



Welcome to Reception!

Ilchester Community Primary School

2025 – 2026



Welcome (or welcome back!) to Ilchester Community Primary School!

We are so excited that you are going to be starting our Reception and cannot wait to get to know you and to help you make lots of new friends. Being in Reception is the most wonderful adventure, where you will play and learn new skills every day. By the end of the year, you will be able to do so many amazing things. You will have explored the world around you and most importantly had so much fun! This book is to help you understand what being in Reception at Ilchester Community Primary School will be like. It is written for you (with a few bits of extra information for your grown-ups). We hope you enjoy looking at the pictures and that this helps you to get as excited about school as we all are!



Our Vision and Values

Six core values guide everything we do at Ilchester Community Primary School. These values are the foundation of our school culture and help shape our children into well-rounded, compassionate, and motivated individuals.

Belief

We believe in the potential of every student. Our school community nurtures confidence and self-esteem, encouraging each child to believe in their abilities and strive for their best. We support our children in setting and achieving personal goals, fostering a growth mindset that will serve them well throughout their lives.



Equity



Equity is central to our mission. We are committed to providing an inclusive environment where every child can access the same opportunities, resources, and support. We celebrate diversity and ensure that all children feel valued and respected, promoting a sense of belonging and fairness within our school.

Curiosity

Curiosity drives our approach to learning. We encourage our children to ask questions, explore new ideas, and develop a lifelong love of learning. Our curriculum is designed to spark curiosity and inspire children to investigate the world around them, fostering a spirit of enquiry and discovery.



Our Vision and Values

Kindness



Kindness is at the heart of our community. We teach our children the importance of empathy, compassion, and understanding. Through acts of kindness, both big and small, we create a supportive and caring environment where everyone feels valued and respected.

Bravery

Bravery empowers our children to take risks and face challenges with courage. We encourage our children to step out of their comfort zones, try new things, and learn from their experiences. We help our children build resilience and confidence to overcome obstacles by fostering bravery.



Aspiration

These values create a nurturing and dynamic learning environment where every child can thrive. We are proud of our school community and the values that guide us, and we are committed to helping our children grow into compassionate, curious, and ambitious individuals.

Welcome to a school where values matter.

Ready, Respectful and Safe

At our school, we have three simple yet powerful rules that ensure a positive and productive learning environment for all: Ready, Respectful, and Safe. Following these guidelines creates a community where everyone can thrive and succeed.

Being **ready** means coming to school prepared and eager to learn.

Here's how our children demonstrate this rule:

Preparedness: Children arrive on time and complete all necessary materials and homework.

Focus: Children pay attention in class and participate actively in their lessons.

Responsibility: Children take charge of their learning by setting goals and working diligently to achieve them.

Respect is at the core of our school culture.

We teach our children to:

Respect Others: Children treat their peers, teachers, and all school staff kindly and carefully.

Respect Property: Children take care of school property and the belongings of others.

Respect Themselves: Children show self-respect by making positive choices and taking pride in their achievements.

Safety is our top priority.

We ensure a secure environment where children can learn and grow by:

Following Rules: Children adhere to all school safety rules and guidelines.

Being Aware: Children stay alert and report any unsafe situations to a trusted adult.

Helping Others: Children look out for their peers and help create a safe and supportive community.

By embracing these rules—**Ready, Respectful, and Safe**—our children contribute to a positive school atmosphere that promotes learning and personal growth. We encourage all members of our school community to uphold these principles every day.

Thank you for helping us maintain a vibrant and harmonious school environment!

Our Curriculum Intent

At Ilchester Community Primary School, we aim to provide a meaningful and progressive curriculum that is relevant to our children, enabling them to engage in learning experiences that evolve to reflect the current times and encompass our community. Our curriculum is firmly rooted in the values of our school.

Equity

Equity is a key driver in all that we do at Ilchester. As a school, we are firm in our belief that everyone can achieve and should be fully supported to reach their goals. We recognise that, in order to reach the same goal, whether this be age-related expectations in maths or riding a bike without stabilisers, different children need differing levels of support and provision. We are resolute that everyone can do it and our curriculum is designed for all to succeed.

