

# Donhead Buddies

## 2024-2025

Curiosity - Creativity - Compassion



# Buddy Programme

We are delighted to welcome all of our Reception pupils to Donhead and we know that their start will be one filled with exciting learning opportunities and fun new experiences. We recognise that joining a new school in Reception can be daunting; being one of the youngest years in the school can feel intimidating. To ensure a smooth transition, we have a robust buddy programme at our school, where we match up each Reception individual with a buddy in Elements.



In the summer holidays, each Reception child receives a letter from their buddy, detailing some of the adventures and excitement they will have to share this coming year. This was also with the aim to ease every Reception pupil into the start of the year.

The Buddy Programme is mutually beneficial for both Reception and Elements pupils: the younger pupils have an older friend who they can look up to, ask questions and rely on; the Elements pupils are able to thrive in this important role and show that they can be responsible for their fellow school mates.



# Buddy Events



## Making Memories

Throughout the year there will be a myriad of opportunities for the buddies to make memories and share important milestones with one another. Once a year, each class will perform in their class assembly and the buddies will be able to watch and see a snapshot into the learning that their buddy is doing in their classroom. At Christmas, the Elements buddies will be invited to watch the Reception Nativity performance and in Trinity Term, reception will have the opportunity to enjoy the Elements End of Year Production. Days of Celebration are a wonderful time to celebrate all the hard work that the children have done throughout the year and this is another chance for the buddies to share in each other's joy and enthusiasm for learning.



## Buddy Mornings

Reception and Elements children alike look forward with great excitement to the Buddy Mornings. They are a time when the buddies get together for a fun activity. During these mornings, the children might play a game together, do a themed arts and craft activity (depending on the time of year) or explore our outdoor learning spaces together.

These mornings will take place on Friday mornings, twice a half term, from 8:50 – 9:10:

6th September (initial meeting)

20th September

4th October

22nd November

Dates for Lent and Trinity to be confirmed

## Buddy Lunches

The Buddy Lunches are opportunities for buddies to sit together, share their experiences and talk about their learning. We encourage the Elements children to share any tips they have with their buddy and ensure the reception children feel free to ask questions about being at Donhead and what it is like at our school.

These will take place on Fridays from 11:45 in the Refectory. There will be two buddy lunches per half term, the dates are below:

6th September

11th October

8th November

Dates for Lent and Trinity to be confirmed



## Buddy Reading

A love of reading opens the door to adventures, learning new things and a whole host of key language skills such as speech development and vocabulary building. With this in mind, we ensure that reading is a priority at Donhead and we offer times when the buddies can get together to share picture books with one another.



# Buddy Christmas

Christmas is such a magical time of the year and for the Buddies this is no different. On 6th December, the Buddies will share a day of festive activities. This will commence with The Reception and Pre-School Nativity, followed by the Christmas Gift Exchange and culminating with the Christmas Buddy Lunch.

The Buddies form a close bond with one another, and they very much enjoy having the opportunity to treat their Buddy at Christmas. With this in mind, we would recommend that the gift given is a small token gift and should cost between £5 - £10.



# Buddy Easter

As a Catholic school, during Lent we look forward to celebrating that Jesus has risen at Easter. The Buddies will talk about New Life and the link to eggs at Easter, as they embark on a fun Easter Egg Hunt around our Outdoor Learning Spaces and playgrounds. On this day, the Buddies will also have a Buddy Lunch together.

