



Frequently Asked Questions- New Starters EYFS

Who will my teacher be?

You can find out your teacher's names and see their pictures on the school website on the class pages. You will find the names and pictures of all the other adults who work in your year group on the Reception Class page too.

How many children are in my class?

In every year group there is usually around 60 children and 4 or 5 adults. In Reception Class we all play and learn together in one big classroom!

What time does school start and finish?

School starts at 9.00am and the day ends at 3.20pm. You are allowed into your classroom from 8.30am and at the end of the day parents are allowed on the yard from 3.00pm.

What about if I need to come to school earlier or stay later?

At Bowerham we have a breakfast and after school club called Bowerham Kids Club. For more information about the Kids club please visit:
[Bowerham Kids Club - Bowerham School](#)

What do I wear to school?

Currently due to COVID-19, all the children are wearing a red bowerham school jumper and a white polo shirt with black leggings or joggers with black trainers. This is so we can get outside and be active everyday of the week.

This has been hugely successful and so now we are in the process of consulting with parents regarding our current uniform policy. Please keep an eye on the uniform section of the website for any updates.

What does my classroom look like?

You will be able to see what your classroom looks like by watching our welcome video which is on our Bowerham You-Tube channel

[Bowerham Reception 2021 - Inside Tour - YouTube](#)

Your classroom is separated into different areas which we call 'learning areas'. All of the different areas are set up so that you can have lots of fun learning new skills with your friends.



Will there be homework?

When you first start school you will not receive any homework. This is so that you can concentrate on settling into your new classroom. Once you are settled into your new class your teachers will give you activities to complete at home. You will find your homework tasks on Tapestry. Each week on a Friday you will be set a maths activity and a chatter matters task.

Big Problem – this is a fun and practical maths based challenge that we would like you to have a go at completing at home. You will also have a go at completing this challenge at school.

Chatter Matters – this is a talking challenge. You will be set a topic to talk about with your grown-ups at home to get some ideas going ready to talk and write about the topic the following week in school.

What about reading homework?

When you first start school we will give you books without words to read at home and in school. This is because it is important to be able to talk about what is happening in different pictures. You will then be given books to read based on your reading level. You will read your book both at home and in school so you will need to bring it to school every day in your bag. You will also be given a diary where you will write down and keep a log of what you have read either at home with your family or in school with your teacher.

You will also access reading books online on the Bug Club website. Here you can read books that are matched to your reading level and answer quiz questions about the story.

What is Tapestry?

Tapestry is an app/website that you will use in school and at home. Your teachers will document how you are learning at school and will upload photographs and comments onto your Tapestry account so that your grown-ups can see this at home. You will also be able to upload photos and comments about the things that you are doing at home onto your Tapestry accounts too. Your teachers will also upload activities onto Tapestry– this may be your homework or activities set by your teacher for you to complete as part of your school work in class.

Is there a library?

Yes, we have a school library which you will visit once a week to change your library book. We also have a book area in our classroom as well as lots of books in other areas of provision that you can enjoy reading.



What happens at lunch time?

Everybody in Reception Class eats their dinner in the lower school hall. You can either choose to have a hot school lunch or you can bring in a packed lunch each day for school. Everyone in Reception Class is entitled to a FREE hot school lunch and they are very yummy!

If you choose to have a school dinner you will find a 3-week menu on the website so you can plan ahead for lunch options. Each day, during the register, you will let your teacher know if you are on school dinners so that the kitchen knows to prepare your meal.

If you choose to bring a packed lunch then you will place your packed lunch next to your coat in the morning and when it is lunch time you will collect your packed lunch ready to take it with you to the hall.

What about snacks?

In Reception Class we have a snack area where you can make and then enjoy eating a snack. The snack area is open in the morning and the afternoon and has a variety of fruit and vegetables that you can choose to eat on offer. The adults will also help you make other things to eat such as toast, crumpets, crackers etc. You can also sit and have a drink of water or milk at the snack area too. If you would like to have some milk then your grown-up can register and pay for this using the following link. <https://www.coolmilk.com/>

Will we be able to play and learn outside?

