

A place where children are inspired by a love of learning and motivated to achieve their dreams

**Achieve\* Inspire\* Motivate\***



# Starting Reception

**Brierwood**

**Tongue Moor**

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## **About Reception:**

The Early Years Foundation Stage at Tonge Moor covers a child's time in Nursery and Reception. We have enthusiastic and dedicated staff who are fully qualified and experienced. We work closely as a team to provide a smooth transition as children progress from Nursery to the Reception classes. As the year advances children will be supported as they move on from the Early Years Foundation Stage ready to start in Key Stage 1.

There are two Reception classes in our large unit. The children have continual access to all areas in their own classroom, the shared area and the outdoor area.

The children in Reception continue to learn through play. Play is a child's work and through this children develop the attitudes and skills to prepare them for different stages. Our aim is to create a happy and stimulating atmosphere.

## **Classroom Organisation:**

Children in Reception will have access to a wide range of areas, both indoors and outdoors, to support their learning. This is known as Continuous Provision. These areas are set up in response to observations carried out, carefully linking children's interests and next steps with objectives from the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Areas of Continuous Provision include:

Role Play Area	Construction Area
Creative Area	Malleable Area
Reading/Cosy Area	Investigation Area
Small World Area	Snack Area

All of these areas play a vital part in encouraging children to be independent, confident learners and will be adapted and enhanced in response to the children and their next steps/needs. Reading, Writing and Mathematics are specific areas of the curriculum and will be targeted through all areas of continuous provision.

Outdoor learning is a fantastic way to allow children to access the curriculum, encouraging them to explore and be curious about the world around them. Our outdoor area is an extension of the classroom and will be accessed continuously. In addition to this, Reception children still go into the main school playground for lunch breaks. This is a great opportunity for them to build on social skills with peers in other year groups.



## **Early Years Foundation Stage:**

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is how the Government and Early Years professionals describe the time in your child's life between birth and age 5. **This is an especially important stage as it helps your child get ready for school as well as preparing them for their future learning and successes.**

The EYFS Framework exists to support all professionals working in the EYFS to help your child and was developed by several Early Years experts and parents. In 2012 the framework was revised to make it clearer and easier to use, with more focus on the things that matter most. This new framework also has a greater emphasis on your role in helping your child develop. This document has again been revised and a new format will become statutory in September 2021. Parents will be kept up to date with the document used we will always encourage strong partnerships between school and home to help children to grow in confidence and progress.

Play is at the centre of the Early Years Curriculum. It is a child's work, and we recognise that children learn best when given the time and space to explore through first-hand experiences. Our Nursery staff work together as a team and plan for children's learning and development ensuring that all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum are covered within an interesting, stimulating, and supportive environment. The children are taught directly and have a choice of planned activities so that they can develop independent learning habits.



The EYFS Framework explains how and what your child will be learning to support their healthy development. Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge, and demonstrating their understanding through seven **Areas of Learning and Development**. These are:

<b>Prime Areas</b>	<b>Specific Areas</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Personal, Social &amp; Emotional Development</li><li>- Communication &amp; Language</li><li>- Physical Development</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Literacy</li><li>- Mathematics</li><li>- Understanding of the World</li><li>- Expressive Arts &amp; Design</li></ul>



## **'Learning Journeys' - Keeping You Informed:**

Children are observed at play throughout the year. Information is gathered using an app called 'Tapestry', which helps to inform assessments and reporting. Parents are invited to sign up to this, allowing them to stay up to date with, and add to, their child's learning journey.

Your child's Learning Journey celebrates his or her experiences. Over time it will tell a story about your child, his or her learning, friends, and experiences he or she enjoys with others. We really value parents and carers taking part in the creation of these unique Learning Journeys. We welcome you to share them with your child, talking about special experiences and achievements, adding family photographs and other things of personal significance. Please feel free to join us in watching out for and noting new things. So much happens so quickly! We look forward to sharing the pleasure and excitement of your child's learning.

Staff watch and notice each child at play because it helps us to understand and support their individual well-being and development. The more that we understand your child's interests and preferred learning styles, the more we can support them in a way that is right for them.

## **Key Person/Talking to Staff:**

In line with the EYFS Statutory Framework, every child is assigned a key person to help them feel settled as they become more familiar with the Reception. The children spend some time with their key person each day, usually at circle time, when we encourage small group conversation, explore interests, listen to stories, and learn new skills.

