

Bridlewood Primary School

Welcome to Reception September 2026

Useful information and procedures
about starting school

Bridlewood Primary School

Head Teacher: Mrs Sammon

Deputy Head Teacher and Special Educational

Needs Coordinator: Mrs Mclaughlin



Welcome to Bridlewood Primary School

- Core values

Respect

Responsibility

Honesty





School Office

Opening times 8.30am to 3.45pm

Telephone number: 01793 706830

(phone lines are open 8.00am-4.00pm)

Email: admin@bridlewood.org.uk

Office Staff

Mrs Kane – Administration Officer

Miss Long – Operations Officer

Mrs Norton – Admin Assistant

All absences need to be reported to the school office by 9am.

Parent Pay

- Bridlewood Primary School is a cashless school.
- ParentPay is used for all school transactions, i.e. booking school meals and paying for clubs and trips.
- ParentPay is also used for our school communications, so it is vital that you register an account in order to receive school newsletters, parent communications and useful reminders.
- If your child has not attended our Nursery you will be sent a letter asking you to register for ParentPay. Please do this promptly so that you do not miss out on important information sent to parents.
- If you would like more than one parent / carer to receive emails, please let the office know and they will generate a letter for the second contact.

Before & After School Clubs

Before Bridlewood Club (BBC)

- Breakfast Club is available from 8.00-8.40am
- A varied and healthy breakfast is provided
- Morning activities are arranged
- Drop off is at the School Hall doors
- Each session costs £4.00
- Sessions must be booked in advance with the office

After Bridlewood Club (ABC)

- After School Club is available from 3.15-5.30pm
- A varied and healthy snack is provided
- A range of activities are planned for pupils
- Collection is from the Nursery
- Each session costs £10.00
- Sessions must be booked in advance with the office

Fixed bookings or ad hoc booking can be made subject to availability. Full details and the terms and conditions are available on our website.

Free School Meals – from September 2026

- All Reception children continue to get free school meals automatically
- Some families should still apply for benefits-based free school meals, even though meals are already free.
- There are now two types of eligibility:
 - Targeted** – lower income (gives extra support for families and provides extra funding for school)
 - Expanded** – higher income on Universal Credit (meals still free)
- Applying (if eligible) helps the school receive additional funding to support your child's learning

School Uniform

School Uniform requirements

- Green sweater or cardigan
- Gold (Yellow) polo shirt
- Grey trousers or skirts
- Dark shoes (no trainers or boots)
- No jewellery (exceptions for religious reasons)
- One pair of studs can be worn (child must be able to cover studs themselves for PE)

PE requirements

- White T-shirt
- Black tracksuit bottoms or shorts
- Trainers
- Green sweater or hoodie

School uniform bearing the logo can be purchased from Monkhouse Schoolwear:

<https://www.monkhouse.com/school/bridlewood-primary-school-urn-134134> Uniform does not have to bear the school logo and can be purchased from other clothing shops or supermarkets.

Please **label** all of the uniform as we cannot return lost property if the clothing is not marked with their name.

For further guidance on uniform please visit

<https://www.bridlewoodprimaryschool.org.uk/uniform-information/>



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

- Monitoring
- SEND Support
- Education Health Care Plan (EHCP)
- ELSA
- TPAT School of Solutions
- TPAT Mental Health
- Speech and Language
- Educational Psychology
- Early Years Team

Nicola McLaughlin

mclaughlinn@bridlewood.org.uk

The Reception Team

This year we will be having one Year R class

Cherry Class

Teacher: Miss Barber

Teaching Assistant: Mrs Nash



We will be based in the Cherry classroom in the main school building.

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets standards for the learning, development and care of children from birth to five years.

The Reception year is also known as Foundation Stage Two.

The EYFS Curriculum is based on the recognition that children learn best through play and active learning.

Early Years Foundation Stage



Communication
and Language



Personal, Social and
Emotional Development



Physical
Development



Mathematics



Literacy



Understanding the
World



Expressive Arts
and Design

Communication and language

- Listen
- Speak
- Understand
- Describe
- Question
- Vocabulary
- Storytelling
- Conversation



Personal, social and emotional development

- Confidence
- Relationships
- Sharing
- Emotions
- Taking turns
- Resilience
- Rules
- Self-care
- Healthy choices
- Independence



