



Reception Newsletter September 2026



Welcome to Old Clee!

We hope you have had a lovely summer break and the children are well rested and ready for their first half term in Reception. The Reception staff team are as follows: Mrs Leader, Mrs Hall, Mrs Boswell, Mrs Adams, Mrs Brant and Miss Mayall. The children are already settling in well and making lots of new friends!

School Website

As a year group, we are constantly updating our web page with the learning taking place in Reception. For up-to-date information, including pictures and videos of the children learning, make sure you visit the class pages on the academy website regularly. Find us at www.oldcleeprimaryacademy.co.uk then click the 'Children' tab, followed by 'Year Groups' and **Reception**.

Social Media Reminder

We are using our school media account frequently, so please follow us on Facebook (@Old Clee Primary Academy) to see what the children have been up to!



Habits of Mind

Across the academy, we encourage children to develop six **Habits of Mind** that help them become confident, resilient and independent learners:

Striving for Accuracy – taking care and checking our work.

Persisting – keeping going when things are challenging.

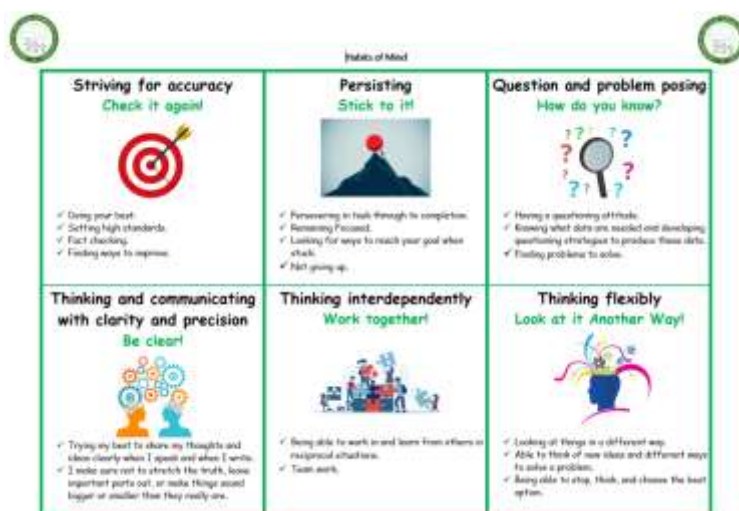
Questioning and Problem Posing – being curious and asking thoughtful questions.

Thinking and Communicating Clearly and Precisely – explaining our ideas clearly.

Thinking Interdependently – listening, sharing ideas and working well with others.

Thinking Flexibly – being open to new ideas and different ways of thinking.

These habits help our children approach learning with **curiosity, confidence and resilience**.



Literacy

We start the Autumn Term with a theme called 'Marvellous Me'. In Literacy, we are reading the story 'What makes me a me' by Ban Faulks & David Tazzyman. We will be talking about what makes us special and unique as well as talking about feelings and emotions. We will be linking this story to friendship and how it is kind to share.

In Talk for Writing, we will be learning the stories: Mr Wiggle and Mr Waggle and The Little Red Hen. We will be acting out these stories and retelling them.

In Phonics, we will use our daily Read, Write Inc lessons to teach our sounds and learn how to blend sounds to read words.



Maths

In Maths, we will be learning how to subitise (say an amount without counting). The children will be practising their careful counting skills and number recognition. We will be learning how to make numbers in different ways. We will also be comparing sets noting which is more or less. The children will enjoy learning their numbers through songs and fun practical activities.



Homework



Reading Books

As part of our Early Reading Scheme, children will receive a picture reading book on Monday. Please share these books at home and encourage your child to tell the story using the pictures and ask them questions.

As your child progresses through our Read, Write Inc Phonics scheme, they will bring home a set of sounds that they have learnt in school each week. Please review and practise these with your child to consolidate their learning.

Homework Books

Homework books will be sent out every Friday – these will include an activity for you to complete with the children at home. Please return these books by the following **Thursday** so that we can share the tasks in class.

Our first homework is linked to our theme 'Marvellous Me'. We would like to get to know the children and their families and talk about how every family is special and unique. The children will be able to draw pictures of their family and then use this during 'talking time' where they can show their pictures and talk about the different people who are special to them.

How you can help at home

To help your child at home, you can share stories together each night.

We are always keen to work in partnership with parents and the more you can support your child with their homework, the more prepared they will be in their learning journey. Please do not hesitate to get in contact with us if you wish for further help and support with home learning – we can always offer ideas and advice to make learning fun at home!

We want your child to be able to write their name independently on all work and helping them with this at home will support us in Reception. If you can help your child to hold a pencil correctly when writing this will help with letter formation.

Whilst you are out and about, you can practise counting the things you see and looking for numbers as well as shapes around you. This will support your child with their mathematical development.

Please encourage your child to use a knife and fork when eating their dinner and to be independent when opening snack/food packets.

Please ensure your child is dressing themselves and gaining independence when putting on and taking off jumpers, cardigans and coats.

Home school communication

Each child is given a yellow home/school book. These are used for any messages you would like to share with your child's class teacher and the end of day pick-up arrangements. Please bring these to school daily.

PE

PE in Reception will be on **FRIDAY** for Mrs Leader's class and Mrs Hall's class.

Please send your child to school wearing their PE kit. Please note that PE uniform must not contain any logos. Children will then stay in their PE kit all day. Please note – to help your child with independence, Velcro will allow them to fasten their trainers independently.

LABELLING ALL UNIFORM

Please ensure that ALL of your child's uniform and belongings are clearly labelled with their full name. This will help to prevent loss of belongings.

Water Reminder

We recommend that all children bring a clearly labelled water bottle in to school daily. This must contain fresh water only. For hygiene reasons, they must be taken home, washed and refilled daily. They can be refilled during the school day but anything other than water will not be allowed to be consumed unless you can provide written medical evidence from your GP. On receiving this you will then need to fill in a Medical Health Care plan. See section 4. If your child has a packed lunch, a second drink should be included. However, no fizzy drinks are allowed to be brought into school. Children having school lunches will be provided with water.

All of the Reception staff would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your support and we look forward to working in partnership with you throughout the school year to support your child's learning and development.

Dates for your Diary

PE is on FRIDAY.

Every Friday: Homework books to be given out and returned the following **Thursday**.

Kindest Regards,

The Reception Teaching Team