Ripon Cathedral School

Information for parents and carers of children starting Reception in September 2026

Welcome to Ripon Cathedral School

We are delighted to be welcoming your child into the Reception class at Ripon Cathedral School. We are very much looking forward to supporting your child through their very first year at school and ensuring they have every opportunity to develop and thrive. All that we do at Ripon Cathedral School is underpinned by our school vision:

Aspiring, Flourishing and Loving.

Timings

- The school day begins at 8:45am
- The school day ends at 3:10pm
- Late arrivals must report to the main reception.

Please note that a prompt start is especially important for a smooth and settled start to the school day.

Reception children will enter school from the current nursery entrance. A member of staff will greet you and your child. Your child will be directed into the cloakroom and we kindly ask that parents do not accompany their child into the school building.

Uniform

Reception wear the same school uniform as children in years 1-6, with the exception that ties are optional.

- Bottle green ‘V’ neck jumper or cardigan
- School tie (optional)
- White shirt (short or long sleeves)
- Grey skirt/dress/trousers (long or short) *
- Sensible black shoes
- Grey or white socks

*Green pinafore with white socks can be worn in the summer.

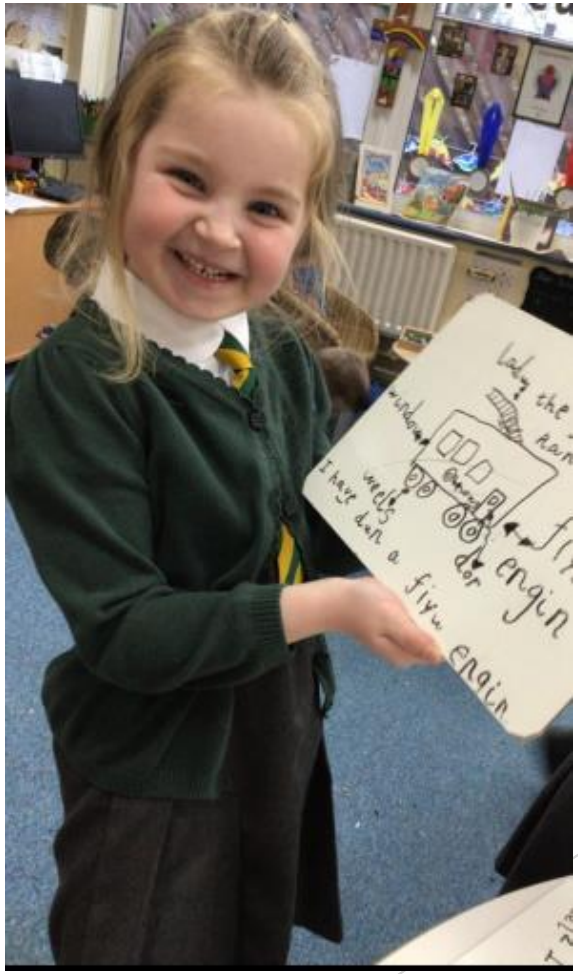
PE Kits and Book Bags

- White t.shirt
- Black shorts
- White socks
- Pumps or trainers (velcro fastening please)
- Grey jogging bottoms (to go over shorts on colder days)
- Green hoody/sweatshirt

On PE days children should come to school wearing their PE kit. Details of PE days will be provided in September.

All children in Reception will also need a green book bag or backpack for carrying their books in.

Uniform



School Uniform Policy

We ask that the following is adhered to:

- No jewellery
- No make-up
- Shoes should be sensible; no boots, platforms or heels
- Hair longer than shoulder length should be tied up
- Hair accessories should be in school colours

The full school uniform policy is available on the school website.

Please make sure all items of uniform are named.

Learning is messy!

Please be aware that your child is very likely to come home with a dirty uniform as much of the learning is practical and creative and in the outdoor environment.

We advise that school uniform is the cheapest available and stress that there is no need for children to wear clothing with the school logo in Reception.

A messy child has had fun with their learning!

Lunchtimes

Hot meals are provided by GFM (the school facilities management company) and are prepared onsite in the school kitchen. Children are offered a main course and pudding, including salads and fresh fruit.

Children may bring their own healthy packed lunch. We ask that they do not contain chocolate, sweets or fizzy/sugary drinks.

For further information about lunches, please visit our school website.

Dietary Requirements

A termly menu is provided, and children may eat either the main school dinner, the vegetarian option, a jacket potato or packed lunch. The school menu is on a three-weekly rotation.

If your child would like either the jacket potato or vegetarian option, we ask that parents inform us of this (Reception only).

If your child has any dietary requirements, please be sure to inform us. The kitchen staff are experienced in dealing with individual requirements.

Break times

In the early years, children spend a proportion of their day participating in adult-led tasks such as phonics and maths and spend the remainder of the day following their interests in carefully planned provision that enables each child to take their learning and development forwards. This approach to learning means that children are able to get physical exercise, social interaction, and break from physical activity as and when each individual requires it and negates the need for an allocated breaktime.

Snacks

Children are provided with a free piece of fruit every day. Please support your child by encouraging them to independently peel fruit. We will of course support children in peeling fruit once they have tried themselves.

