



2026

Welcome to Reception



A Parent's Guide

Penketh South Primary
School and Nursey

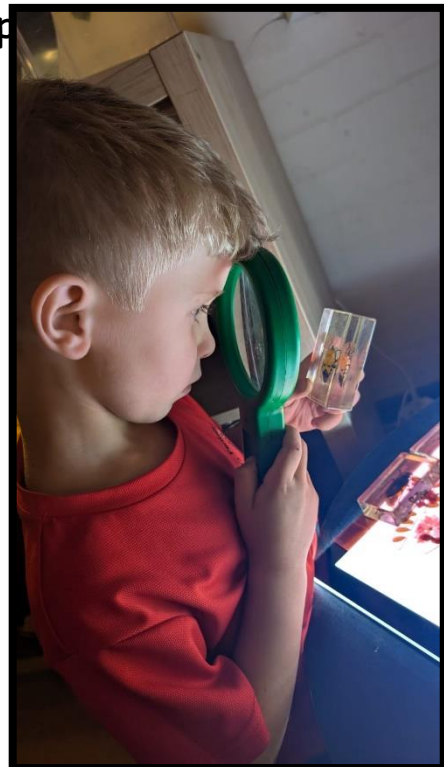
Welcome to Penketh South Primary School + Nursery

Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome to Penketh South Primary School's Foundation Stage department. We are looking forward to meeting you and your child and hope that they are looking forward to joining our Reception class.

Our Reception classroom has been purpose built to enable us to provide the best possible start for your child. The spacious room is equipped with furniture specifically designed for Early Years education. It opens on to an outdoor area that enables your child to safely access indoor and outdoor provision. The class also has its own facilities including toilets, cloakrooms and a separate entrance.

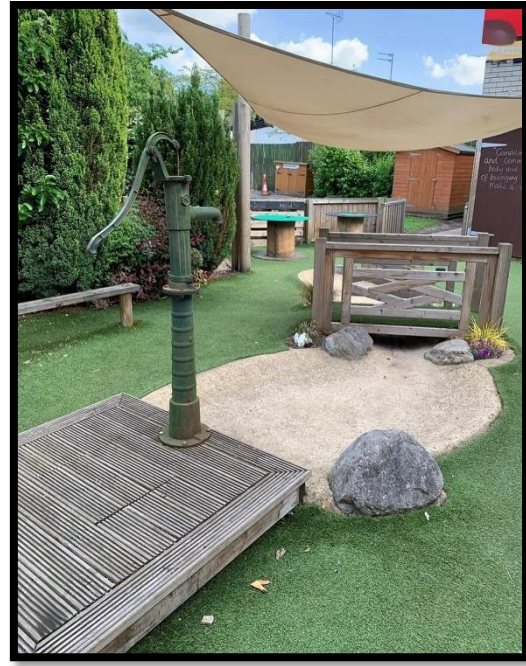
This booklet is intended to give you some information about Reception at Penketh South Primary School and hopefully answer many of your questions. Our aim is to make the transition for our new pupils as trouble-free as possible.



Inside the EYFS department



Outside the EYFS department





Our aim

In Early Years at Penketh South, we aim to provide a safe, secure and stimulating environment where all children, families and staff feel valued, empowered and happy to grow and learn together. Children actively learn through play, skilfully supported and challenged by practitioners who develop confident communicators and inspire imaginations through children's natural interests.

We firmly believe that a child learns best through child-initiated play where they can build important life skills such as curiosity, concentration, creativity, problem solving, use of their imagination, persistence and resilience through purposeful play experiences. We follow the child's lead and recognise each child's different starting points, planning carefully to help each child meet their next steps in learning to ensure that they meet their full potential.



How can you help your child before they start school?

- Can he/she talk to you about what they like doing, where they have been, what they have found?
- Talk to your children when you are reading stories - do they understand the vocabulary?
- Can your child recognise their name?
- Can he/she manage going to the toilet, dressing him/herself with only a little help and washing their own hands?
- Does he/she understand some simple rules of behaviour?