In Reception class we get to play outside every day and in all weathers! You will need to make sure you bring your coat to school each day so that you can have fun outdoors with your friends. You will also need to ask your grown-up to send in a pair of wellingtons that you can leave at school for when you are playing outside. Our outdoor area is lots of fun to be in; you can see what it is like by watching our welcome video which is on our Bowerham You-Tube channel.

[Bowerham Reception 2021 - Outside Tour - YouTube](#)

Can I join a club?

Currently, due to COVID-19, we are not running any clubs.

Soon there will be lots of clubs you can join.

Your grown-ups can find a list of clubs on the school website and information of how to book a place.

[Internal Clubs and Activities - Bowerham School](#)

Is there a school council?

If we are in a lockdown, we will not be running any of the school councils. When we are not in lockdown, there are lots of pupil councils: we have a pupil SLT, school council, eco council, arts council and rota kids.

Pupil SLT meet regularly with the staff SLT to discuss and implement new ideas for whole school improvements.

School council work on topics and projects surrounding school, local and global matters.

Eco council focuses on environmental activities and projects.

Arts council works on creative projects.

Rota kids get involved in important activities in the community.



When is PE?

In Reception Class we have a P.E day on a Monday. On your PE day you will come to school in your PE clothes with your school jumper over the top to keep you warm. Your grown-up's can find out more about our sports uniform by going to our uniform page. <https://www.bowerham.co.uk/uniform/>

Will we go on school trips?

Yes. Lots! Your teachers will take you on trips that link in with your learning and every year the whole school goes on a trip to watch a Christmas pantomime! In Reception Class we also like to go for walks within our local community. We will always let your grow-up know before we take you out of school for a trip though.

What happens if I am upset?

In school, we have lots of things in place to help you if you are upset. When you start school you will have a special adult called a 'keyworker' who will make sure that you are feeling safe and happy when you are at school. You can talk to your keyworker or any other adult in your classroom if you are upset or worried about anything.

When we are not in lockdown we also run a buddy system where the reception children are buddied up with year 5 children. Each week they spend time with their buddies to get to know them. Then when the reception children are in year 1 and their buddies are in year 6, they will share a playground and be able to find their year 6 buddy if they are upset.

What are the school rules?

We have 6 golden rules to follow. When you are following these rules, this is called your Bowerham Best.

We are kind
We are gentle
We look after property
We are honest
We work hard
We listen

What will I learn about?

In Reception class we learn about lots of new and exciting things! Your teachers will watch to see what your interests are and then they will plan fun and practical activities to help you learn new skills.

Your grown-up can find further information on our curriculum on the curriculum pages for each year group on the website.



What rewards can I earn?

When you have done something extra special that is even better than your Bowerham best. You can earn:

- **stickers on stars** – in Reception class you can earn stickers for showing your Bowerham best and for doing things such as helping to tidy up at tidy up time etc. Stickers are placed on a star which has your name on. When you have 10 stickers on your star you can take your star home.
- **team points** – in Reception class you can earn coloured team points during P.E sessions. If you are awarded a team point, you can add it to a chart in the classroom. At the end of each term, the team with the most points is awarded an extra playtime.
- **happy boxes** – this is where your name goes into a box when you have done something really good and the teacher picks one at random on Fridays. If your name is picked, you get a small prize.
- **star of the week** – your teachers will choose a star of the week each week and the winner will receive a special certificate. If you are the star of the week you also get to take Bowerham bear home!
- **citizen of the week** – your teachers will choose somebody in your class who has shown a special quality during the week such as appreciation, this is linked to our school value of the half term. The winner will receive a special certificate.
- **Marbles** – this is where the whole class has worked really hard all together. Once the class has earned 50 marbles, the class is rewarded with a marble day where the children pick the activities.
- **Head teacher's Award** – At the end of each half term, Mrs Banks awards a certificate to four children in each year group who have worked exceptionally hard all term.