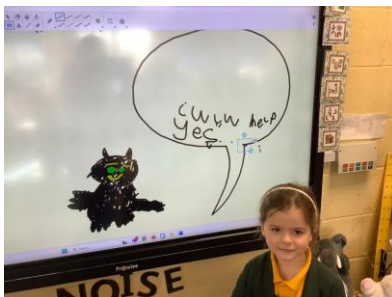
Physical development

- Balance
- Coordination
- Movement
- Fine motor
- Gross motor
- Pencil grip



Literacy

- Phonics
- Reading
- Writing
- Story
- Letters
- Sounds
- Sentences
- Comprehension
- Fluency



Mathematics

- Numbers
- Count
- Add
- Subtract
- Shape
- Pattern
- Measure
- Compare



Understanding the world

- Explore
- Nature
- Seasons
- History
- Community
- Family
- Investigate
- Similarities
- Differences



Expressive arts and design

- Create
- Draw
- Paint
- Dance
- Music
- Imagination
- Design
- Role-play



Characteristics of Effective Learning

Playing and Exploring

ENGAGEMENT

Finding out and exploring
Playing with what they know
Being willing to 'have a go'

Active Learning

MOTIVATION

Being involved and concentrating
Keep trying
Enjoying achieving what they set out to do

Creative and Critical Thinking

THINKING

Having their own ideas
Making links
Working with ideas



Una the unicorn explains her understanding



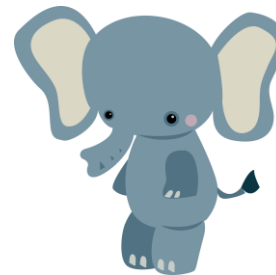
Ali the alligator analyses his learning



Robbie the rabbit is great at remembering



Alex the alpaca applies what she has learnt



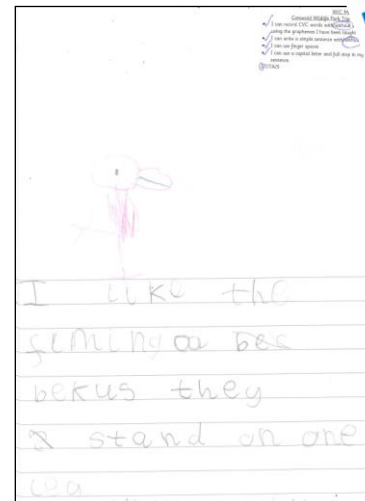
Ellie the elephant evaluates her learning



Cliff the chameleon is very creative

Monitoring and Sharing Children's Learning

- Regular monitoring of children's progress to inform children's next steps for learning
- End of year assessment and report
- Tapestry
- Knowledge Organisers
- Literacy book
- Parent/Teacher consultations
- Open school



Notes

This week, as part of our All Around the World topic, we will be travelling all the way to Antarctica! We will be learning about what it is like to live in one of the coldest places on Earth and exploring the animals that have adapted to survive in snowy, icy conditions.

During our learning, we will be thinking about how Antarctic animals survive in such extreme weather. To help us investigate this, the children will be taking part in a fun bubble science experiment, where they will explore how animals keep warm in freezing temperatures.

We will also begin exploring our new learning question: How do shadows happen? The children will have opportunities to investigate light and shadows through a range of practical activities and discussions.

This week, we are excited to introduce a new Learning Friend, Ali the Alligator. Ali helps us to develop our learning skills. We will be encouraging the children to think carefully about their learning, looking at what has gone well, what they have noticed, and what they might do differently next time. In Reception, we also begin analysing as being a learning detective and thinking carefully about what we can learn from our experiences.

During independent learning time, the children will be invited to complete some exciting Learning Friends challenges. These include:

- Creating an Antarctic penguin scene using a range of art materials.
- Sorting animals into those that could and could not survive in Antarctica and explaining their reasons for their choices.
- Drawing Club, we will be using the classic Pingu animations to inspire our writing. The children will enjoy drawing the characters and writing facts about different Antarctic animals, developing both their creativity and their knowledge of the world around them.
- In maths, we will be using rekenaids, a resource that supports the development of early number skills. The children will use the beads to practise subitising, helping them to recognise quantities quickly without counting, as well as strengthening their understanding of number relationships.

Wishing everyone a lovely week!