Belief

To achieve success, children must believe in themselves and each other. Our curriculum is designed to provide opportunities for children to build their resilience, confidence, independence and subsequently a love of learning.

Bravery

Without bravery, children are unlikely to realise their full potential. The ability to take risks, with sound judgement and skill, is a crucial element of their development. Bravery provides children with the moral courage to take control, demonstrate resilience and make the right decisions.

Curiosity

Fostering curious children who ask 'why' and 'how' is essential for success. We aim to inspire our children to be excited about learning, eager for knowledge, and motivated to explore questions such as 'what if...'. This is endorsed by creating opportunities to develop their life experiences and extend their cultural capital.

Kindness

We believe that developing kindness and responsibility in children is just as important as developing academic skills. Children should be supported to recognise their impact on the local and wider community; learning to respect each other and the environment, whilst nurturing diversity and individuals' spiritual, moral, social, and cultural growth.

Aspiration

Aspiration drives our children to reach for the stars, and this is central to our curriculum design. We inspire children to set high goals and work diligently towards their dreams, fostering a sense of purpose and determination. Our curriculum ensures they are equipped to succeed in all areas of life

The EYFS Curriculum

In September 2021, a new Early Years Statutory Framework and curriculum guidance was introduced. Our Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is organised to take care of and develop the whole child and not just their academic learning.

Our EYFS Curriculum is split into 7 areas of learning...

3 Prime Areas:
 Communication and Language
 Physical Development
 Personal, Social and Emotional Development

4 Specific Areas:
 Literacy
 Mathematics
 Understanding the World
 Expressive Arts and Design

Our EYFS Curriculum also includes the Characteristics of Effective Learning...

These focus not on *what* children know but *how* children learn.

Playing and Exploring – our children investigate and experience things and events around them and ‘have a go.’

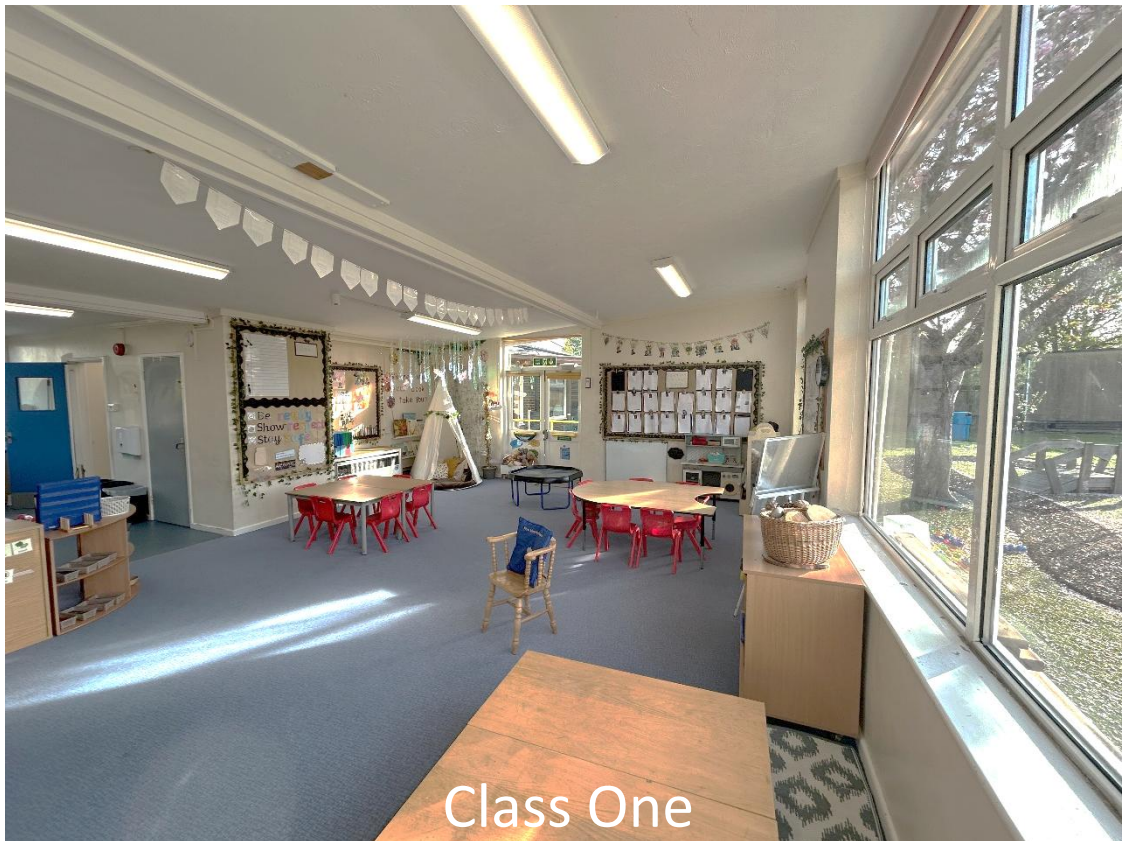
Active Learning – our children concentrate and keep trying if they experience difficulties, as well as enjoying what they achieve.

