

Starting School at Repton Manor Primary School



**Starting
September 2020**

Welcome message

Dear Parent/Carer,

My name is James Kilduff and I am the newly appointed Early Years Foundation Stage Leader at Repton Manor Primary School. Firstly, I would like to welcome you and your child to our school and our Repton Family. I look forward to supporting your child on the first step of their journey through our school.

We know what a big and exciting milestone starting school is for our families and children, and the Early Years team and I feel extremely fortunate to be able to share this experience with you. During these uncertain times, where we are unable to provide our normal transition activities, I would like to reassure you that we will do our best to ensure that both you and your child are happy and excited about starting school in September.

We anticipate that your child's transition into school this year will look different to previous cohorts of children arriving, however I hope that the information below will ensure that your child has the best possible transition into school.

We will do our very best to address any questions, worries or concerns that you may have before September and make this as positive an experience as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact me using the following email address either before or after September.

james.kilduff@reptonmanor.kent.sch.uk

Myself and the rest of the Early Years team look forward to getting to know you and your child over the coming weeks and months.

James Kilduff
(Early Years Leader)



Key Transition dates for your diary

Monday 6th July

Welcome video for your child uploaded onto our school website. These videos will include the Year R teachers introducing themselves and also reading one of their favourite stories.

www.reptonmanorprimary.co.uk

Tuesday 7th July – Friday 10th July

Staff phone calls to families to replace home visits

Week beginning Monday 20th July

Parents informed of their child's class, teacher and teaching assistant

Saturday 29th August

'Meet your teachers' morning

An informal opportunity to meet your teachers and the other families who are also starting at Repton Manor.

More information to follow nearer the time.

Wednesday 2nd September – Friday 4th September

Stay and play sessions

Monday 7th September – Friday 11th September

Half days for your child. You will be allocated a morning or afternoon slot.

Workshops for parents (subject to change in line with government guidance)

Monday 14th September – Tuesday 15th September

All children to attend school from 8.40 am – 1.00 pm (including having lunch at school)

Wednesday 16th September

Your child will attend school full time from this date.

Please note that the following dates and times are all conditional dependant on government guidance. We will update you as soon as possible if any changes are needed.

Who will be teaching and caring for my child in Year R?

Our dedicated team for the Early Years Foundation Stage **currently** consists of:

Reception Class Teachers	Mr James Kilduff Miss Sian King
Reception Teaching Assistants	Mr Luke Burrough Mrs Hayley Mannering

How will my child get to know these key adults before they start school?

We will be making 'getting to know you' videos for our website. Please feel free to share these with your child. They will be available on our school website on Monday 6th July.

Please also share our transition booklet with your child, this will have been attached to the same email as this document. This includes pictures of the adults that they will be working closely with in September, along with some information about who we are and our interests.

We will also be having a 'meet your teachers' morning on Saturday 29th August which will begin at 9.30 am on the school playground. This will be subject to change in line with government guidance.

More information to follow nearer the time.

What class will my child be in?

We will allocate your child's class prior to starting at Repton Manor. We take into consideration, a balance of boys/girls and individual needs. However, in Year R all children work with all the adults in the setting. Their class teacher is predominantly for registration and some class activities. You will be made aware of your child's class, and their class teacher and teaching assistant, during the week beginning Monday 20th July. At the end of your child's year in Reception, the classes may be mixed. If classes are mixed this will be based on the range of needs of the children and class placement will not be at the request of parents.

When will my child start school?

Our current plan for September is as follows:

WEEK 1 Wednesday 2nd - Friday 4th September

Stay and play sessions

Children will attend school for an hour each day to meet the Year R staff and familiarise themselves in the classroom environment. This will be a good opportunity for your child to settle in and play in the Early Years' environment. We will also aim for all parents to attend and join in with these sessions, however this will need to be in line with government guidance at the time. We would like your child to wear their full school uniform during these sessions. They will not need to take anything additional with them, however we will give each child their Repton Manor book bag during their first stay and play session.

You will be provided with more details, including your child's time slot for the three days, in the week beginning Monday 20th July.

WEEK 2 Monday 7th - Friday 11th September

Half days in school

In order to give the children more time to explore the classrooms, meet their teachers and make new friends, your child will be allocated a place in one of two groups. Please note that your child won't have lunch in school on these days, however they will be offered a healthy snack. Again, they should wear their full school uniform on these days and bring a labelled water bottle into school with them.

The morning group will attend 8.50 am – 11.30 am.

The afternoon group will attend 12.30 pm - 3.00 pm.

You will be provided with the details of your child's group in the week beginning Monday 20th July.

WEEK 3

Monday 14th – Tuesday 15th September

All children will attend school 8.50 am – 1.00 pm on these days. Your child will have lunch in school on these days. This can be a healthy packed lunch from home, or a school dinner. All children in Year R are currently entitled to a free school meal each day.

