



Squirrels Class – Welcome Back Letter Autumn Term 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We are so excited to see all of our children return to school and to welcome new friends to Squirrels class. We are looking forward to a fantastic term full of learning, exploration, and fun.

PE Days

Reception PE will take place on **Fridays with Mrs Kelf**. Please send your child to school wearing their PE kit from next week, they will need:

- House-coloured T-shirt
 - Black shorts or jogging bottoms
 - Black hoodie or jumper
 - Trainers (velcro unless your child can confidently tie their own laces)
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School Times & Drop-off/Pick-up

- **Start:** The school bell rings at **8:30am**. Children should be at the **yellow gate** ready to come into school. Saying goodbye at the gate helps with smooth transitions and settling.
 - **Finish:** Children will be **released at 3:00–3:15pm**, slightly earlier than the rest of the school.
 - **Outside normal times:** If you are dropping off or picking up early/late, please report to the office instead of the yellow gate.
 - The gate closes at **8:35am**. If you arrive after this, please go to the office so a member of staff can bring your child to class.
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Essential Items

Please ensure your child has:

- Named water bottle
- Pair of slippers for the classroom (labelled)

- Pair of wellies (both labelled)
- Spare change of clothes to remain at school (socks, pants, trousers). Even in Reception, messy play, water play, and arts activities are likely, so spare clothes help us manage spills and accidents.
- **Weather-appropriate clothing:** Layers, jackets, hats, or sunhats depending on the day. All items should be clearly **labelled**.

We kindly ask that you **avoid bringing large or bulky bags**, as storage space is limited. All clothing and belongings should be clearly labelled; if you are unable to do so, we can assist.

Reading

Reception children will bring home a **reading record**. Please aim to read at least **4 times per week**. Each time you read and sign the record, your child earns stars, which lead to a certificate in **Superstar Assembly** with the whole school.

“Reading together builds vocabulary, phonics skills, and a lifelong love of books!”

Focus Children & Star of the Day

Each child will have a turn to be **Star of the Day**, helping with special jobs in class. This encourages confidence, responsibility, and pride in their contributions.

Toys from Home

- Children may bring **one small comfort toy** to school.
 - Large teddies, cars, or multiple toys should be left at home unless it is a **special show-and-tell day**.
 - **All toys from home stay in their bag throughout the day.**
 - This helps prevent loss, distraction, and upset.
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Snacks & Lunches

- As of September 2025, snack charges will be applied as follows:
 - **15-hour funded places:** £3.00 per week
 - **30-hour funded places:** £6.00 per week

- Snack is **optional**, and you may provide your own healthy snack from the approved list.
 - **All snacks brought from home will be pooled together and shared with all children**, ensuring variety and fairness.
 - Snacks should be **brought in on the first session of the week**.
 - Healthy snack options include:
 - **Fruits:** Apples, Bananas, Oranges, Satsumas, Pears, Melon
 - **Other snacks:** Breadsticks, Cheese straws, Crackers, Rich tea biscuits, Rice cakes
 - **Lunchboxes** should contain a balanced and healthy meal to support learning and energy through the day.
 - Reception children will be offered a school meal. The staff in Squirrels will help your child order what they would like for lunch. It might be helpful to tell them what is for lunch before they come into school.
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Learning this Term

Topic Theme: *All About Me*

This term, we will focus on:

- **Maths:** Exploring numbers, shapes, simple patterns, and measuring (length, weight, height)
- **PSED:** Building relationships, turn-taking, sharing, self-regulation, and empathy
- **UTW (Understanding the World):** Exploring senses, our families, school routines, and seasonal changes
- **Fine Motor & Early Writing:** Name tracing, mark-making, cutting, threading, and early phonics activities
- **Creative Play & Drawing:** Representing themselves, their families, and exploring the world through art

We will also focus on learning classroom routines, rules, and expectations to help the children settle confidently into the year.

General Reminders

- Label all belongings clearly

- Bring a spare change of clothes for messy play
 - PE kit must be worn on Fridays
 - Only **one comfort toy** per child, unless otherwise agreed
 - Weather-appropriate clothing should be sent to school every day
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If you have any questions or need further guidance, **please do not hesitate to ask**. We are looking forward to a wonderful start to the year with your child.

Best regards,

Lucy Curtis

Class Teacher