Creating and Thinking Critically – our children have and develop their own ideas, make links between different and experiences and develop strategies for doing things

Early Learning Goals

<p>Communication and Language</p> <p>Listening, Attention and Understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen attentively and respond to what they hear with relevant questions, comments and actions when being read to and during whole class discussions and small group interactions. Make comments about what they have heard and ask questions to clarify their understanding. Hold conversation when engaged in back-and-forth exchanges with their teacher and peers. <p>Speaking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in small group, class and one-to-one discussions, offering their own ideas, using recently introduced vocabulary. Offer explanations for why things might happen, making use of recently introduced vocabulary from stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems when appropriate. Express their ideas and feelings about their experiences using full sentences, including use of past, present and future tenses and making use of conjunctions, with modelling and support from their teacher. 	<p>Personal, Social and Emotional Development</p> <p>Self-Regulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show an understanding of their own feelings and those of others, and begin to regulate their behaviour accordingly. Set and work towards simple goals, being able to wait for what they want and control their immediate impulses when appropriate. Give focused attention to what the teacher says, responding appropriately even when engaged in activity, and show an ability to follow instructions involving several ideas or actions. <p>Managing Self</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be confident to try new activities and show independence, resilience and perseverance in the face of challenge. Explain the reasons for rules, know right from wrong and try to behave accordingly. Manage their own basic hygiene and personal needs, including dressing, going to the toilet and understanding the importance of healthy food choices. <p>Building Relationships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work and play cooperatively and take turns with others. Form positive attachments to adults and friendships with peers. Show sensitivity to their own and to others’ needs. 	<p>Physical Development</p> <p>Gross Motor Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negotiate space and obstacles safely, with consideration for themselves and others. Demonstrate strength, balance and coordination when playing. Move energetically, such as running, jumping, dancing, hopping, skipping and climbing. <p>Fine Motor Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold a pencil effectively in preparation for fluent writing – using the tripod grip in almost all cases. Use a range of small tools, including scissors, paintbrushes and cutlery. Begin to show accuracy and care when drawing.
<p>Understanding the World</p> <p>Past and Present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talk about the lives of the people around them and their roles in society. Know some similarities and differences between things in the past and now, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class. Understand the past through settings, characters and events encountered in books read in class and storytelling. <p>People, Culture and Communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe their immediate environment using knowledge from observation, discussion, stories, non-fiction texts and maps. Know some similarities and differences between different religious and cultural communities in this country, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class. Explain some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries, drawing on knowledge from stories, non-fiction texts and (when appropriate) maps. <p>The Natural World</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants. Know some similarities and differences between the natural world around them and contrasting environments, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class. Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter. 	<p>Expressive Arts and Design</p> <p>Creating with Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function. Share their creations, explaining the process they have used. Make use of props and materials when role playing characters in narratives and stories. <p>Being Imaginative and Expressive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invent, adapt and recount narratives and stories with peers and their teacher. Sing a range of well-known nursery rhymes and songs. Perform songs, rhymes, poems and stories with others, and (when appropriate) try to move in time with music. 	<p>Mathematics</p> <p>Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a deep understanding of number to 10, including the composition of each number. Subitise (recognise quantities without counting) up to 5. Automatically recall (without reference to rhymes, counting or other aids) number bonds up to 5 (including subtraction facts) and some number bonds to 10, including double facts. <p>Numerical Patterns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verbally count beyond 20, recognising the pattern of the counting system. Compare quantities up to 10 in different contexts, recognising when one quantity is greater than, less than or the same as the other quantity. Explore and represent patterns within numbers up to 10, including evens and odds, double facts and how quantities can be distributed equally.
		<p>Literacy</p> <p>Comprehension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate understanding of what has been read to them by retelling stories and narratives using their own words and recently introduced vocabulary. Anticipate (where appropriate) key events in stories. Use and understand recently introduced vocabulary during discussions about stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems and during role play. <p>Word Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Say a sound for each letter in the alphabet and at least 10 digraphs. Read words consistent with their phonic knowledge by sound-blending. Read aloud simple sentences and books that are consistent with their phonic knowledge, including some common exception words. <p>Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed. Spell words by identifying sounds in them and representing the sounds with a letter or letters. Write simple phrases and sentences that can be read by others.

