

# Welcome to Reception

We would like to welcome you all to Reception and we look forward to making your child's first year at school a happy and productive one. We are sure that you have many questions and we feel that it is very important to keep you as informed as possible. You will receive regular letters so please check your child's book bag **each** evening. If you have not yet purchased a blue school book bag for your child these are available from the school office, we ask that you do use a school book bag rather than a rucksack as these fit in the children's drawers in the classroom. We do ask as well that no large key rings and accessories are attached to these book bags as they do often cause bags to get tangled and stuck in drawers.

As the children start school there are many routines to learn inside and outside of the classroom. We have tried to be as comprehensive as possible with the information below. However, if we have forgotten anything, please do not hesitate to approach us with your query. After school is generally a better time to speak to us once we have seen all the children to their parents or carers.

## The beginning of the day:

To help encourage your child's independence, we kindly ask if you can say goodbye to your child at the bottom of the ramp/steps and encourage them to come in on their own. The children will begin to recognise that once they have said goodbye, school has begun and can then enter the classrooms calmly to begin the school day.

## The end of the day:

School finishes at **3.15pm**, if for any reason you find yourself 'running a little late' then please contact the school to let us know. We are very careful at home time to ensure your child is handed over safely to only people on your collection sheet. If for any reason you have to rely on someone different to collect your child from school, please either let us know in advance, or contact the school. We do have a list of those children who attend before and after school clubs and they are collected by them at the end of the day, under our supervision.

We kindly ask that when collecting your child from school you wait at the bottom of the ramp to enable the class teachers to have a clear view of all the parents/carers. If you wish to speak to your child's teacher please wait at the bottom of the ramp until all children have been dismissed safely.

## Stay and learn:

Once all the children have settled into school we would like to welcome you to come into the classroom from **8:45 – 9:00am** on one morning a week to choose an activity to do with your child. This '**stay and learn session**' is very informal and it will continue throughout the term, giving you an opportunity to see what your child is learning each week and use some of the resources your child is using in school. **We will let you know when this will start – look out for the separate letter.**

**Phonics:** We teach phonics using a teaching programme called '**Read, Write, Inc.**' The order these sounds are taught is as follows: Week 1 starting 10<sup>th</sup> September.

Week 1 :	m	a	s	d	t
Week 2:	i	n	p	g	o
Week 3:	c	k	u	b	f
Week 4:	e	l	h	sh	r
Week 5:	j	v	y	w	th
Week 6:	z	ch	q	x	ng nk

Each week we will send the new set of sounds home with your child for you to practise with them in a word and sound bag. We will explain these at the Phonics and Reading meeting next week (see separate letter – handed out at the stay and learn sessions). Date of meeting: 12<sup>th</sup> September 5.30pm Junior hall.

**Letters, slips and notes:**

Please check your child's book bag **each night** for letters and regularly check your emails too.

In your child's book bag you will find a plastic wallet labelled 'letters and slips'. If you have a slip or letter to return to school please pop it inside this wallet and ask your child to carry this into the classroom **separate from their book bag**. This will ensure slips are not left unseen in bags.

**Help:** We are always on the look out for any materials that you feel you can supply us with. These include unwanted books, toys and outdoor equipment, fabric, wool, ribbon, dressing up clothes, buttons etc. If you think you have anything you don't need that we could use please let us know!

**Labelling:** Please ensure all items of clothing are labelled including coats, shoes, gloves, hats and scarves. Your child needs to wear a coat to school each day as a lot of learning takes place outside. Please make sure that toys and sweets etc are not brought into school.

**We will label your child's blue book bag and PE bag on the front with a permanent marker pen to help your child find theirs independently.** Please speak to one of us if you have any concerns about this.

**Topic**

Our first topic will be all about 'Ourselves' and will progress onto 'Fairy Tales and Nursery Rhymes'.

British Values: We will talk about our similarities and differences including where we come from in our 'Ourselves' topic.

**PE Kits:** Please send your child's PE kit into school by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September if you haven't already done so. **Please ensure all PE kit is clearly named (including each pump!)** It will be kept in school and returned at the end of each half term to be washed.

**Library books:** Your child will bring home a library book each week. **Please leave this in your child's book bag** so they can be changed weekly. Children will only be allowed to choose a new book when the previous book is returned.

We do hope that we haven't bombarded you with too much information! Please check your child's book bag daily for letters and information being sent home, as well as the weekly newsletter that will be emailed to you. Once again please do not hesitate to ask if you are concerned about even the smallest of things.

We look forward to a fantastic year with your child – so much to look forward to!

The Reception Team