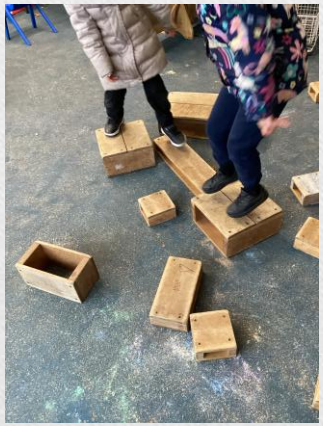
Welcome to Foundation Stage 2
Exeter - a Learning Community

Transition and Induction programme for children starting in Reception September 2026

Exeter
a learning community



Together, we believe, we will achieve!

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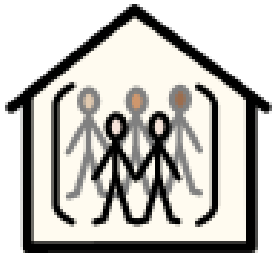
Key Staff



Head Teachers: Miss Jen Doherty & Mrs Hannah Crawford

Assistant Heads: Mrs Sammy Newstead, Miss Kelly McKee, Miss Lauren Dighton & Mrs Joanne James

Early Years Lead: Mrs Sammy Newstead

Class FS2: Miss Tracy Poulter – Class Teacher, Reception lead

Class FS2: Miss Eve Coleman – Class Teacher

Early Years Practitioners:
Miss Julia Clarke
Mrs Maria Figueiredo SEND support: Terri Monaghan
Mrs Sarah Politano

Together, we believe, we will achieve!

Welcome
to
Reception

Programme of Transition and Induction

Reception Class

Date	
Monday 22nd June 2026 3.45pm-4:45pm	Open evening – an opportunity to meet your child's new teacher and to discuss information for your child starting in September. This will also give you a chance to ask any questions you may have.
Friday 10th July 2026 Morning session 9.30-11am Afternoon session 1.15-2.45pm	Transfer Day – this will be a teddy bears picnic. You must stay with your child. Bring your own cuddly friend.
Tuesday 30th June 2026 2.15pm – 3pm	OPAL play day
Thursday 3rd , Friday 4th and Monday 7th September 2026	Home visits – your child's class teacher will come and visit you at home. You can sign up for a time on the 22nd June 2026
Wednesday 9th September 2026	Children begin transition into school.

General Information

- School day: 8:35am -3:15pm
- Breakfast club: 7:30 -8:35am, £4.50 per day; you must book*
- Tea Time club: 3:15 – 5.30pm, £8.50 per day; you must book*
- 3.15-4.15pm £4.50
- Attendance and punctuality is expected.
- Headteachers can no longer authorise holidays, taken in term time.

*prices may change in September 2026

Together, we believe, we will achieve!

Attendance

- Our target attendance is **96%**
- Please report your child's absence via telephone or the MCAS app by 09.00am each day they are absent.
- School starts at 08.35, if your child arrives after 08.45 they will be marked as late.
- If your child arrives after 09.15 this will be an unauthorised absence, unless your child has a medical appointment and evidence has been provided.
- If your child is sick or has diarrhoea your child can return to school 24 hours after the last time they were sick or had diarrhoea.
- If your child's attendance falls below our target attendance our attendance team will contact you to attend a connections meeting, this is an opportunity to share any concerns you have about your child attending school.
- A home visit will be carried out if you do not notify school of your child's absence. A home visit will also be carried out if your child is absent for three days or more.

Lunchtimes

- School dinners are free for FS2 and available from https://www.stirfood.co.uk/ – orders can be completed termly or you can order up until 9.30am on the day.
- You will receive a code to access ordering food on an app called Swift.
- Healthy packed lunches may be provided by parents.
- Please note we are a nut free school, so please do not provide your child with any food containing nuts.

Uniform and clothing

- We encourage children to wear school uniform. We require children to wear a blue jumper or cardigan, preferably with the school logo on. These can be bought from the school office.

Our Uniform consists of:

a blue jumper or cardigan

grey or black smart trousers/smart skirt/smart shorts,

and a white polo shirt.

Sun dresses can be worn when the weather is hot.

Blue and white checked dress or playsuit.

WITH plain black shoes

- Uniform and bags need to be **clearly labelled** with names please! 30 jumpers and 30 t-shirts all look the same when we are getting changed.
- Each child will have their own coat peg. Please provide a **spare** set of clothes that can be left in a bag on their peg.
- We go outside in all weathers therefore your child will need wellies and waterproofs. Please ensure your child's things are **clearly named.**

What does my child need at school?

- Coat – waterproof
- Wellies – please leave these in school (**named**)
- Spare clothes – does not have to be uniform
- Book bag – please bring everyday so they can take their creations home safely!
- **Water** bottle – **No juice** please ☺ (**named**)

Smooth Transitions

- Smooth and seamless transitions are essential in settling children into school.
  - This year through the welcome meeting, Teddy bear picnic and home visits, the children will be introduced to their new key adults. Also, on our school website you will find more information about starting school and videos of the classroom environments. Please share these with your children.
    - www.exeterschool.co.uk/parents/new-starters-reception/
- Communication between school and home is essential for children to flourish in new surroundings and they are recommended to help your child settle in well.