Wednesday 16th September onwards

From Wednesday 16th September onwards, all children attend school full time (8.50 am - 3.00 pm).

If your child needs additional support to help them settle, this will be planned for and agreed in discussion with you, to meet your child's needs.

What are the school times once my child is in school full time?

The school gates open at 8:40 am where children will be welcomed by a member of the Senior Leadership team, all children should be in school ready to start their early morning learning at 8:50 am. The time in the morning is very important for your child's social development with their peers and their academic learning.

What are home visits and are they still taking place?

To support our children's transitions during previous years, we have always visited families and children at their own home. These are what we call home visits and they would normally take place during July. Unfortunately, we are unable to complete these home visits this year due to the current situation. As an alternative, we will be calling you and your child. The purpose of the phone call is for staff to introduce themselves to you and your child. This is an opportunity to ask questions and talk about your child. We will also be asking a number of questions to help us build a picture of your child's interests and needs. These calls will be taking place from 7th – 10th July.

How important is my child's attendance?

Very important! We encourage a high level of attendance and punctuality at Repton Manor. Children must attend school every day unless they are ill. Children who attend every day and arrive on time do better than those who have low attendance and poor punctuality.

If your child is absent for reasons of sickness, please let the school office know promptly by telephone on the day they are off sick. We are required to keep records of all absences. We also need to know if they are off due to medical or dental appointments.

Please ensure all contact numbers we hold for you are always up to date.

Where do I take my child on their first day?

As your child's first day will be their **stay and play session**, you and your child will need to arrive at the school office at your allocated time.

On your child's **half day session**, if you have a morning slot, you will need to take your child straight to their classroom which is located at the back of the school, next to our school field. If your child has an afternoon slot, then you will need to arrive at the school office. You are welcome to stay with your child for the first ten minutes of your child's half day session, to help them settle.

When your child is **attending school full time** (Wednesday 16th September), please take your child to their classroom. Again, you will be welcome to stay for the first ten minutes of the school day.

This is subject to change in line with Government guidelines, any changes will be communicated with you prior to your child's first day

What is the school uniform?

We aim to foster a feeling of community at Repton Manor.

We believe that both staff and pupils should dress appropriately for the activities they are undertaking. We believe that it is smart, it gives the school an identity and it gives our children a sense of belonging.

Our school uniform is as follows:

- White polo top.
- Grey or black trousers.
- Grey or black skirts and pinafore dresses.
- Red and white check summer dresses.
- Red jumpers/sweatshirts/cardigans - sweatshirts/cardigans with the school logo on are available from the school office.
- black shoes that your child can manage for themselves.
- Your child will also need a pair of wellington boots in school.

PE kit: dark trousers and or shorts, a white t-shirt plimsolls or trainers.

We ask parents to name all items of clothing so that we can return lost property easily. Please ensure that Repton Manor School coats are labelled clearly and in a sensible place, we suggest the washing instructions label inside the pocket.

Dress Code

We ask parents not to send their children to school wearing:

- Unsuitable shoes
- Clothes with slogans or pictures of pop stars etc, printed on them
- Sportswear e.g. football or cycle shorts, shell suits or track suits
- Make-up, nail varnish, or excessive amounts of hair gel
- Trainers

Active Learning

Please be aware that in Year R we offer a practical, play based, approach to learning; so there are times that we do get messy! Your child's clothing needs to fit and be easy for them to remove and put back on by themselves. We have a space for children to bring in their own wellies for outdoor play.

Please send a spare set of clothing, including pants and socks, so that your child has spare items should they need them, this does not need to be school uniform. Please put these on their peg.

Dressing for PE

Children need a white T-shirt, a pair of dark shorts and plimsolls or trainers. This all needs to be left in school in a drawstring bag. We send it home each half term. In the winter months please send in dark coloured jogging bottoms and a jumper.

We ask parents to clearly name all items of PE clothing so that we can return lost property easily.

Jewellery

We do not believe that jewellery is suitable for the school day. Children wearing jewellery will be asked to remove it. If your child has pierced ears, they may wear plain studs, but not sleepers or pendant earrings. The safety of our children is our first priority.

If your child wears jewellery for religious reasons, please let the Headteacher know in writing. School staff cannot accept responsibility for the safe keeping of jewellery.

What will happen at lunchtimes?

Children will be able to stay for a school meal or bring a packed lunch once they are full time. In year R, the Government fund free school meals for your children. If you believe your child is entitled to additional funding due to household benefits please apply for free school meals using the following weblink; . The additional funding is used to support your child's academic and social development and can fund additional resources where necessary.

Cooked school meals

We have an on-site kitchen and mid-day meals of excellent quality. They are prepared by our school cook and her team.

Children are offered a choice of 2 homemade main courses (one of which is vegetarian), jacket potato or pasta. Each day we have a salad bar and there is a choice of desserts. The emphasis is on healthy eating.