If you are worried about something or need to speak to someone you can speak to a member of staff when dropping off or collecting your child and we will do our best to see you straight away. If we cannot see you immediately, we will make an appointment to see you as soon as possible.





## **Bringing your child to school:**

At 8.45am, the children enter school through the Brierwood gate entrance. A member of the Reception team will greet your child each morning, guiding them through the entrance and to their classroom.

Children enter the classroom, follow our hygiene routine, and put their coat and bag away. Staff will be there to support where necessary. Registration then takes place, before children take part in a phonic session. This is vital time, and all children should arrive promptly for the start of each session.

It is so important to encourage good attendance and punctuality now because it develops good habits for a lifetime. If you have any difficulties with this, Mrs O'Brien, our Attendance Officer in school is available to help. Just ask the Reception staff or contact the school office to arrange to speak to her.

## **Collecting your child from Reception:**

Children in Reception are collected from the Brierwood gate, at 3.05pm. Please wait in the queue and the Early Years Team will guide the children out, releasing them one by one.

Anyone bringing or collecting your child from school must be 16 years of age at least. When completing the admission forms, you will be asked to provide a password in case someone other than the regular named persons need to collect your child. If this is the case, you will still need to ring and inform school that we are to expect someone different. **If somebody unknown comes and they cannot provide the recorded password, then they will not be allowed to collect your child.**

## **After School Care:**

We have after school care at Tonge Moor Primary Academy. This is term time only until 6.00pm, Monday – Friday.

### **Cost**

3.15 - 6.00pm                    **£7.00**

*Includes an after school snack (sandwiches, fruit, biscuit/cake)*

*One off sessions are charged at **£10.00***

**Please Note: There is a reduced rate for siblings; £5.00 if registered or £7.00 per 'one off session'.**

*Please see the school office for more information or for a registration form.*



### **Half Termly Newsletter:**

We publish a half termly newsletter. This contains important information about school life and events.

### **Spare Clothes:**

Please send a bag with labelled spare clothes just in case of accidents.

### **Illness:**

We want you to send your child to school every day so that they develop a good routine, but if your child is really unwell then they need to stay at home. If they have sickness and diarrhoea, please keep them off for 48 hours after this has stopped so that they don't pass it on to other children. If your child becomes ill or has an accident whilst attending school, we will contact you by telephone. If there is no reply, we will telephone your emergency contact.



**It is vital that you keep us informed of any changes to your emergency contacts and all medical requirements/conditions relating to your child.**





## Our Reception Day

- Our school day starts at 8.45am
- Lunch time is 11.30-12.15
- Our school day ends at 3.05pm.

## Circle Time:

Children will take part in adult led circle times each morning and afternoon, these will be carefully planned to support children's learning. Some circle times will focus on Literacy or Mathematics, others will focus on specific interests or Personal, Social and Emotional skills. Many circle times will be a combination of skills and areas of learning, allowing children to reach next steps in learning and develop into well rounded individuals.

## Focused Activities:

In addition to circle times, continuous provision and phonics sessions, children will also access regular focused activities. These sessions may be indoors or outdoors depending on the target children and objectives. Focused activities allow children to access small group sessions where the adults will work carefully to address interests and extend learning based on their knowledge of the children taking part.

## Phonics:

Children will take part in daily phonics sessions, at Tonge Moor we follow the Read Write Inc. Phonics Programme. The aim of these sessions is to build on children's speaking and listening skills, introduce them to letters and sounds, promote skills such as blending and segmenting words and support them in using these skills in their writing. Information on this phonics scheme can be found on the school website.

## Outdoor Play:

We have a super outdoor area! The outdoor environment provides us with a useful space in which to extend learning. The children will go outdoors whatever the weather, so **it is important that your child brings a warm waterproof coat every day**. Our children are also lucky enough to have access to a Forest School area. Children will take part in Forest school sessions each week. The areas of provision in the outdoor area are an extension of those inside, providing children with opportunities to play and explore on a large scale, in a way that is not possible in the indoor classroom.





### **Technology:**

The children have access to computers, interactive whiteboards, remote control toys, roamers, CD players, tills etc., both inside and outside the classroom.

