

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, which can be distressing for the child.

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 dismissed all the children, but there will be a member of staff on the door for each classroom each morning to take any urgent messages.

The Beginning of the Day

Thank you for supporting your child entering school this week. 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 into class 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. Having lots of adults around in the classroom and corridors can be quite daunting for the children, so thank you for your support on this matter.

Stay and Learn & Stay and Read Sessions

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. These sessions are very informal and will continue throughout the year - 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.**

Labelling

Please ensure all items of clothing are labelled including coats, shoes, gloves, pumps, lunchboxes, hats and scarves. Your child needs to wear a coat to school each day as a lot of learning takes place outside. It is very important that your child's coat is labelled as during lunchtime this will be left with 180 other coats (many of which will look/be the same). Please make sure that toys and sweets etc are not brought into school.

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.

Letters, slips and notes:

Please check your child's book bag **each night** for letters and regularly check your emails too. The school office will email you a weekly newsletter with lots of information.

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. Due to time restraints in the classroom we **do not** have time to go through 30 bags each day. By asking you to send your child into school with this wallet in their hand will ensure no letter are left unseen. Thank you again for your support with this.

Phonics: We teach phonics using a teaching programme called '**Read, Write, Inc.**' The order these sounds are taught is as follows: Week 1 starting 9th 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 book. We will explain these at the Phonics and Reading meeting next week (see separate letter – handed out at the stay and learn sessions or posted if you were unable to make these sessions). Date of meeting: Tuesday 17th September 5.00pm Junior hall.

Topic

Our first short topic will be all about 'Ourselves' and will progress onto 'The People Who Help Us'. If you or a relative/friend have an interesting job (fire-fighter, police officer, vet or anything else) and would feel confident to share your job and experiences with the children then please make yourself known to a member of staff.

The second half of the autumn term we will begin our 'Fairy Tales and Nursery Rhymes' topic.

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

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!

PE Kits: Please send your child's PE kit into school by Friday 13th 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. P.E. days are to be as follows (although may change throughout the year)

Ladybirds: Monday

Butterflies: Tuesday

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. This library book is for you to read to your child, they are not expected to read it to you at this stage. This **is not** to be kept in the reading folder (folder handed out at the Reading Meeting Tuesday 17th September).

We do hope that we haven't bombarded you with too much information! 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