Our Classrooms



How will your child learn by playing?

You are going to be very busy in Reception and you will spend a lot of your time playing. That is because playing is one of the best ways you can learn! Playing helps you to develop your talking, to manage and understand how you are feeling and to help you make new friends. You will be able to practise new ideas and skills, to take risks, show imagination and solve problems. In Reception you will get the chance to play inside and outside!

Here are a few examples of how the toys and activities we have in Reception will help you to learn:

<p>Sand and water play can be an early introduction to science and maths, eg learning that water is fluid, not solid, and that it can be measured in different sized containers</p>	<p>Playing with dough, drawing and painting pictures, dressing up, playing with dolls can encourage creativity, imagination and expression of feelings</p>	<p>Building blocks, jigsaws and shape sorters can help with recognising different shapes and sizes, putting things in order and developing logic</p>	<p>Playing ball games, dancing, running, climbing all help to develop body movement, strength, flexibility and co-ordination skills.</p>	<p>Games help with turn taking, sharing and mixing with others</p>
<p>Singing, playing simple music instruments help to develop rhythm, listening and hearing</p>	<p>The role-play area is a wonderful place for make-believe, dressing up, trying out different roles. It provides scope for developing imagination, language, sharing, co-operation and mathematics</p>	<p>Through cooking the children are able to discover the properties of different types of food as well as developing language, mathematical and scientific skills</p>	<p>Reading and learning stories. Writing and mark-making. Children will also develop these skills through daily Phonics sessions</p>	<p>You will have the opportunity to play outside most days. It is important that children of Reception age develop their climbing, sliding, and jumping skills. The children have an opportunity to play in the mud kitchen as well as riding bikes</p>

Reception Outside Area

Our Reception outside area is currently undergoing a significant renovation, we can't wait to share some photos with you and welcome you in to see all of the fantastic work that has been going on!

Other Spaces in School



Our Staff

These are the names of some of the people who help make sure that everything at school is as brilliant as it can possibly be.

Headteacher: Mrs Michelle Mordue

Deputy Headteacher / SENDCO: Mrs Louise King

Early Years Foundation Stage Lead: Mrs Katie Boon

Family Link Worker: Mrs Hayley Dickinson

In Reception your adults are...



Mrs Boon



Mrs Slade



Miss Stone

How will we get to know you?

During the summer term before you start school, we will come and visit you in your current setting. We will talk to your keyworkers and learn all about you. Your families will get to meet us, and we will learn more about who you are and the world you live in.