Together, we believe, we will achieve!

Smooth Transitions

To support children to settle and 'hit the ground running' we have put together a transition plan enabling them to have a smooth transition to school.

Thursday 3rd , Friday 4th and Monday 7th September 2026 → we plan to visit you and your child at home. This will give you a chance to meet your child's class teacher and key adults and ask any further questions you may have.

Please make sure you sign up for a home visit slot later tonight.

Together, we believe, we will achieve!

In September, we will be phasing children into school with the transition plan below:

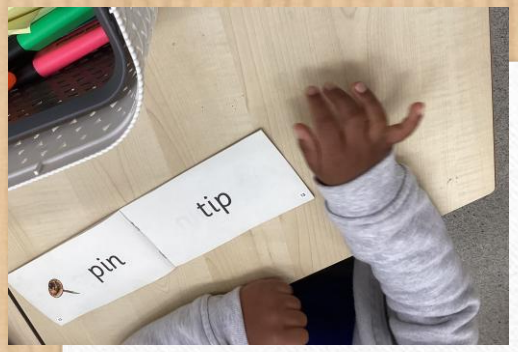
Wednesday 9th September 2026 Thursday 10th September 2026	8:50 am – 11:00 am
Friday 11th September 2026	8.50am – 1.30pm * (including lunch)
Monday14th September 2026	8.35am- 3.15pm All day

*From11th September, your child will be staying for lunch.
School meals must be pre-ordered through Stir Caterers.

Together, we believe, we will achieve!

A Typical Day

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) at Exeter – A Learning Community provides children with the opportunities to experience the best possible start to their education and future years at school. Through grasping opportunities to play in child-initiated learning, as well as direct teaching, children build a solid foundation to build on as they progress through their journey in KS1 education and beyond.



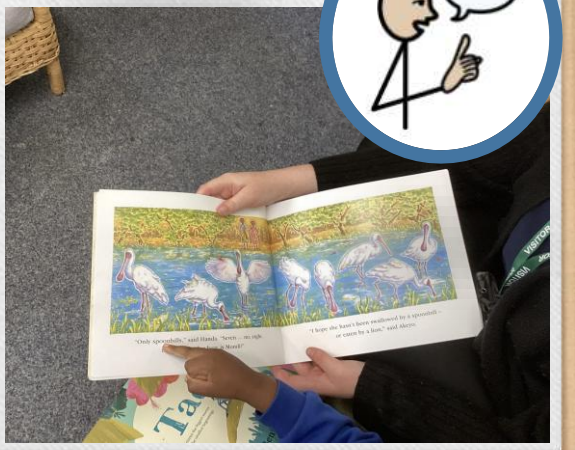
A Typical Day

- Planned short adult-led sessions daily:
- Writing and Sentence building (based around a book or activity).
- Read Write Inc. phonics sessions.
- Maths session using concrete resources, pictorial representations and abstract ideas (a mastery approach).

To separate out these sessions, we plan the environment around topics and interests of the children, where we encourage exploration and play, then 'hop on' to opportunities to develop and deepen understanding during child-initiated learning & independent learning.

Supporting Your Child

- We share learning through observations and photos using Arc Pathways and Class Dojo.
- Here are some things that you can do together?
  - Play!
  - Share books daily
  - Sing songs and rhymes
  - Encourage independence when using the toilet
  - Take time to listen and talk
  - Answer and ask questions
  - Let children help you with the everyday jobs



Pupil Premium

"Pupil Premium is not just extra money—it is an opportunity to remove barriers, provide support, and give every child the best possible chance to succeed."

1. What is Pupil Premium?
Government funding given to schools to help disadvantaged pupils achieve their full potential.
Supports children who may face barriers to learning, such as those eligible for free school meals, previously looked-after children, and children from service families.

2. Why is it Important?
Helps close the attainment gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers.
Provides extra opportunities that some families may otherwise struggle to afford.
Ensures every child has an equal chance to succeed.

3. How the Funding is Used
Examples of how schools use Pupil Premium:
Extra teaching support and interventions
Small-group tuition
Mental health and wellbeing support
Educational visits and enrichment activities
Breakfast clubs and attendance initiatives

4. Benefits for Children
Improved confidence and self-esteem
Better academic progress
Increased attendance and engagement
Access to wider experiences and opportunities

5. Benefits for the Whole School
Creates a more inclusive environment.
Raises achievement for vulnerable pupils.
Supports positive behaviour and wellbeing.
Helps ensure no child is disadvantaged because of their circumstances.

6. How Parents Can Help
Check if their child is eligible for free school meals or Pupil Premium.
Speak to Mrs Burley in the school office for support in applying.

