



St. George's

The English International School Cologne

Foundation Stage – Early Years Transition



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Early Years Department

All Early Years classrooms are situated on the same corridor as those from Nursery. Reception rooms are opposite the current Bumblebees room and Years One and Two are further up the corridor.

Parents may enter the building and the corridors via both the Kindergarten entrance and also the Main Office. Doors are closed promptly at 8.45 and after this parents can only enter via the Main Office for security reasons.

Hot lunches are to be paid for termly in Reception and can be ordered each morning. The children choose from 2 meals and these are delivered directly to the classroom. They still need to bring plenty of drinks and a snack for morning play.

If a parent needs to contact a teacher during the school day, please contact the Main Office on 02233 808870.

Groups will change from those which the children are currently in. Once changed, they remain the same for the next three years until the children progress in to Lower School.

As in Nursery, each class has their own name. These change each year as the children progress through the department.

Reception	Year One	Year Two
Owls	Turtles	Zebras
Sparrows	Polar Bears	Tigers
Blackbirds	Penguins	Crocodiles
	Seahorses	Tigers

Children keep the same Form Teacher throughout the year. We also have additional members of staff listed below who the children will become familiar with and also work with on a regular basis.

Reception Teaching Assistants – Miss Rachel and Mrs Jaggard

Years One/Two Teaching Assistant – Miss Hanna

ESL Support Teacher – Miss Ward

Reception German Teacher – Frau Hafner

School Day

School Begins: 8.40am

Snack Break: 9.55am

Morning Play: 10.15am (20 mins)

Lunch: 12.00pm

Lunch Play: 12.20pm (40 mins)

End of school day: 3.30pm

Clubs run until 4.30pm



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Curriculum and Timetables

Timetables are issued at the beginning of the new academic year. This helps to provide information on sports days, reading days etc.

Topics change each half term and are the primary focus for each area of the Foundation Curriculum. Mornings consist of structured lessons and activities based on both Literacy and Numeracy. Afternoons are play based and also include activities on other curriculum areas.

German lessons are taught every day by the same teacher. Children are split into native and non-native groups to provide the appropriate level of support. Sounds are taught after Christmas so children are not confused with those taught in Literacy lessons in English.

Reception children begin reading after the October half term. Further information on reading in Early Years is provided at the beginning of the academic year. Reception have their own meeting before the October half term to introduce in detail the structure and guidance related to reading.

Children follow both the Oxford Reading Tree and New Way reading schemes. Extra support may also be given from the GINN scheme. Children read from both the fiction and non-fiction schemes. Within the classroom teachers endeavour to hear children read *at least* twice a week. Bookbags will be on sale for Reception children at the beginning of October.

Sports lessons are taught once a week and children must bring the correct kit in a named sports bag. A weekly dance lesson is also taught, once more often linking with the terms topic focus.

ESL and SEN are also offered at the teachers own discretion to offer extra support and reinforcement where needed. Children receive extra support in phonics, reading, writing or number work. Support is provided in either small groups or at times on a one to one basis.

Apart from reading for five minutes each evening, there is no homework for reception children. Parents receive booklets at the beginning of each term highlighting the areas which will be taught in Numeracy and an overview of achievements at the end of the term. Holiday homework packs are also issued for the main holidays at Christmas and Easter which may be completed at your own discretion,

Assessment

All children throughout their time in Early Years are assessed regularly. Their results are used as a teaching tool to fill in gaps and also build upon knowledge.

Children are assessed at the end of the each half term until Christmas, then at the end of both the Spring and Summer Terms. If a Form Teacher has any concerns they will contact you immediately and provide support where necessary, our open door policy remains and teachers are always available to speak with before and after school.



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Numeracy booklets are sent home at the beginning of each half term to inform parents of learning objectives that are to be covered. At the end of the half term a second booklet is sent home. This provides information on the learning objectives your children have achieved and where they need extra consolidation.

Assessment in Early Years is not as ‘formal’ as other departments and is solely for the use of the teacher to aid further planning and teaching. It is very much teacher driven and assesses all areas.

Clubs

After school clubs are held Monday-Thursday from 3.30 until 4.30pm.

Children may choose more than one club to attend and club spaces are allocated on a ‘first come first served’ basis.

Clubs change termly and information regarding this is sent home via email.

After school clubs are optional and are not compulsory. Clubs are also attended by both Year One and Year Two children, they are **not** exclusively for Reception children.

A range of activities are usually offered. Previous clubs have included French, Drama, Football, Art, Story writing and Film, Making.

Additional Information

Assemblies are held twice a week. One is music or story related and also provides the children with opportunities to share their news. Celebration assembly is held every Friday. Here “Stars of the Week” receive a certificate and birthdays are also celebrated. The Reception children join Years One and Two for this assembly.

At the end of each Friday afternoon is “Golden Time.” This allows opportunity for free play and also finishing any work that is still uncompleted. Weapons, stickers, electronic and breakable toys are not to be brought into school.

Children only watch television during a wet play at lunchtime. Occasionally DVD’s may be used as a support tool to consolidate learning from the classroom.

The School Uniform remains the same throughout Reception and Years One and Two. Please name *everything* as clothes often get misplaced. Children are not to wear trainers and girls are to wear plain tights only. Please note lost property boxes are emptied termly.