# When will your child be Reception Age?

The September following a child’s fourth birthday is when a child will be classed as Reception Aged.

You will need to apply for a school place before the cut off point the January before this as the first year of school is the Reception Class.

# What happens in a Reception Class at School?

This year is still part of the Foundation Stage in relation to curriculums but is very much a transition year into school.

Throughout this school year children will learn about school life, routines and expectations with lots of support and together with their peers including:

- morning assembly

- homework such as a reading book that comes home with a reading record

- lunchtimes and playtimes

- lessons; how these are split for example PE and getting changed

- expected behaviour

- accessing and using toilets

- registration

- class size to adult ratio (this will get lower as children move into year 1)

## What about parents?

The above apply to parents too; many schools will hold information and welcome sessions for new parents. These are great at introducing parents and carers to school life, the expectations and to build relationships with fellow parents.

# What is the impact of keeping your child in nursery?

It is important to remember that the first year of school is the Reception Year – if the school has a full intake and no child leaves, no place will be vacant in Year 1.

If your child does start in year 1 then they will be joining a class that has spent a whole year together already – this may mean that friendships have already been established and the teachers/school already know the children well.

It is unlikely that any other children in the nursery class will be reception aged therefore your child will be a year out of their cohort.

Your child will be compulsory school age the term following their fifth birthday so will not be entitled to a funded nursery place.

More formal teaching of phonics (building and blending sounds for reading and writing) begins in school reception class.