What kind of activities could I do with my child to prepare them for starting school?

- Share this booklet and the photos with your child and be positive with your child about starting school.
- Drive or walk past the school.
- Buy the school uniform and allow your child to practise putting it on.
- Read stories and enjoy books with your child, regularly. Talk about interesting words and events in the story and explain anything they might not understand. Ask them to tell you about the story afterwards to check their understanding.
- Count objects with your child and ask them how many they have got.
- Talk with your child and ask others they encounter, to talk to them too about what they have been doing or places they have been.
- Singing Nursery Rhymes and say poems that rhyme and talk about the rhyming words.
- Talk about the sounds they can hear in words and make collections of items starting with the same sound eg cup, cat, crayon, car
- Allow your child to practise dressing and undressing themselves. Show them how to turn clothes the right way around.
- Encourage them to put their coat on and fasten it up independently.

Starting School at Penketh South

What will my child learn at school?

- On entry to school the children will be assessed using task based National Baseline Assessment. Pupils will also be assessed in their speech and language using Wellcomm. This is a program that assesses the children's understanding of language as well as judging their spoken language. The children in Reception will follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.
- The children will be taught phonics using a scheme called Supersonic Phonic Friends.



- The children will take part in Drawing Club sessions, Book talk and daily Maths lessons.
- The children will have weekly forest school sessions in our purpose built EYFS forest school
- The children will have weekly PE lessons.

What happens if my child has a medical need, needs first aid or is ill?



- Please make sure we are aware of any medical needs, including food allergies your child has. We will ask you to fill in additional forms before their Transition visits.
- If your child has been treated by a First Aider you will receive a medical form.
- If your child has had a more significant accident such as a raised bump, we will ask you to come and collect your child. If, in the unlikely event of a more serious accident we will act in loco parentis and inform you immediately.
- If your child is off sick we ask that you please notify the school as soon as possible on the first day of absence of your child. This can be done by telephoning the office and leaving a message on the selected option on the answer phone (before 8:30) or speaking to a member of the office staff after 8:30am.
- Please note that in, accordance with Local Authority guidelines, all holiday absence is now treated as unauthorised absence and will be recorded as such.
- Sickness and Diarrhoea, we follow the NHS guidance which states for the child to stay off school for 48 hours after the last sickness.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/diarrhoea-and-vomiting/>

What will my child eat and drink whilst they are at school?

- Your child will be offered free Milk and a snack provided by school in the morning - This will be charged at £1.50 per week.
- In the afternoon children will be offered water and fruit each day
- Water Bottles - your child can bring a water bottle to school. Please make sure it is labelled with their name and it **ONLY** contains water.
- Your child is entitled to a free school lunch. Teachers and teaching assistants will encourage the child to try their food. We will support the children and will let you know of any concerns.
- If you would like your child to have a home prepared packed lunch, please make sure the packed lunch has your child's name on the outside on the box/bag. All items must be **nut free** due to allergies across school
- The children will have approximately 30 minutes to eat their lunch and then time to play outside in the EYFS outdoor area.



How can I help my child with their uniform?

- Let your child practise putting their coat on and taking it off, including zipping/fastening it up. Show him/her what to do if it is inside out.
- Please make sure your child's name is in everything and they recognise their name label and where it is located.
- Trousers with elastic are easier than clasps for younger children.
- Your child will need a sensible coat EVERYDAY along with a pair of wellies to keep in school - clearly named.
- Allow your child to practise putting on their uniform.
- Shoes with a velcro fastening are easier for the children to fasten and unfasten themselves. No laces to be worn unless your child can fasten them independently.
- One small book bag is all that will be permitted inside the classroom due to space constraints.
- On PE days, children will come to school dressed in their PE kit. They will not need uniform this day.
- Please make sure all uniform and belongings are clearly labelled with your child's name.