Mia Barber

A Typical Day in Reception

Morning

- Morning activities
- Welcome time
- Phonics
- Snack and Story
- Daily run
- Drawing Club
- (Literacy)
- Independent learning
- Maths

Afternoon

- Making muscles (Handwriting)
- Reading
- Topic/skills input
- Independent Learning
- Learning review

Story, songs and rhymes throughout the day

Independent learning

- Apply and develop skills
- Explore, experiment, create and follow their own interests
- Plan, do and review
- Learning friends challenges



Lunchtime

- Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school dinner.
- Packed lunches should support our school's healthy eating policy. Please note that our school is a 'nut free' zone which means that all types of nuts are banned. Also note that fizzy drinks, sweets and chocolate bars (a chocolate chip cookie, small chocolate cake or chocolate coated wafer is ok) are not allowed in school lunches.
- Safe eating
 - Small round foods (e.g. grapes, cherry tomatoes) cut lengthways into quarters
 - Meat and sausages are cut into thin strips and bones removed
 - Nut free school
 - Popcorn is a choking risk for under 5s

Early Years Foundation Stage Nutrition Guidance

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6839b752210698b3364e86fc/Early_years_foundation_stage_nutrition_guidance.pdf

Lunchtime

OPAL Play (Outdoor Play and Learning)

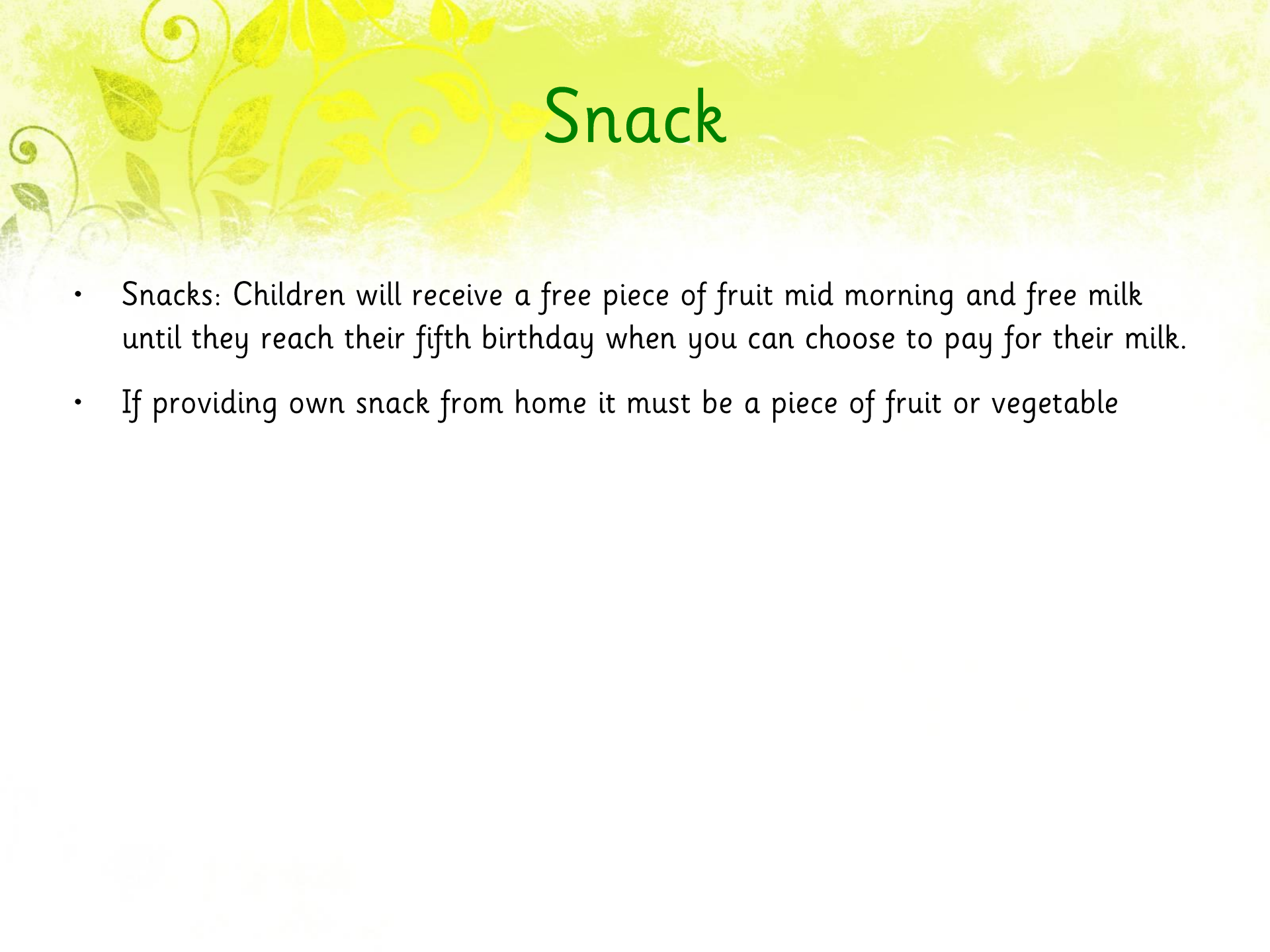
- Promotes high-quality outdoor play as a key part of children's development

