

Welcome to Reception



Dear Parents and Children,

Welcome to the start of your child's first year at school! We enjoyed meeting you at the New Starter visits in July and have thoroughly enjoyed meeting and getting to know all of the children this week. We are looking forward to a happy and exciting half term. The first few weeks will be spent settling the children into the routines of class and school life and encouraging them to make lots of new friends.

The Reception day is a busy one, filled with an interesting variety of learning activities intended to stimulate the children's interest in the world around them. No two days are ever the same! We aim for children to become independent and self-reliant as quickly as possible and we will support them to establish their new routines. This half term our topic will be 'Magnificent me!' which is a lovely way of getting to know the children. Please find attached the topic overview for this half term.

Reading and Phonics

We are very excited to be following a new phonics scheme this year called 'Little Wandle'. We will be sharing more information regarding the teaching of phonics and reading with you in due course.

Handwriting

Before a child starts to write it is important that they learn to hold the pencil correctly. It is important that children learn to form their letters correctly in the early stages. Children should use lower case letters in their writing. We will be sending a letter formation sheet home in the next few weeks with helpful rhymes to support you when helping your child to write.

Outdoor learning

As the outdoor environment forms a significant part of the Early Years Curriculum, **your child will need a pair of named wellington boots in school.** Each child will also need to bring a waterproof coat to school **each day** as we endeavour to be outdoors come rain or shine! Please also ensure that every item of your child's uniform, including their hats, gloves and coats are clearly named.

PE

P.E lessons will start in the week beginning 20th September. Please ensure that your child has a PE kit in school, this should include: a white t-shirt, blue shorts and a pair of plimsolls or trainers. Some of our PE sessions will be outdoors, as the colder weather approaches please also ensure PE Kits include extra layers i.e. joggers/fleeces. **All of your child's clothes (uniform & P.E) need to be clearly named.** Our PE days will be on a Tuesday and Friday however, PE kits should stay in school all week.

Reading bags and water bottles

Please ensure that your child has a named reading bag and water bottle in school every day. We will send out early reading books later in the half term.

School lunches

All Reception children are entitled to Free School Meals as part of the Universal Free School Meal Offer and we would encourage you to take this up, however children also have the option to bring a packed lunch if they would rather. The school meal menus will be available online, once they have been shared with us by the local authority, if you would like to know what the choices will be in advance in order to talk to your child about choices. If you have told us about any allergies, or dietary requirements, then your child will only be able to choose meals which are suitable for them and we can cater for all needs. Please let us know if your child has an allergy or dietary requirement.

ParentMail and Tapestry

Letters and written communications from school are shared with families via ParentMail. We will also be using Tapestry to communicate important dates/information as well as observations. If you haven't already, please ensure you have returned your Tapestry permission form to enable your access.

We are usually available before and after school should you need to speak with us. You can catch us on the door most days or you can contact the office to make an appointment if you need to talk to us privately or at length. Thank you for all of your support already, we have got a brilliant cohort of children and we are looking forward to a really successful and happy year.

Many Thanks,

The Early Years Team