



Monks Risborough
Church of England Primary School
'A school family where everyone thrives in every way.'

Welcome to Robin Class

Your guide to the EYFS
at Monks

2026-27

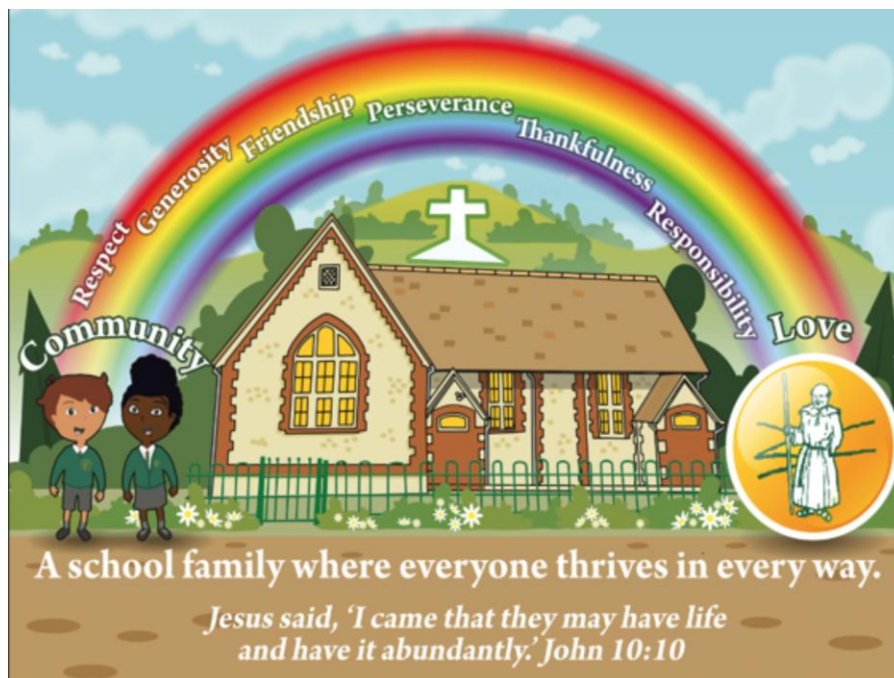


Welcome to our Monks Risborough Community

On behalf of everyone at Monks, it gives us great pleasure to welcome you into our school family. We are delighted that you and your child will be joining us in September.

We appreciate wholeheartedly how important your child's first experiences of school are, and what a big step settling into school is for both you and your child.

That being said, this is an exciting time! We are here to support you prepare for this next chapter.



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Our Vision and Values

Our Vision

A school family where everyone thrives in every way.

Family is at the heart of our school, and through our inclusive Christian vision we welcome all into the community. It is our ambition to motivate and inspire everyone to become lifelong, resilient and enthusiastic learners. We aspire to equip every child to meet the challenges of an ever-changing world, and to reach out to the wider community.

Our Values

*Respect - Responsibility - Thankfulness - Perseverance -
Friendship - Generosity - Community - Love*

Our values, inspired by Christian teachings, guide us through our daily lives at Monks to achieve our vision. They are explored in more depth during collective worship.

Our vision and values are central to everything we do, underpinning all aspects of teaching and learning. We embrace families from all walks of life, of all cultures and faiths, and those with no religious beliefs. We celebrate individuality and every unique child. Through this sense of belonging and community, we provide a happy, safe environment where pupils flourish and become confident, caring citizens of the world.

Transition Information

'Getting To Know You' Booklet: 7th July 2026

You will be handed a 'Getting To Know You' booklet during the transition morning in July. Please fill this in and return to us before you leave the transition morning. We will use this information to ensure our provision meets the needs of our new cohort, enabling us to support your child settle into school quickly and happily.

Settling In: Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September 2026

You will receive an invitation to a settling-in stay and play session on either Thursday 3rd September **or** Friday 4th September. You will stay with your child for the duration of the session, which will take place in either the morning or the afternoon.

All Reception children will attend for full days from
Monday 7th September.

You can find further term date information by visiting the school calendar, at:

<https://www.mrisborough.bucks.sch.uk/diary/grid/2025/9/>

Preparing Your Child For School

You will be amazed at how independent your child will become during this first year at school! We understand that children develop at different rates, and we meet them wherever they are at on their own personal journeys when they come to us at Monks. You can however help to make their school transition easier and happier by supporting them to practise certain tasks at home:

What should my child practise before they start school?

- Dressing and undressing themselves;
- Putting on and fastening their own coat;
- Putting on their own shoes, but laces can be tricky so choose Velcro at this stage;
- Using the toilet independently, including communicating the need to go;
- Feeding themselves appropriately, including using cutlery and opening/closing lunch boxes and packaging;
- Recognising their own name;
- Sharing and taking turns;
- Following simple instructions.

What can I do to help?