Supporting You

Exeter Wellbeing Team

Here are some things that we can support parents and carers with -

- Signposting to services including 0-19 team, housing, legal advice, parenting programmes, Citizens Advice and SEN support
- Food bank
- General advice
- Online safety
- Coffee mornings
- Relevant information sharing
- Parenting challenges including school anxiety, routines, behaviour
- Family help conversation (Early Help)
- Referrals to ACES
- Referrals to Mental Health Support Team
- Sleep support
- Support to access benefits and debt advice
- Wellbeing Wednesdays – tips on the school dojo page

How to get involved?

You can also help by:

- Reading with your child daily – this is really important.
- Attending Stay and Play sessions
- Supporting on Visits and Outings

ClassDojo

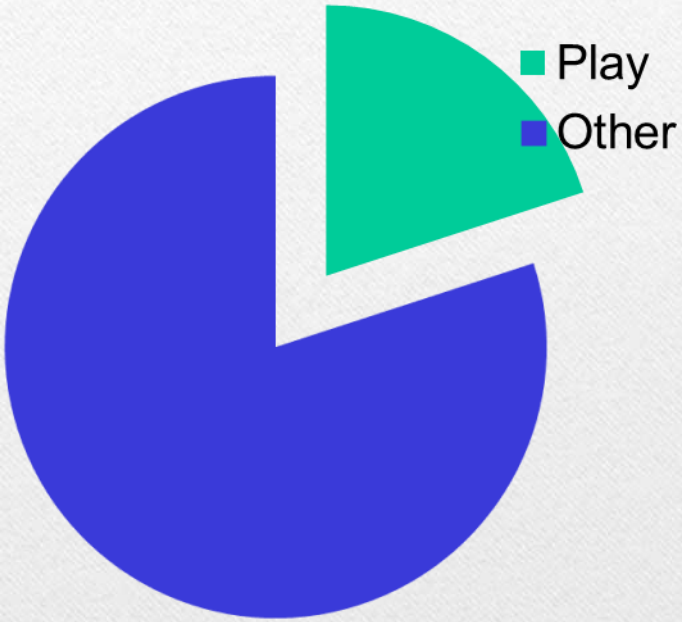
my child at school.com

- Please sign up to class dojo
- Class dojo is a great way of communicating with you
- We share important class and whole school information
- It has a translate function
- Pick up your QR code from the teachers or if your child attends Exeter nursery you will be invited to the new class
- Sign up to the My Child At School app - you will receive an email link in September - clubs, trips and more.

Outdoor **P**lay **A**nd **L**earning

Why is this so important?

Play makes up 20% of school life



Per Year

231 hours

37 days

7.4 weeks

Primary Years

1.4 years

Filip
Filip
Filip

OPAL PARENT PLAY DAY

Date for your Diary! Tuesday 30th June between 2.15-3pm.

Come and learn more about OPAL and experience OPAL with your child!

The Essentials

A waterproof coat

A pair of welly boots

Tolerance of dirt and mud

Outdoor play is essential to your child's health and well-being

We still need your help

Thank you...please keep sending in resources for playtime

Upcycled Loose Parts

Baking Pans

Cake Moulds

Ice Cube Trays

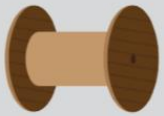
Kitchen Tools

Measuring Spoons

Pots & Pans

Strainers

Baskets


Cable Spools

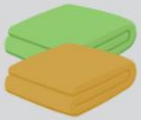
Cardboard Items

Cones

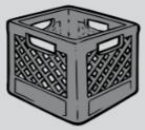
Containers

Corrugated Pipes

Dress-Up Items


Fabric

Funnels


Milk Crates

Nets

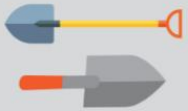
Old Electronics

Pool Noodles

PVC Pipes

Rolling Carriers

Ropes


Shovels & Spades

Sinks & Tubs

Tarps

Tires & Wheels

Wooden Planks

Help to prepare your child

See tips on this poster of things you can do before your child starts at Exeter

How can you help your child be ready for school?

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Support your child's independence

The most useful thing you can do to get your child ready for school is to make sure they are comfortable doing simple tasks by themselves. This includes using the toilet, dressing and practising eating using a knife and fork.

Build your child's social skills

Learning in a classroom is a social activity. Children learn and develop by playing and sharing alongside their peers, and they will make better progress if they are happy mixing with other children and adults. You can encourage this by making greetings and starting conversations. Having time to talk and listen which teaches vital speaking and listening skills.

Help your child learn to concentrate

Being able to concentrate in 5–10 minute bursts will be really useful at school. You can practise by enjoying extended play together – for example drawing, playing games, doing puzzles and using lego. Build resilience by finishing one activity in one session. Giving your child simple verbal instructions to follow also helps build their concentration.

Share books and stories together

Encouraging a love of books will support your child at the start of their reading journey as well as develop their vocabulary and knowledge of the world.

Before you go...

Make sure you have;

- ✓ Picked up your child's information pack- this will state what class your child is in.
- ✓ Have a look at the uniform
- ✓ Looked at the Foundation Stage 2 Classrooms
- ✓ Booked in a slot for your home visit
- ✓ See Mrs Burley in the office about Pupil Premium

We can't wait for your child to start their learning journey with us.

Any Questions?