

E X P L O R E R S

School Times

8:40 am– Gates/ Back door open.
Children say goodbye at the door

8:50am– Gates/doors closed. If you arrive when the gate/ door is closed please go to the school office.

3:30pm– **Pick up from the back doors.**
Reception children line up in the corridor and are instructed to wait until their name has been called by a member of staff. This way, we can ensure that everyone is safely with their adult.

It has been wonderful to see how quickly the children have settled back into the school routine and how enthusiastic they are about their learning. We have lots of exciting adventures planned for this half term as we begin our new **Journey of Discovery**, and we can't wait to see where it takes us!

As we begin a new term, just a gentle reminder that children **do not need to bring toys into school**. Bringing toys in can sometimes lead to disagreements and can be quite distracting during the school day. Thank you for your support in helping us keep children focused on their learning.

Things to bring to school every day

- **Book Bag**– this needs to come to school every day
- **Reading wallet**– please ensure all books are inside as we may need them during the day
- **Water bottle**– please avoid putting this inside the book bag– we don't want soggy reading books etc.

Useful items for children to keep at school:

- **A waterproof coat/ puddle suit**
- **Welly boots**
- **Spare underwear/ uniform bag**– please ensure this is in a separate bag to the book bag. We do have school spares, but we find that children prefer their own clothes.

Please ensure that **everything is named**– you wouldn't believe the things can go missing in Reception class!

PE

PE will be taught by Mrs Filby on **Thursday afternoon**.

Physical development, however, is supported **every day throughout the week**, particularly through our **outdoor provision**. During outdoor play, children have lots of opportunities to build their **gross motor skills**, such as running, jumping, climbing and balancing.

Through these activities, children are working towards the **Early Learning Goals for Physical Development**, developing strength, balance and coordination, learning to move confidently and safely in different ways, and becoming more aware of how to look after their bodies.

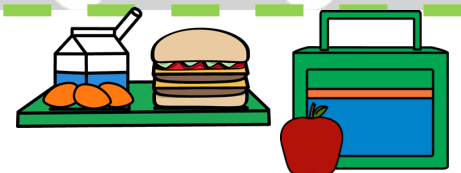


Morning snack Children will be provided with a piece of fruit snack during the morning, however, it is perfectly acceptable if your child prefers to bring their own piece of fruit from home. Please can you name the pot or bag that it comes



Lunch Time

Children in Reception and KS1 are entitled to universal free school meals, with a menu available to check on the school website: <https://www.risbyprimary.com/school-dinners/>. If your child brings a packed lunch to school, we ask that they **do not bring any drinks as water and milk are provided for them**. It is extremely important that **packed lunches do not contain any nuts** due to severe allergies in school. Please continue to let us know what your child is having for lunch using the tick sheet (on the window) every morning– this has been so helpful for us!



In Maths

In Reception, we use the Whit Rose Hub materials to support our mathematics teaching and learning. Maths for the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage). Please see the table below for an overview of this term:

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9	Week 10	Week 11	Week 12
Spring term	Alive in 5 VIEW		Mass and capacity VIEW	Growing 6, 7, 8 VIEW		Length, height and time VIEW		Building 9 and 10 VIEW			Explore 3-D shapes VIEW	

Phonics

During the first half of this term, we will be revising all **Phase 2 and Phase 3 single-letter sounds** (the 26 letters of the alphabet). In each phonics session, children will practise:

- recognising and saying the letter sounds
- blending sounds together to read words
- segmenting sounds to support spelling (hearing each individual sound in a word)

We will also be focusing on **tricky words**. These are words that do not follow the usual phonetic pattern and **cannot be sounded out**. Children will practise both **reading and spelling** these words to help build confidence and fluency.

At this stage of your child's reading journey, it is **really important** that they read at home **every day**. This doesn't need to take a long time or be done sitting at a table – **5 minutes, little and often, is ideal**. Reading daily alongside phonics teaching in school makes a huge difference to children's progress.

Please remember to **sign your child's reading diary** each time they read at home. Adults will only change reading books once they have been read **at least twice**. We encourage children to "*read it twice*" because:

- the first read focuses on sounding out and blending
- the second (or third) read supports fluency and confidence, without needing to sound out every word

Re-reading books and regular phonics practice help children feel successful, confident readers.

In the **second half of the term**, we hope to begin teaching **Phase 3 digraphs**. Digraphs are **two letters that make one sound**, such as *sh* in *shell*. At this point, we will slow the pace of teaching and follow a clear weekly structure:

- **Monday:** learn a new digraph
- **Tuesday:** learn a new digraph
- **Wednesday:** practise new digraphs through reading and writing
- **Thursday & Friday:** practise new digraphs through reading and writing, and practise or learn new tricky words

Thank you for your continued support at home.

Dates for the Diary

Friday 6th February 2026-
9:30am- 12:00pm- Explorers
Join Our Journey- Community
Kite Workshop

Parent Consultations - Tuesday
10th February

Thursday 12th February: RE Day
Parent Consultations - Thursday
12th February

Half Term 16th - 20th February

World Book Day - Thursday 5th
March

Red Nose Day - Friday 20th
March

Explorers Class Trip- River
Stour- Wednesday 25th March

Thursday 26th March: RE Day

Friday 27th March: Last day of
Term



Please look out for the **weekly updates on Class Dojo**, where I will explain our **phonics, maths and Rainbow Challenges** for the week ahead. I usually aim to post these updates by **Sunday evening**. We encourage you to talk with your child about what they will be learning and help them to **plan ahead**, ask questions, and feel confident to **have a go at the activities on offer**.

Exploring... through the air!

At Risby, we structure our learning through 'Journeys of Discovery'. Each year group will go on various 'journeys' throughout the year, broadly based around the class continents. **Our Journey of Discovery this half term is 'Exploring... through the air!'**. We will explore different ways of travelling through the air, from birds and bubbles to planes, magic carpets and space...we have it covered! The children will demonstrate their learning through the medium of expressive arts and design and will display and share their work with you and their peers at our 'Join Our Journey- Art Exhibition' (more details to follow)

We will be kicking off our journey with a visit from Wonder Dome, a mobile planetarium where we will be transported on a cosmic journey, a thrilling adventure exploring the wonders of the Universe.

In the second half of Spring Term we will move on to a 'Journey over Water' for which I will provide a brief overview on Class Dojo at the start of next half term.

Can we bring in treats for Birthdays?

We realise that many of you like to bring in a treat for the class to help celebrate your child's special day. We have many children with specific dietary requirements meaning this tradition can become rather costly. At Risby, we are trying to start a new tradition of a 'birthday book', whereby you buy a new book for your child's class. We will put a special sticker inside to state who the book was donated by. This will be a lasting memory and an enjoyable gift.



Finally, if ever you have a question, no matter how small, do not hesitate to ask. I realise that it can be very busy at drop off and pick up, but I do try to be available for a 'quick chat'. If you need to discuss something in more detail, please contact the office to book an appointment to see me.

Kind regards,

Louise Filby

Admin information...

To contact us about attendance or for general enquiries, please email **admin@risbyprimary.com** or phone the school office on **01284 810367**. **For planned absence such as a holiday, an absence request form must be submitted to Mrs Miller. These forms can be collected from the school office.** If you have any other queries please contact us via email **head@risbyprimary.com**. Please do not use Class Dojo as a way of getting in contact with us, as we are unable to respond to private messages and comments.