- Support your child to be as independent as possible, even if it takes longer for tasks to be completed. Believe in them – keep it positive!
- Where possible, organise play dates to develop social skills;
- Encourage them to solve problems, building confidence to try out their own ideas;
- Practise the school routine and journey - visuals can help with this;
- Establish consistent bedtime routines which get your child ready for sleep at a reasonable time. They will find school very tiring!
- Talk about starting school in a positive way, providing reassurance and practical solutions to their worries. Stories and books are a great vehicle for these discussions - please ask if you would like recommendations.
- Have fun together! Share stories, sing songs, play games, and talk to each other. Connection is key to helping them feel confident and secure, especially at times of change.

Practicalities

Drop Off: 8.30-8.45

You will enter the school grounds via the gate on the **Aylesbury Road** where a member of staff will greet you. From here, you will walk up the left hand side of the school, through the large green gate, to the small wooden gate of the Reception outdoor area. This is where you will meet a member of the Reception team and say goodbye to your child. If you arrive after 8.45am, the gate to the school grounds will be closed and you will need to enter via the school office.

Lunch: 11.50

Hot lunches are available should you wish your child to partake. Please refer to the information sent out by the school admin team on how to order these.

Children may bring in their own packed lunch from home if preferred. Please ensure that this is a balanced lunch, and be reminded that we are a nut-free school. For more information and packed lunch ideas, please visit the 'Parents' section on the school website.

Pick Up: 3.15

Children will be dismissed from the small wooden gate of the Reception outdoor area that joins the school playground. Please wait on the playground until your child is called.

What does my child need for school?

Every day:

- School bag;
- Reading book and record (once allocated);
- A named, reusable water bottle;
- A snack [optional] - *school will provide the children with a fruit snack, however you are welcome to provide an additional carbohydrate based snack (such as breadsticks) if your child requires this.*

Items to be kept in school:

- Wellies;
- A raincoat;
- A spare change of school uniform;
- Spare underwear;

Please be reminded that **the children will spend a large amount of time outside** and therefore your child will need to come to school in clothing appropriate for the weather. They should have a hat and gloves if required. In hot weather, a sunhat is essential. **Sun cream should be applied at home before children come to school.**

Please also note that children will be exploring and learning through a wide range of exciting, hands-on activities, which often means getting a little messy or wet! This is all part of their development and shows they're fully engaged, having fun, and learning through play.

A Typical Day in Reception

Whilst we are very flexible in Robin Class, an average day will often look like this:

Drop Off: 8.30-8.45

Children will come straight into the classroom via the Robins outside area, unpack their things, and explore for this first part of the day.

Register: 8.45-9.00

Mrs Horton or Mrs Chadwick-Cooper will take the register. We will greet one another and enjoy discussions about today's date, weather, what our day will look like and any news to be shared.

Phonics: 9.00

We will have a *Read, Write, Inc.* phonics session every morning where we will learn to read and write!

Snack: 9.45

We will come together for morning snack.

Morning Learning

After our snack, we will have a mixture of carpet sessions, adult-led activities, and play time where the children lead their own learning.

Lunchtime: 11.50 - 12.20

Children will eat their lunches in the dining room. Alongside our midday supervisors, Mrs Horton and Mrs Chadwick-Cooper will support the children during this time whilst they are settling into school. Our midday supervisors will continue to support the children at lunchtime for the rest of the year.

Playtime: 12.20-13.00

Children will go outside to play on the playground or field when they have finished eating.

Afternoon learning: 13.00 - 15.15

After playtime, Mrs Horton/Mrs Chadwick-Cooper will walk the class back into the classroom. We will take another register, have a drink, and prepare ourselves for our afternoon of learning. This will have a similar balance of opportunities as in the morning.

Collective Worship: 13.45 - 14.00

When the children are ready, will will attend collective worship with the rest of the school. This will take place in the school hall. We will gradually increase the number of worships we attend as the year goes on.

Story Time: 14.45

We will finish the day with a story and before we collect our belongings and get ready to go home.

Home Time: 15.15

Please be prompt collecting your child at the end of the day. They cannot wait to see you!

There will be some days where we will have PE lessons and children will need to come to school in their PE kit. We will let you know in September which day of the week this will be.

Learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Reception is where the magic begins! Children in the Foundation Stage learn together in an environment which is designed around their developing interests.

Whilst we have overarching topics that guide our curriculum, we are proud to provide an exciting and engaging setting where children lead their own learning and discover the joy it brings.

The aim of Reception is to nurture and develop children's learning by building on their interests, capabilities and experiences.

We support children to develop confidence by allowing space and time for them to play and explore. The children need to be active in their learning and persevere in the face of challenges in order to feel proud of their achievements, which in turn builds their self esteem. They will learn to develop their own ideas and to make links with their previous learning. They will learn to cooperate, collaborate and communicate with their peers as they work towards shared goals. They will engage in deeper learning experiences as they follow their interests, motivated by what it is that engages them, encouraged and challenged by the adults working with them.