What this means for your child

- Children will play outside in all seasons and all weathers
- Children will get wet and muddy at times – this is a normal and positive part of play
- It is important that children have:
 - a waterproof all-in-one
 - wellies



Having the right clothing ensures children can fully take part and stay comfortable



Snack

- Snacks: Children will receive a free piece of fruit mid morning and free milk until they reach their fifth birthday when you can choose to pay for their milk.
- If providing own snack from home it must be a piece of fruit or vegetable

Weekly activities



Explorers

Buddy time



PE



Transition

- Contact with current nursery and childcare settings
- Stay and play sessions so children have the opportunity to explore their new surroundings
- Information book and transition activities
- Getting to know the children – home visits or parent consultation appointment
- Door stop visits for children not having a home visit
- Stay and play sessions after school
- Shuffle up afternoon on Thursday 9th July

September Staggered start

- Thursday 3rd September AM or PM session
- Friday 4th September AM or PM session

AM session 8.50-11.00am

PM session 1.00-3.10pm

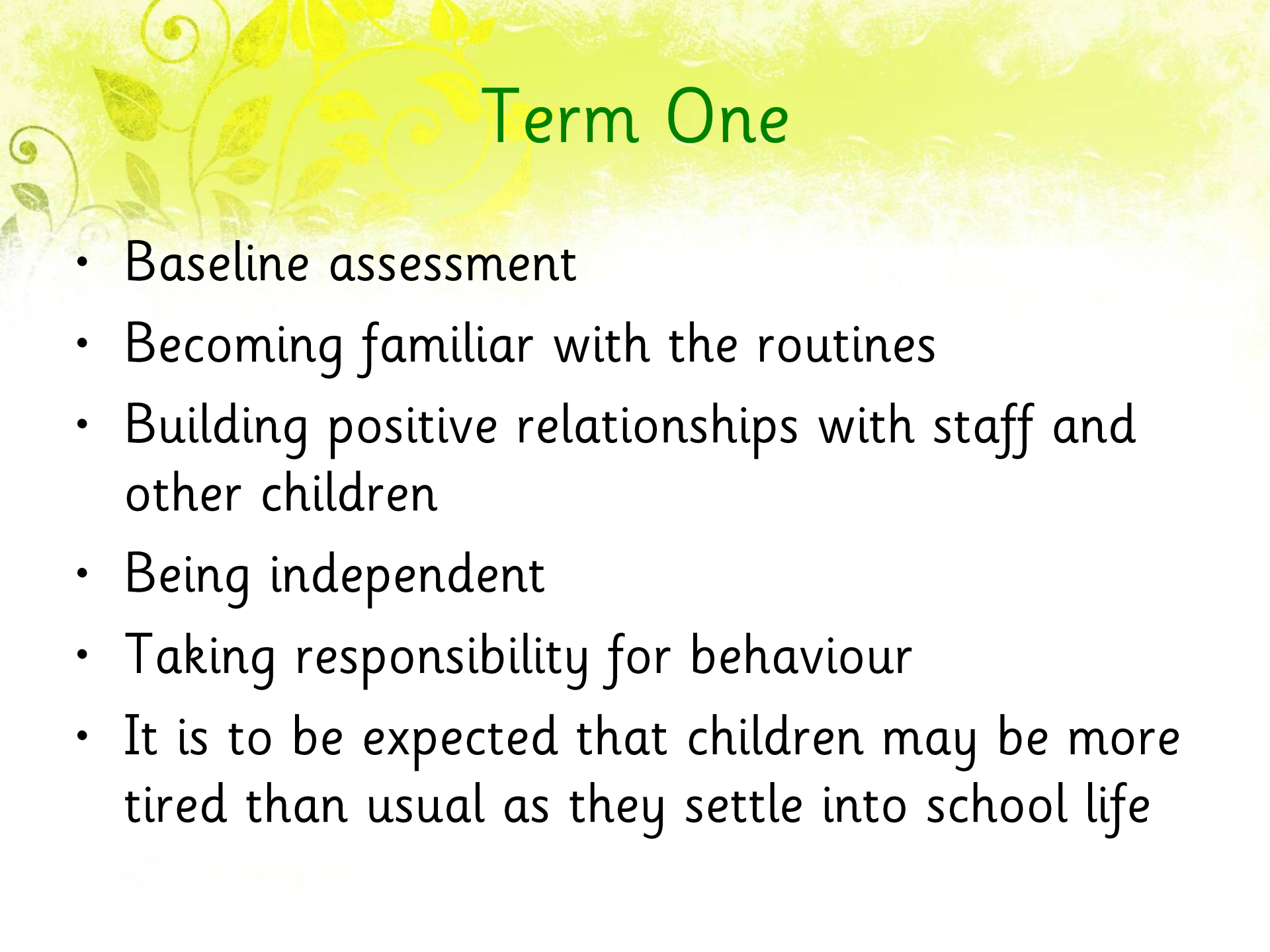
- Monday 7th September

Children will start their full-time school hours (8.50-3.15)



The first few days

- Children will enter the Cherry classroom from the playground
- Come in independently and put their belongings on their peg
- Get to know the learning environment
- Play games to get to know each other
- Start to become familiar with daily routines
- Create a class agreement of 'good choices' all children will strive to make when at school



Term One

- Baseline assessment
- Becoming familiar with the routines
- Building positive relationships with staff and other children
- Being independent
- Taking responsibility for behaviour
- It is to be expected that children may be more tired than usual as they settle into school life

Starting school

Physical development

Getting moving for at least three hours a day

- ✓ Walking up and down steps (one foot at a time, using the wall for support)
- ✓ Climbing, running, jumping and playing
- ✓ Catching a large ball (most of the time)
- ✓ Doing simple puzzles and craft activities, strengthening their grip with cutting and sticking



Healthy routines

- ✓ Going to bed around the same time each night, waking up in time to get ready for school
- ✓ Limiting screen time to the recommended daily amounts (see advice)