Visiting Your New Classroom

Before you start school in September, we will invite you in to meet us and to see your new classroom on 'Transition Day'. We will let you know the date for this very soon. There will be lots of toys out that you can play with and lots of new friends that you will get to meet.



Starting School

On your first day in Reception you will be put into two smaller groups (Class 1 and Class 2). We will make sure that you are in a group with some of your friends from Nursery or any other children that you might know from outside of school. We will be sending out a letter to your grown-ups which will give the details of your first day at school and the timings.

On your first day, your grown-up will take you to your classroom door where the teachers and teaching assistants will be waiting to help you put your bag and coat away. You will be able to give your grown up a big hug and say good-bye. Don't worry though your grown-up will come back at the end of the day for big cuddles and to find out all that you have been getting up to! You will get to meet everyone in your class. There will be around 25 children altogether.

For the first week (Wednesday – Friday) you will stay all morning and go home before lunch time.

For the second week, Monday to Wednesday you will stay for the whole morning and for your lunch too! (We will tell you more about lunch time later in this booklet). After lunch, your grown-ups will come and pick you up and take you home. After those three days, you will then be staying at school for the whole day.

The first few weeks can be tiring and bewildering even if your child is used to Pre-School or being with a childminder. Don't worry if your child becomes upset; we are used to dealing with this situation. Children usually settle very quickly, but if for any reason this is not the case, we will telephone you.

The School Day

8.45am	School opens and your teacher will welcome you at the classroom door!
9.00am	Morning Register
12.10pm	Lunch Time
1.20pm	Afternoon Register
3.15pm	End of school day

Snack Time

Free milk is available for children under five years old, and can be paid for beyond their fifth birthday on the Cool Milk website (more information to follow). A free fruit or vegetable snack is available and we encourage all children to access this each day. If your child is not able to have milk for whatever reason, please let us know and we will speak with you about alternative arrangements. We also encourage children to bring in a water bottle from home to keep in school to access throughout the day. Please make sure the water bottle has your child's name on.

Lunchtime

Packed Lunch - Children may bring a packed lunch and drink which should be in a named container/lunch box. This will be stored in the Reception Classroom during the day. Please do not send in fizzy drinks, anything with nuts or unhealthy snacks or sweets.

School Lunches - Our meals are prepared locally by Figs Catering. Menus are displayed on the school website and run on a three-weekly cycle. If you would like your child to receive a hot meal they will have a choice of two options including vegetarian. The staff in the kitchen will be made aware of any allergies you have informed us of. **Hot school dinners are FREE for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.**

Absences and Illness

At Ilchester Community Primary School, attendance is a key area of priority. We strongly discourage parents to book holidays in term time, and we adhere to Somerset Council's attendance protocols in regards to this. Absence, particularly in early education, has a considerable effect on children's development. If your child is away from Reception because of any illness please notify us as to the reason on the first day of absence. If your child suffers from a medical condition requiring treatment such as an inhaler, we will require up to date medication to be kept in school. It is important that we can always contact parents in cases of emergency.

Please inform school immediately if your telephone number changes.

Safeguarding

All schools take the safety and well-being of the children in their care very seriously. Our Safeguarding Policy is on our website and we would be delighted to talk to you further about this. Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Louise King and can contact her via the school office

School Uniform Policy

At Ilchester Community Primary School we encourage our children to take pride in their appearance and to look smart in their school uniform. Uniform is set out as below. All items are non-gender specific. **Please ensure all items are clearly named!**

Compulsory Items for all Year Groups:

Blue logoed V-neck or crew neck sweatshirt or cardigan

Grey straight leg trousers (not combat or skinny)

Grey shorts (not combat)

Grey A-line or box pleat skirt

Grey pinafore dress

Sky (royal) blue and white gingham dress

Grey socks (not trainer socks)

White socks (children can only wear white socks with summer uniform)

Grey tights

Logoed book bag (*one will be kindly gifted to you at the new parents' information evening*)

Footwear

We encourage our children to be active and any footwear for both boys and girls should be supportive of an active lifestyle, to be worn in good and poor weather. Black, sensible school shoes or plain black trainers are both acceptable. To avoid competition through branded shoes, we ask that any shoes chosen have no logos.