Children will have the opportunity to flow freely between the indoor and outdoor environments for significant periods of time. Outdoor learning is as important as indoors, allowing children to be autonomous in larger scale, physical tasks which often require collaboration, critical thinking, and perseverance.

The EYFS Curriculum

As the children move through Reception, they are completing their final year of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). We therefore follow the EYFS Framework, which is based upon four key principles:

The Unique Child
Positive Relationships
Enabling Environments
Learning and Development

The EYFS curriculum recognises that children learn best through play, talk, and active learning, following whatever it is that drives them naturally. It is divided into three 'prime' areas and four 'specific' areas of learning. The children will work towards achieving an 'early learning goal' by the end of Reception year for each of the following seven areas:

Prime Areas of Learning

Communication and Language
Physical Development
Personal, Social, and Emotional Development

Specific Areas of Learning

Literacy
Mathematics
Understanding the World
Expressive Arts and Design

Should you wish for more detailed information regarding the EYFS Statutory Framework, its principles and the seven areas of learning, you can find the full document by searching online. You should be directed to the www.gov.uk website.

The Reception year will be carefully planned to provide the children with a wide range of stimulating activities to ensure they develop a love of learning and enjoy their time at school.

We will have two parents' evenings over the course of the year where we will discuss your child's progress. At the end of the year, we will provide you with a written report based around their final EYFS assessment.

Reception Baseline Assessment

This is a statutory assessment for all Reception children in the country that is carried out in the first term. It covers Communication and Language, Literacy, and Maths. It comprises short activities that the children will complete with their teacher. The children will not be aware that they are completing an assessment.

The purpose of this assessment is to measure progress between entering Reception and leaving Year 6. It is not something to prepare for, so please do not worry!

Read, read, read!

If we had to offer one single piece of advice, it would be to read with your child as often as possible. Research consistently demonstrates that reading with children and fostering a love of reading is a strong indicator of future success and positive outcomes. Reading aloud to young children, encouraging them to read for pleasure, and having books available in the home are all linked to improved cognitive development, higher academic achievement, and greater mental well-being.

Reading at Monks

At Monks, children are exposed to a diverse range of high quality texts throughout their learning journeys. They are provided with daily opportunities to be read to, to read independently, and to share books with others.

Phonics

In Reception, your child will begin to learn to read through explicit teaching. We use the phonics scheme *Read, Write, Inc.* which has had a significant impact on reading progress. Your child will work in a group where the learning is targeted at their specific level of development, and they will receive appropriate books to read at home. We encourage you to listen to your child read as often as possible, and to share stories together on a daily basis.

Reading Records

Your child will receive a 'reading record' book. This logs the books which they have read and comments on their reading. Adults at home and at school write in this book - **please make a note in here every time you read with your child.**



Sharing Our Learning

At Monks we are keen to share all of the fantastic learning that happens every day in the classroom. Here are some of the ways that this will happen:

Class Pages (school website)

Every class has their own page on the school website. Here we will share pictures of our learning and information about the topic we are currently exploring.

Keep an eye on the Robins Page, found here:

Monks Risborough School Website -> Children -> Class Pages -> Robins

Book Look

Every half term, parents are invited into classrooms after school to view their children's learning. Please check the school calendar for specific dates. The day of the week these are held will alter in order to maximise opportunity for all.

Wow Wall

Once every half term the children will select their favourite piece of learning to place on our *Wow Wall*, located in the corridor adjoining the main entrance. This work will be collected and stored from their very first term in Reception through to their last in Year 6, meaning you will have a memory of their favourite work to keep when their Monks journey is over.

Communication at Monks

Website: www.mrisborough.bucks.sch.uk

Our school website is a great **first port of call** should you need to find anything out. We make every effort to ensure it is kept up to date with all the information you may need. You will also find insights into children's learning via the 'Class Pages' section.

Weduc App:

Communicating with parents is an important part of what we do. Making sure you get the correct information at appropriate times is something we really care about. We use our own branded app, supported by Weduc, to communicate to parents. The Monks App is free and will be beneficial to you because you can:

- Pick up messages instantly;
- Book parent's evening appointments;
- Provide consent and pay for school visits;
- Book your children into after school clubs;
- Receive up to date notifications from school, for instance if a visit is expected to be late back to school or if a club is cancelled;
- Confirm your child can represent our school at sporting fixtures;
- Book a ticket to your children's performances in school;
- Book and pay for Friend's Discos and Film Clubs.

Email:

office@monks.org.uk - for general queries, to notify the school of your child's absence, or to book a meeting with a member of staff.

homelearning@monks.org.uk - to share any home learning experiences or successes from outside of school with class teachers.

Face to Face:

We are more than happy to set aside time for a face to face meeting should you feel it important. Please email the office or catch a member of the team on the gate to organise an appointment.