the class they are in. Your child will also quickly make many new friends.

The Reception classes run very much as a unit. The children quickly become familiar with all staff within the unit and the staff know how to support individual next steps.

You will find out who your child's teacher will be before your doorstep visit. We will not make any changes to class allocation once the class lists have been distributed.

Key Dates

w/c 15th June and w/c 22nd June: Teacher doorstep visits

Tuesday 30th June (new date): Teacher/Parent telephone appointments

Thursday 2nd July or Monday 6th July: Join in with a class story and song time, 2.30-3pm.

Tuesday 7th July: Stay and play with parent/carer, 9.15-10am *or* 10.15-11am.

Saturday 11th July: Treasure hunt around the school grounds (during school fair), 12-3pm.

Wednesday 2nd September to Friday 4th September: Children attend school 8.35-11.15am or 12.35- 3.15pm. (You will be told in June which sessions your child is to attend.)

Monday 7th to Wednesday 9th September: All children attend 8.35am to 1.15pm (including lunch).

Thursday 10th and Friday 11th September: All children attend full-time, 8.35am-3.15pm.

Tuesday 15th September at 6pm: Reception Curriculum Evening (documentation and website information will be available for anyone unable to attend).

Tuesday 29th September: Phonics workshop (presentation and time in class), 9-10am.

Useful Websites

Menston Primary School: www.menstonprimary.co.uk

Menston Primary X: <https://twitter.com/menstonprimary?lang=en>

BBC Bitesize Starting Primary School: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/groups/cx1lpm3ve37t>

Starting Reception: <https://startingreception.co.uk>

Oxford Owl Guide to Starting School: <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/starting-school/>

Parentkind's Be School Ready Guide: <https://www.parentkind.org.uk/assets/membership-assets/Be-School-Ready-2024-guide-primary-school.pdf>

Moorlands Learning Trust: <https://moorlandslearningtrust.co.uk>

This is what our children say about Menston Primary.

I love reading the books.

I love this school. It is amazing!

I like the oak tree.

I like the school crow.

We like learning about plants.

I like learning numbers with Numberblocks.

It is a good school.

School is fun, there are lots of things to do.

I loved the school trip.

I love the teachers.

I like playing with other people.

And this is what they want to tell your children!

I can't wait to see you in school.

I like school, you will like school too.

If you are stuck I will help you.

You could play with me at lunchtime play.

You will have lots of fun.

You would fit in with this school.

School is the best place to learn.

School is lovely!

You can make new friends.

School is exciting.

It's the best school.