How does the communication between school and home work ?

- Once your child starts school they will receive a Reading Diary/planner. This planner will be used to record the child's reading and for you to pass on any messages to your child's class teacher. They will be looked at each day.
- Once your child starts you will receive a log in to Google Classroom. Weekly updates will be posted on here and will list the learning that has taken place that week and photographs of the children.
- Facebook will also be updated weekly with photographs.
- Please inform the school office if there is a change in your phone/mobile numbers so that our records can be kept up to date and we can contact you if we need to during the day.
- You will receive notification as to how to register with Arbor once your child starts school. This will allow you receive information and letters via an App on your phone and to also book Parents' Evening appointments.

Drop off and Collection of Children

If someone other than yourself (parent/guardian) or an authorised person is collecting your child, please inform a member of staff. The children's safety is our main concern so your full cooperation is requested in this matter. We will meet your children at the gate to the EYFS playground and accompany them into class. We ask that the parents/carers stay on the main school playground.

How do I keep in contact with school once my child has started?

Teacher or TA will be available briefly at the start and end of the day for relaying of quick messages. Teachers may ask you to email the school office to request a phone call.

Email or phone the school office and they will pass on a message.

Your child will be given a School Planner to record your child reading and this can also be used to pass on messages to the teachers as they will be checked each day.

Parents' Evenings are held three times per year - October, February and July and reports once per year - July.

You will receive emails from school, including newsletters, letters and information via Arbor

Parking

Side roads to the school grounds get very congested at school opening and closing times. Parents are asked not to park in the school grounds and the barrier is down to prevent parents from driving in at the start and end of the school day. Our concern is for the safety of our children. There are also official parking restrictions in force in Finlay Avenue and Ditchfield Road. Please park considerately and safely. We would always advise that you park away from the school and walk.



Our Forest School



What is Forest School?

Forest School provides ALL learners regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in woodland or a natural environment with trees. At the bottom of our field we have a Forest School where our children spend time each week, learning to appreciate the natural world, as well as building on their:

- Communication skills
- Social skills
- Independence
- Self-esteem
- Resilience
- Personal responsibility
- Autonomy and motivation
- Personal knowledge
- Respect and care for our environment.

The approach here at Penketh South is learner-led, play-centred aim to:

- Provide ways for meeting Foundation Stage/National Curriculum learning objectives whilst developing practical life skills
- Offer a practical approach to learning and achieve a greater level of success in an outdoor environment
- Provide additional physical, social and health benefits for children who lead an 'indoor life'
- Increase children's confidence in:
 1. Their own natural environment allowing them to obtain a greater understanding about environment issues
 2. Decision making and evaluating risk.
- Motivate those children who struggle with learning in a classroom environment
- Promote a 'love of the outdoors'
- Develop personal and social skills
- Work through practical problems and challenges
- Use tools to create, build or manage
- Discover how children learn best
- Help children to learn how to manage failures.



There is no such thing as bad weather - just bad clothing!

- The idea is that if appropriate clothing is provided, all children can enjoy the Forest School experience in all weathers.
- We ask that on Forest school days the children wear old clothes that can get dirty, wet and muddy. Long sleeve tops are essential to protect from both the elements and also bites.
- We also ask that children wear long trousers/jeans.
- They will need a pair of wellie boots or (even better) decent walking boots as wellies don't protect feet from getting very cold! These should be labelled with their name and are to be kept in school.
- Warm socks are also essential please.
- They will also need waterproof clothing that should be clearly labelled.
- This will need to be brought to school on forest school days.

Contact Information

Contact details for Penketh South Primary School are as follows:

School phone number - (01925) 726558

Email - Mrs Jepsen or Ms Shaw, our Office Administrators at office@penkethsouth.tcat.uk.com

Website: <https://www.penkethsouthcp.co.uk/>