Families can access the Tonge Moor Academy website [www.tongemooracademy.org](http://www.tongemooracademy.org) at home. Here you will find a link to 'Purple Mash' where children can gain access lots of educational games etc. Your child will be provided with their own log in to do this.

### **Library Time:**

Children visit the school library each week. We also encourage parents to bring their children to the school library, look out for opening times and events.

### **P.E:**

The children take part in a weekly P.E lesson. These sessions are taught by our specialist PE Teacher, Mrs Crossley. Please refer to the school prospectus for information on the school PE kit required. The PE kit can be kept at school. *Please ensure the kit is named.*

### **Music:**

Children take part in a weekly music lesson, taught by our specialist Music Teacher, Mrs Hayes.

### **Educational Visits:**

We believe that educational visits provide significant opportunities for learning. We try to keep costs down and want every child to take part.

### **Dojo's:**

As part of our behaviour policy, we use the online 'Dojo' system. Dojo points are given to reward good behaviour etc. Parents/Carers are invited to log into their child's class Dojo to see how their child is succeeding (More information will be given).





## **Preparing for Reception**

Moving into a new class can be a daunting experience for a child of any age, and at Tonge Moor we work hard to make the transition as easy as possible. We believe the more time your child has to prepare for the change the better.

Over the next few weeks, we will begin the transitional process to support your child in settling into school. This year, due to Covid-19, the transition process will be a little bit different. However, we are committed to making the transitional process as successful as possible and we will be in touch to share events and plans with you.

## **Workshops:**

Throughout the year we offer parent workshops giving ideas to support your child's learning at home.



## **Helping Your Child Get Ready for School**

Preparing your child for the changes ahead really can make a difference to how they cope when starting school. Talking to your child about their new class will give them time to process and think about what they can expect.

- Talk to your child about the staff they will meet and help them become familiar with our names.



- If your child is not used to wearing a uniform make sure you talk about it and let them try it on before their first day. Letting them come with you to buy their uniform can also prove a positive experience.
- If your child has only attended Nursery on a part time basis it can be very confusing for them finding themselves staying at school all day. Talk to your child and explain that they will be staying at school from after breakfast time through dinner time until home time.
- Going to the dinner hall can be equally as daunting, talk to your child about staying for dinner and make sure they know if they will be having a school dinner or packed lunch.
- **All children in EYFS and KS1 are entitled to a free school dinner. See school prospectus or speak to a member of staff in the school office.**
- Encourage your child to dress/undress themselves. Let them practise putting on and taking off their coat on their own.
- Have clear and consistent rules and routines at home to prepare your child for this at school.
- Encourage your child to listen to others and to follow instructions. This will help him/her to benefit most from the rich curriculum on offer.

**Continue to share books, sing songs/rhymes together and do lots of counting to encourage them to look for numbers and words in their environment.**

#### **Helping your child to settle into Reception:**

It is important that we work closely with you during this settling in period and we respond to the needs of your child as an individual.

- Take an interest in what your child is doing every day!
- Display their models and stick their work up at home.

#### **Uniform:**

Please make sure your child is in the correct uniform every day. Please see the school prospectus for uniform information.

#### **Keeping up to date:**

To stay up to date with all information please check your emails regularly. You can access all up to date information on our school website [www.tongemooracademy.org](http://www.tongemooracademy.org)

Please follow our school Twitter page- @tongemoorbolton

Please also follow our school Facebook page- Tonge Moor Primary Academy



## **SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2021/2022**

**REVISED**

### **Autumn Term (70 days in term)**

Term begins:	Monday 6th September 2021
Half Term:	Monday 25th October – Friday 29th October 2021
Occasional day:	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2021
Occasional day:	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2021
Term ends:	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2021

### **Spring Term (62 days in term)**

Term begins:	Thursday 6th January 2022
Half Term:	Monday 14th February – Friday 18th February 2022
Term ends:	Friday 8th April 2022 (1 week)

### **Summer Term (57 days in term)**

Term begins:	Tuesday 19th April 2022
Bank Holiday:	Monday 2nd May 2022
Half Term:	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May - Friday 3rd June 2022 (2 weeks)
Term ends:	Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2022

**Autumn term 2022 will commence Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**Children will be in school for 189 days**  
**Staff will be in school for 194 days**