

Frequently asked question	Answer
What is the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)	The <u>Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)</u> sets standards for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5 years old. All schools and Ofsted-registered early years providers must follow the EYFS, including childminders, preschools, nurseries and school reception classes.
What are the class names?	Heathfield Academy is a 2 form entry school. All the classes are named after trees, to fit in with the Heathfield Gardens theme. The Reception classes are called Chestnut and Juniper.
How many adults are in each class?	Typically there are 30 children in each reception class. There will be 1 class teacher and 1 learning support assistant. If a child has an educational health care plan, there can be an additional adult in the class to support that particular child's needs.
How often to do the children play outside?	<p>Learning in reception can take place in the classroom and in the outside area. The outside area has been designed specifically to cater for specific curriculum areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical development – climbing wall, tunnel and bridge. • Maths and capacity – sand and water tray. • Communication and language –roll play house. • Reading – story corner and chair. • Understanding the world and nature – flower beds. <p>The class teachers plan in sessions throughout the day for the children to go outside and utilise these specific areas. Outdoor learning is encouraged in all weathers please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for this.</p> <p>In addition to this, the children use the large playground (MUGA) after their lunch daily. The teachers try to incorporate the MUGA when the children are outside for gross motor activities such as scooters, running games, hula hoops.</p>
How is the day structured?	<p>The structure of a day in reception will change and develop as the children do however, it will look something like this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register and selecting lunch • Phonics • Maths on the carpet • 'Exploring' the classroom and learning • Snack • 'Exploring' the classroom and learning • Lunch • English on the carpet • 'Exploring' the classroom and learning • Topic on the carpet • Story and home time.
What holidays, cultures and celebrations are covered?	<p>At Heathfield we follow the Croydon R.E Syllabus and study, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and Judaism. Our geography topics take us all over the world and we cover each continent looking at countries and cultures in depth which relate to our children, families and their heritages. For example in reception we read Handa's Surprise and study Africa.</p> <p>At Heathfield Academy we pride ourselves in delivering experiences which enrich our curriculum. Over the years, across the school, we have had trips to the theatre, the farm, museums, castles, the beach, the park, the sea life centre, and London to name a few. In addition to this, we encourage visitors to come into school. We have had visits from African Drummers, an Anansi Spider Tales drama workshop, a Charlie and the</p>

	Chocolate Factory drama workshop, a Great Fire of London drama workshop, circus performers, World War II veteran, singers and performers, guide dogs, Battersea Dogs home, a bee keeper, a builder, the police, the fire brigade and a dentist. Finally, we spend time raising money for different charities, our Friends of Heathfield are very supportive with this. We have had MacMillan Coffee afternoons, run a mile around the school for Sports Relief, dressed head to toe in yellow for Children in Need, brought in food donations for Harvest Festival and Croydon Night Watch and sung to the local residential care home.
How do you foster independence in the children?	Children are encouraged to be extremely independent. They take off and put on their own coats, collect their own belongings at the end of the day, assist each other in tidying up the classroom and most importantly changing themselves at P.E time. They also hand in their homework and choose their own library books.
What does home learning consist of?	Homework is sent home each week on a Friday and will be returned on a Wednesday. There will be a maths activity or two as well as an activity that is related to either our English or Topic. Every week your child will have a reading pack that consists of: a reading book (selected at your child's phonic level), a library book (child's choice) and a reading diary. The books sent home are recorded in a reading diary, please feel to sign or comment in the diary and return the books back in a good condition. During the holidays a home learning pack will be sent home. Please try your hardest to do daily reading and the homework activities as they assist in strengthening the skills your child learns while at school.
How do staff and parents communicate?	On the homework each week there is a space for parent feedback. If you need to inform the teachers of anything either the day before after school is a good time or you can email into enquiries@heathfieldacademy.org and the office will forward the message. Unfortunately, the mornings are very hands on for the teachers and LSA's.
Do the children have a snack?	Every day the children are given a choice of whatever fruit and vegetables have been delivered to the school for snack time. A carton of milk is also available during snack time. Water bottles are advised as some children prefer to drink from their bottles during snack time.
What is the lunch set up like?	The children are sent to the toilet and to wash their hands before lining up for lunch. They are given a coloured band which links to their lunch choice for the day. They are led into the main hall and go up to the hatch where the lunch ladies will give them their chosen meal. We have large round tables where the children sit with their friends. Please encourage your child to sit correctly to eat and use cutlery.
What is your behaviour policy?	Children are given a verbal warning first. They are then moved to another area but remain fully engaged in the lesson. If they are still not following acceptable classroom behaviour they are then sent to the reflection area for a 'break'. This is a time to reflect and reset their behaviour.
How is Reception involved in the whole school?	Reception join the whole school for assembly twice a week. We have visitors from the older year groups and do collaborative projects such as world book day with the older year groups.
What curriculum areas are covered in reception?	There are 17 different areas of learning in Reception. These can be summarised into the following 7 different areas of learning and development in the EYFS Communication and language development. Physical development Personal, social, and emotional development Literacy development Mathematics Understanding the world Expressive arts and design

P.E	P.E will take place once a week. The children will come to school dressed in their normal school uniform and change while at school. The P.E kit is a plain white t-shirt, black joggers, leggings or shorts and black plimsolls or trainers. Please do not send shoes with laces (unless your child can tie laces) as the children dress independently for P.E. The P.E kit will stay at school each week and be returned at the end of each half term.
After school clubs	Please note that after school clubs are separate to the classroom. Any enquiries should go through the front office.
Toys, books or items from home.	All toys, books, items from home are to remain at home unless discussed with the class teacher beforehand. Any toys or artifacts to be brought in to school are to be given to the class teacher at the start of the day for safekeeping to be returned to the child at the end of the school day.
School uniform	ALL school uniform and belongings to be named, any school uniform unnamed will be put into lost property.