Compulsory Items for Infant children (Year Groups: Reception - Year 2)

White polo shirt or a white collared shirt (long or short sleeved) and school tie. Polo shirts with or without logos are acceptable.

PE Kit – to be worn with logoed jumper/cardigan on PE Days

Plain white polo shirt

Black shorts or black joggers - (no leggings)

Trainers or plimsolls (not needed at start of Reception year)

Other Matters

- Jewellery (with the exception of studs for pierced ears) should not be worn.
- Extremes of hair style are discouraged.

Uniform and other optional school items which carry the school logo may be purchased from:

South West Schoolwear, Wine Street, Yeovil BA20 1PW or www.swschoolwear.co.uk

Whilst this company also hold supplies of other items of uniform etc., parents/carers have the option to source these items from any high street store/supplier of their choice.



Messy Play

I'm sorry I got messy today but..

I've been exploring the water and learning about emptying, filling and pouring. Sometimes I might spill a little bit - the muscles in my hands are still developing.

There was flour in our messy area today. I was so interested in how it would make clouds if I threw a little into the air.

I loved the texture of the playdough, but I rested my arm on a little bit as I reached across the table. I didn't realise it would stick to my sleeve!

I was learning about what happens if I mix two colours together.. It's messy work, but the green paint on my jumper comes from the blue and yellow that I mixed!

This mark is from a pen. I'm trying really hard to learn to hold the pen and make marks on the paper.

The mud kitchen is very dirty, but it's so much fun! Playing there helps me develop my imagination and explore my understanding of the world. I watched you cook at home and I wanted to try by myself.



**Early
Childhood
and Family
Service**

Learning through creativity and play

What do you need to bring to school?

In the Autumn Term children will be given a school reading book, and reading record This needs to come into school with them every day, please.

We play outside in the outdoor area every day.

- In winter your child will need to wear a coat, gloves and a woolly hat.
- In the summer you child will need to wear a sun hat, bring in some sun cream and wear clothes that keep their neck and shoulders covered.

What should you leave at home?

Your child does **not** need to bring any of their own toys in to school. We have plenty of fun things to play with here and we don't want their toys to get accidentally lost or broken. We encourage children not to wear jewellery to school for safety reasons, but understand that this may not always be possible for all for faith-based reasons.



What will help me be independent in Reception?

We want you to be as independent as you can in Reception as you are becoming so grown up. You will be allowed to go to the toilet whenever you need to go. Just tell a grown-up. We have our own toilets in Reception so you won't have far to go. If you do have a little accident please do not worry, just make sure you bring a named bag with some spare clothes in and we can help you get changed. *Parents, if you have any concerns around toileting, please do let us know ahead of your child starting school.*

Where will I put my things?

You will have your own peg in Reception, this will be your space to hang your bag and coat. We have a jumper basket and a bookbag box for you to put your jumpers and bags.



EYLog

We are excited to introduce you to EYLog, an online platform/app that we use to track and share your child's development in the Early Years Department. EYLog is implemented from intake to pre-school, all the way through until the end of your child's Reception year. This replaces the traditional paper learning journals. If your child attended the Pre-School at Ilchester Community Primary School, you will already be set up with and familiar with the system. At the end of the academic year, you will still receive a pack of your child's physical work and books. EYLog will create a downloadable PDF learning journey containing both your observations and ours of their progress and achievements.

EYLog allows us to:

Observe and record: We use the platform to carefully observe your child's progress across all areas of learning, including communication and language, physical development, personal, social and emotional development, and literacy and mathematics.

Share observations with you: Updated observations and photos are shared directly with you through the platform, providing valuable insights into your child's learning journey. Please note that updates will not be daily or even weekly, but whenever staff notice something extraordinary they wish to share with you.