- ✓ Eating a healthy diet and trying new foods
- ✓ Brushing their teeth with fluoride toothpaste twice a day (you'll need to supervise this until they are at least 7)



Building relationships and communicating



Being with others

- ✓ Practising sharing and taking turns with toys
- ✓ Talking to them about **how** they are feeling and **why**
- ✓ Looking at story books together and speaking about what characters are feeling is a good way to do this
- ✓ Beginning to recognise what others are feeling, e.g. understanding if a friend is sad
- ✓ Encouraging them to set boundaries for themselves and others (e.g. knowing how to say 'no')

Communication and language

- ✓ Singing along with songs and nursery rhymes
- ✓ Talking happily to others about activities, experiences and the world around them
- ✓ Showing they need help by speaking clearly (in basic English or sign language)
- ✓ Recognising the pattern of their name (so they can find it on their coat peg or jacket)

Listening and engaging

- ✓ Paying attention for short periods of time
- ✓ Listening to and following simple instructions
- ✓ Carrying on with a task even when it's difficult and bouncing back if things go wrong



Growing independence

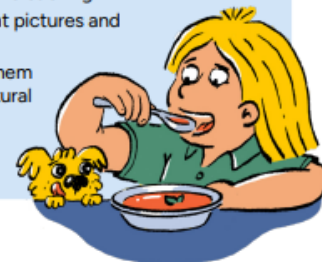


Taking care of themselves

- ✓ Putting on/taking off their coat and shoes
- ✓ Using the toilet and washing their hands
- ✓ Getting dressed with little help, e.g. after using the toilet or doing PE
- ✓ Using cutlery (e.g. fork and spoon, chopsticks) and drinking from an open cup
- ✓ Spending time away from you, learning they can be looked after by caring adults

Play, creativity and curiosity

- ✓ Taking part in imaginative play (e.g. role play)
- ✓ Drawing, painting, colouring and sticking
- ✓ Sharing story books, looking at pictures and talking about the characters
- ✓ Exploring the world around them (e.g. looking closely at the natural world, playing safely with objects at home)



What children need to bring to school

- Book bag
- Water bottle
- Wellies and all in one waterproof
- On your child's PE day, they will come to school wearing their PE kit
- Spare set of clothing (does not need to be school uniform)
- No toys or items from home

Reminders

- Please name everything (including shoes)
- Please contact me if you require an additional copy of the settling sessions barbers@bridlewood.org.uk
- Please bring in any necessary paperwork
- Please email a family photo to barbers@bridlewood.org.uk
- How we learning in Reception Wednesday 23rd September at 9.00am