Fresh water is readily available for children at all times, but we ask that children bring their own named water bottle to school everyday (water not juice please).

Milk

All children under the age of 5 will be offered a free carton of milk every morning. Once your child has turned 5, milk will need to be paid for should you wish your child to continue to receive it.

Parent Pay

School uses an online site called ParentPay to receive payments for everything from school meals to educational visits. If you are new to the school, you will receive login details in September.

Medication

Only prescribed medication can be administered to children in school. If your child requires medication, please contact the school office so that you can be provided with the relevant consent form to complete.

Oscar's (Out of school care)

Oscar's runs every morning from 8:00am until the start of the school day, and after school until 4:30pm (half session) or 5:45pm (full session).

Our out of school care is a relaxed environment in which children can socialise with their school friends and engage in a range of activities.

Reservation and payment for Oscar's is made on our booking site https://riponcathedralschool.magicbooking.co.uk

If you are intending to use the club in the first two weeks, please email Mrs Rich at admin@riponcathedral.n-yorks.sch.uk

School Communication

Parents are kept up to date with news, events and forthcoming dates through the weekly school update. This is emailed out to parents and can also be accessed from the website.

The website has a wealth of information about school and is regularly updated with news and photos of events taking place in school. Do keep having a look!

Class Dojo and text messaging is also used.

Friends of the School

The Friends of Ripon Cathedral School is a group of parents who get together to think of ways to raise money for extra equipment and resources and have some fun along the way.

In the past they have funded fantastic projects, including the reading raffle, musical instruments, new play areas, audio and sports equipment, outdoor play apparatus and the Daily Mile all weather track.

If you think that you could help in any way, whether it's attending meetings, coming up with new fundraising ideas or volunteering to help at events, we would love to hear from you.

Please see the school website for further details.

Learning Beyond the Classroom

Throughout the year, Reception children enjoy a range of enriching experiences that bring their learning to life. They will welcome visits from members of the local community, including doctors, nurses, dentists and vets, helping them to learn about different people and the important roles they play.

Children will also take part in local walks, including visits to the cathedral, and during Road Safety Week they will learn how to cross the road safely through practical, supervised experiences.

In the Summer Term, Reception children will venture a little further afield on a school trip that links to their current learning, providing memorable, hands-on experiences to deepen their understanding.

Forest School

Forest School is a fabulous way to gain a deep understanding and appreciation for the natural world whilst also learning to develop self-confidence, self-esteem, independence and risk-taking in a safe environment.

Reception children take part in Forest School on alternate half terms, beginning in Autumn 2. Further details will be provided in October.

Transitions

Reception will attend:

Tuesday 8th September: 8.45- 11.30

Wednesday 9th September 8.45- 1

Thursday 10th September 8.45 - 2

Friday 11th September 8.45- 3.10

Please arrive via the entrance in the school playground

We kindly ask that parents don't join the children in the classroom as this can be very unsettling for the children.

Please can children bring a named water bottle, coat and sunhat. If necessary, please can suncream be applied at home before coming to school.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

We will be holding a Curriculum Information Evening for parents of children in the Reception class to inform you of the learning taking place in school and how you can provide support at home. Once the children have begun, we will let all parents know the date and time.

Class Dojo

We use Class Dojo to record and evidence your child's learning and development in the Reception class at Ripon Cathedral School.

During the Curriculum Information Evening in September, we will share guidance on how to use Class Dojo to find out about your child's learning and development at school.

Preparing your child for school

Starting school can be both exciting and daunting for children and parents alike! You can help ensure your child isn't worried about starting school by talking through what it will be like and the sort of activities they will be doing. The more that they know, the less that there is to worry about.

Preparing your child for school

The following things will greatly support your child in starting school:

- Independently using full-size cutlery
- Independently fastening a coat
- Encouraging your child to dress/undress with some independence in preparation for PE.
- Managing their own personal hygiene when using the toilet
- Understanding that the adults in school will help and look after them
- Being able to ask for help when it is needed

Please do not worry about reading, writing or maths as we will support your child's development in these areas.

Reception 2026/27
Transition Morning Teddy Bear Picnic

On Tuesday, 7th July at 8.45- 11.30, we are delighted to invite the Reception 2026/27 cohort to a special teddy bear picnic-themed transition morning. Children are welcome to bring along their favourite cuddly friend for this fun and welcoming event.

This transition morning will provide an excellent opportunity for children to meet their future classmates and teacher, as well as explore their new classroom environment ahead of the September start.

An Exciting New Chapter for Early Years

- Before we look around, we'd like to explain an exciting change to our Early Years provision. From September, Nursery and Reception will work together as one Early Years unit, allowing us to create a seamless learning environment where children can benefit from shared experiences, resources and opportunities.
- Each class will still have dedicated time in their own base for carpet sessions, focused teaching and age-specific learning. However, the current Reception classroom will become the Nursery base, and the current Nursery classroom will become the Reception base. Working as one unit will help us provide a smooth transition between Nursery and Reception while continuing to meet the individual needs of every child.

RIPON CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

Aspiring Flourishing Loving

Wishing you all a wonderful summer break

From everyone at Ripon Cathedral School, we wish you and your child a wonderful summer break and we very much look forward to seeing you all in September.