Packed lunches

Children having a packed lunch are encouraged to bring a healthy lunch box. Please do not include sweets and chocolate. The amount you put in your child's lunch box should be what they would usually eat for a sandwich type lunch. Please name your child's box!

How are lunchtimes organised?

From 11.45 -12.30 the children have their lunch in the school hall. From 12.00-12.45 they have the opportunity to play and socialise with the other infant children in the school on the main playground.

Do children have snack time?

Your child will be provided with a piece of fruit and milk each day to have during their morning snack.



Once they are in Year R, does everything change? Do they start formal learning now?

We need to remember that your child's learning journey began even before they were born. Your child is already a learner....a reader, a writer, an artist, a mathematician, a scientist.... and so much more!

It is our role to continue to guide their footsteps on the learning journey they are making, and to do that appropriately, to suit their needs and developmental stages. In Year R, we continue to use the Early Years Foundation Stage** guidance materials to support our teaching (as in pre-school/ nursery settings). We build on what has gone before, based on our knowledge of each child. We also use our professional understanding of what young children need to learn and develop.

Parents often worry that going to school means there will be a massive change in the way their child is taught and how they will learn.

"My child won't cope with lots of formal stuff!" Don't worry! There won't be any huge changes for children as they start in Year R. There is still a lot of play! However, this doesn't mean that they won't be learning!

Children have planned daily, adult led, learning opportunities as well as their own child initiated learning times. The routine develops over the year and changes to meet the children's needs as they grow and learn.

****A brief outline of the Early Years Foundation Stage can be found at the back of this booklet**

What can I do to help my child with their learning? Do they get any home learning?

We believe that successful learning comes from the school and families working together. Please continue to do things like.... talk with your child, read stories to them, get out and about and be active, encourage independence....all the things you already do.

We will keep you fully informed about what your child is doing and what we need you to do at home.

Topic: Each term, six times a year, your child will receive a project based home learning task. These are creative open-ended tasks that are normally completed with the support of parents.

Reading: In Year R, we will start sending home reading books. When reading books come home, we ask that you read with your child every day. This really supports progress in school. Children's book bags must be in school every day. They are essential so that we can ensure they have a reading book, reading record and key words.

Phonics (letter sounds): Once the children are full time we will teach your child 4 letter sounds a week. They learn through a programme called Read Write Inc.

Children's progress: You will have regular opportunities to discuss your child's progress. We continue to make observations, collect photos, pictures etc. to help us make assessments on children's learning. Each term we update children's progress on the EYFS Profile and talk to you about how they are doing. We will encourage your input. We hope you will share information with us about how you feel your child is doing.

WOW stars

We encourage you to tell us about the things your child is doing at home that shows their learning and progress. We use 'WOW' to help to do this and we will tell you more about these when your child starts.



The **Seven Areas of Learning and Development** for The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

THE THREE PRIME AREAS OF LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED) – **making relationships** – playing and interacting with others; **self-confidence and self-awareness** – becoming confident in themselves and their abilities; **managing feelings and behaviour** – expressing and exploring feelings and developing ideas about simple rules and boundaries

Communication and Language (CL) – **listening and attention** – developing listening skills and the ability to listen to others; **speaking** – using talk to express ideas, interact with others and expand vocabulary; **understanding** – understanding words, phrases and ideas and following simple instructions.

Physical Development (PD) – **moving and handling** - developing physical skills to run, jump, climb, balance etc. and developing skills involving the use of large and small equipment; **health and self-care** - understanding simple ideas about being healthy.

THE FOUR SPECIFIC AREAS OF LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

Literacy (L) **reading** - exploring books, stories and rhymes;
writing - developing early skills of mark making that lead into writing.

Mathematics (M) – **numbers** - opportunities to develop early counting and number skills; **shape, space and measures** - exploring shapes and using mathematical language associated with their play.

Understanding of the World (UW) – **people and communities** - talking about their own lives and people close to them; developing ideas about the community they live in; **the world** - exploring materials and the world around them to find out more;
technology – understanding about and using simple technology.

Expressive Arts and Design (EAD) – **exploring and using media and materials** and **being imaginative** - expressing and exploring ideas through creative activities like role play, music, movement/dance, paint, drawing, dough/clay, collage and building.

All areas are important and interconnected so we consider all these areas when we plan the environment, resources and activities, to ensure we are offering a broad and balanced provision for children's learning and development.



The seven areas are linked to our understanding that -

A Unique Child

Every child is a unique child who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.

Positive Relationships

Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.

Enabling Environments

Children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and carers.

Learning and Development

All children develop and learn in different ways. Practitioners teach children by ensuring challenging, playful opportunities across the prime and specific areas of learning and development.

Practitioners foster the characteristics of effective learning

- Playing and exploring
- Active learning
- Creating and thinking critically



