

Autumn Term 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to welcome you and your children to the Early Years Foundation Stage (Reception Class) at Tollesbury School. Each class in school is named after an artist. We will be known as “Scott” class after Iris Scott, an American artist, famed for using finger paints to create amazing artwork.

In these first few weeks we will be helping the children become used to the new setting, finding out what they can do, what they enjoy and gathering ideas from them for the learning activities for the term. The children will be conducting the EYFS Baseline assessment over the next few weeks. A leaflet will follow to explain what this assessment is.

In the Early Years we have seven areas of learning:

The three prime areas are:

Communication and Language

In this first term the focus will be on encouraging the children to feel confident to talk in their new environment, to make use of their experiences from home, to share their ideas and to listen to the adults in class and to their friends. Role-play, turn-taking games and listening games will all contribute to the development of the children’s language. We will be encouraging them to listen out for, and to use new vocabulary, and to use language to describe places, objects and people. We will also be working with nursery rhymes and stories that should be familiar to many of the children, providing a starting point for lots of our activities. The children will be encouraged to describe what happens in the stories, to retell stories, and to use the language of stories in their play.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This is a particularly important area of learning in the first year of school. In these early weeks we will focus on routines of home and school, playing and learning together, sharing, helping and making friends. The children will be supported through lunchtimes as well as in class as they settle into school life.

We will be introducing “The Zones of Regulation” in our class, as we begin a school initiative, whereby we discuss our feelings and emotions throughout the day, with certain feelings associated with specific colours. More details on this and our use of My Happy Mind will follow in due course.

We will make our class rules based on ‘Our class is happy when....’ Stories we will listen to are ‘Colour Monster goes to School,’ ‘Egg’ and ‘Worrysaurus.’

Physical Development

It is vital that children develop their physical skills at this early time in their lives. Good coordination and control will help with many aspects of their overall development. An understanding of a healthy lifestyle and the development of fine motor skills is part of this area of learning and the children will be involved in a range of activities such as cutting, pouring and threading, as well as writing and drawing.

Our PE day with our external sports coach is on a Wednesday, the children should wear their PE kit to school on this day. A second PE lesson will be introduced after baseline assessments are completed and the second PE kit day will be shared with you shortly. We will learn lots of new games and skills linked to different activities.

The four specific areas are:

Literacy

Through our activities in class, we will be learning rhymes and stories, using drawings and learning new vocabulary linked to stories. We will do this through 'Drawing club,' where children listen to a story, learn new vocabulary and then draw and write/mark make, linked to the story.



Children will become familiar with the fun characters of 'Supersonic Phonic Friends' as we introduce our phonic scheme later this term.

Mathematics



We start our maths journey by singing lots of number rhymes. The children will then be noticing, subitising and counting. Subitising is an essential part of developing number sense in early years children by helping them to relate numbers to actual items or groups of items. It is the ability to see without the need to count and is known as number conservation or number sense. It also is an important skill they can put in their 'maths toolbox' for use later. We start with sorting, using the book 'Button Box,' followed by exploring patterns and comparing measures.

Autumn is a lovely season to look at all the colours surrounding us. The two areas of *Expressive Arts and Design and Understanding of the World* link well to look at colours in our environment and there will be lots of opportunities for the children to develop their own creative ideas with different media such as collage, paint and pastels. There will be opportunities for creating self-portraits, making handprints and using different textures to make collages. We are going to be using our senses to explore and investigate, including tasting our own cooking! There will be lots of investigations outside in our garden area and the nature garden too.

Other Information

Any medication that your child needs in school should be left at the school office with relevant forms completed.

Please ensure you have informed us as to who will be picking your child up if there are changes to the normal routine.

Outdoor provision

We aim to enable children to have access to the outdoor area whenever possible and ask that the children have coats and suitable footwear available. We would like a spare pair of named wellies in school to allow us to play outside whatever the weather (almost all weathers!)

I have an open-door approach and encourage you to come up to the door when it is your turn to collect your child to hear about their day. If you have any questions, please do ask!

I very much look forward to working with you and your child.

Mrs Shine