Personalise learning: By analysing your child's individual progress, we can tailor our teaching and learning experiences to meet their unique needs and interests.

Improve communication: EYLog facilitates easier communication between home and school. You can share observations and updates about your child's development at home, and we can respond directly through the platform at appropriate times. We will also be sharing newsletters, class updates, and reminders through the platform.

We believe that EYLog is a valuable tool for both parents and staff to support your child's early years education, and we hope you will enjoy sharing your child's journey through it.



What can you do to make sure that you child is ready for Reception?

There are some things that you can start working on with your child to make sure that they are ready for school. These include everything from practising putting their coat on to writing their names. There are also lots of other things that you can do to support your child with the transition to school. Here are a few ideas...

Talk to them and listen to them	Sing songs and Nursery rhymes together	Play games with them	Practise taking turns and waiting, not always winning
Read books to them	Visit your local library	Teach them to take care of books how do you turn pages carefully?	
Count regularly e.g. How many buttons on this dress? How many cups on the table?	Talk about shapes and colours e.g. Sort and match objects	Recognise different sizes e.g. Large/small Thick/thin	
Practise self-care and fine motor skills: Go to the toilet and wash and dry hands? Put on/take off coats? Put on/take off shoes? Hold and use scissors?		Give your child the opportunity to write and draw and scribble using pens, crayons, felt tips and pencils	

There are also some fantastic books and resources that you can use with your child to begin talking about starting school. This is a lovely game that can be found on the BBC Bitesize website.

You can create your own character and choose what school uniform they are going to wear. Below are some lovely books that you could use to start talking about starting school.

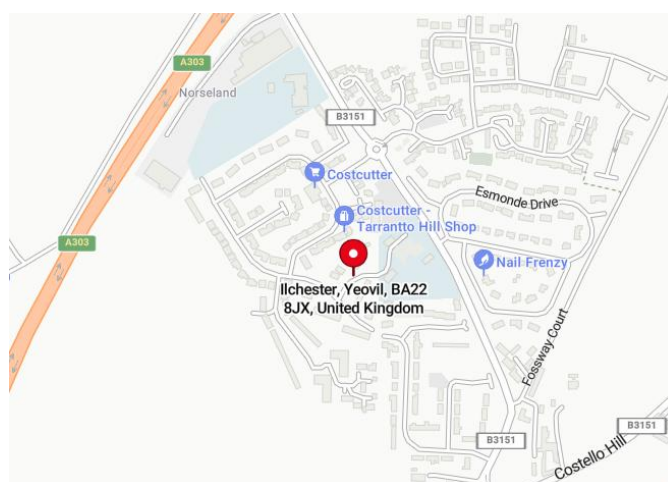


It is good to talk...

For some of you your child's first day of school cannot come soon enough! For others, the thought of your child starting Reception may make you feel worried and anxious. However, you may be feeling, one thing that we ask of you is that you talk to your child about starting school. Let them talk to you about any worries that they may have or what they are looking forward to. Show them that you are excited about the new adventure that they are about to start and use this booklet to talk about what school will look like for them. We are not only here for the children, but for our parents and community too. If you ever need help, advice or support please do come and chat to us and if there is anything at all we can do to help, we will.

Thank you for reading this booklet. We hope it has given you all the information you will need before your child starts with us. If there is anything else you need to know, please do not hesitate to come and speak to us. We really are looking forward to working with you to make sure that your child has the best possible start to their time at school!

We cannot wait to welcome your child to Reception!



Infant Site

Address: Illustrious Crescent, Ilchester, Yeovil BA22 8JX

Phone: 01935 840328

Email: office@ilchestercommunityprimary.com

How to find us using what3words:

Illustrious Crescent Gate: [///bordering.shape.twig](https://www.what3words.com/#!/bordering.shape.twig)

Playground Gate: [///purse.gains.abundance](https://www.what3words.com/#!/purse.gains.abundance)