



HERITAGE PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers

The reception children have successfully completed their first two weeks with us and we are really pleased with the way in which they are settling in at school! We are delighted to be able to welcome them into school fulltime from Monday 18 September 2023. Please bring your child to school at 8:45am and collect them at 3:20pm.

Reception Baseline

During the first six weeks at school, the children will undertake a reception baseline assessment. The reception baseline assessment, or RBA, is a short, interactive and practical assessment of your child's early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills when they begin school. It will be undertaken with Miss Jones/Mrs Carson-Doughty and will be used to help measure your child's progress from reception to year 6. Please see the attached Information for Parents.

Phonics

The children will be starting their phase 2 phonics lessons from Monday 18 September, when they will be given a 'Sound Book' to take home. Four sound cards will be stuck in the sound book each Monday and one sound will be taught each day, with the four sounds being revised each Friday. On Tuesday 26 September, once they have been taught some sounds, they will bring home a decodable reading book. Your child will also be issued with a reading diary once they start bringing their sound books home.

Please listen to your child read their sounds each day as regular practice of all the sounds taught will help your child to recall them easily when they begin to blend sounds to read words. It would be very helpful for us to know that your child has received this support with their phonics at home; we would appreciate it if you could let us know by writing a short comment in your child's reading diary. Your child's reading diary should be returned to school every day.

We will also regularly send a story book home with your child, for you to enjoy together. This book is for an adult to read to a child and should be returned to school each week.

If you have any questions about any of the above, please feel free to speak to Mrs Carson-Doughty or Miss Jones.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Miss K Bell
Headteacher



Information for parents:

Reception baseline assessment



Standards
& Testing
Agency

Reception Baseline Assessment

Do you have a child starting reception class?

If so, your child will be participating in the reception baseline assessment (RBA) within the first 6 weeks of starting reception. The purpose of the assessment is to provide the starting point for a progress measure that will help parents understand how well schools support their pupils to progress between reception and year 6.

What is the RBA?

The RBA is a short, interactive and practical assessment of your child's early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills when they begin school, using materials that most children of your child's age will be familiar with. It became statutory for all schools from September 2021.

What does participating in the RBA mean for my child?

The RBA is not about judging or labelling your child or putting them under any pressure. Your child cannot 'pass' or 'fail' the assessment. Its main purpose is to create a starting point to measure the progress schools make with their pupils.

'I have had the pleasure of observing RBA in practice and can assure you that the RBA should not be stressful in any way and your child is unlikely to realise they are doing an assessment. The activities undertaken are fun, simple in design, short and age-appropriate. Evidence from the trial and pilot shows that the children were interested in the tasks and enjoyed it, and I'm sure your child will do too.'

Claire Harnden

Deputy CEO, Director of Teaching School Hub
South Farnham Educational Trust

How will the RBA benefit my child?

The RBA will provide an opportunity for your child to have valuable one-to-one time with their teacher at an early stage, so the teacher can get to know your child better. It will provide a helpful snapshot of where your child is when they enter reception, so they can be supported in the most appropriate way.

'As school leaders, we know how important the first weeks of school are to a child and perceive the opportunity for our teachers to take time to sit with each child individually to be hugely beneficial. The RBA helps to facilitate this and our teachers have a better idea of how to design learning for them.'

Claire Harnden

Deputy CEO, Director of Teaching School Hub
South Farnham Educational Trust

How will the RBA benefit me as a parent?

When your child reaches year 6, the end of key stage 2, you will be able to see how well your child's school has supported the year group in their time at primary school, compared to other schools nationally.

'RBA will mean parents are better able to see how well the school is supporting its pupils throughout primary school. Parents will be able to compare the performance of schools nationally based on the progress they make with their pupils, enabling parents to make better, more informed decisions when choosing the school they want their children to attend.'

Claire Harnden

Deputy CEO, Director of Teaching School Hub
South Farnham Educational Trust

How do I prepare my child for the assessment?

You do not need to do anything to prepare your child for the assessment. Your child is unlikely to even know that they are doing an assessment when they are completing the tasks.

What if my child cannot access the assessment?

Your child will answer questions verbally or by pointing at or moving objects. The assessment has been designed to ensure that it is inclusive and accessible to as many children as possible, including those with special educational needs or disability (SEND), or English as an additional language (EAL). The teacher can pause the assessment at any time if your child needs a break. There are also modified materials available for children with visual and hearing impairments.

How will the data be used?

The data from the assessment will only be used by the Department for Education when your child has reached the end of year 6, to provide the baseline to measure the progress of your child's year group from reception to year 6. The data from the assessment, including numerical scores, is not shared with you, pupils, teachers, or external bodies, including schools, and there will be no published scores at pupil, school or national level.

Will I receive feedback on my child's assessment?

Your child's teacher will receive a set of statements, which provide a narrative description of how your child performed in the assessment. Schools can choose whether to send these to you directly, but they must provide them to you on your request.

For more information

Your child's teacher will be able to answer any questions about the RBA. For more details, you can also visit www.gov.uk/STA.

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Information for parents: reception baseline assessment

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