



7<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Reception Parents and Carers,

We would like to tell you a little more about the start of your child's Reception year, some of which you may have heard at the online induction meeting. The Reception team consists of:

- Class Teachers Mrs Gray and Teaching Assistant Mrs Clarke in Reception Willow.
- Class Teacher Mrs Riley and Teaching Assistant Mrs Bostock in Reception Chestnut.
- Teaching Assistant Mrs Stokes will work within the Foundation Stage unit each afternoon.
- Mr Bordley will be teaching PE every Monday morning.

Due to current circumstances of COVID19 your child will only work with their class group during the day and will not mix with the other Reception class.

We will plan fun, hands-on activities within a safe and stimulating learning environment to promote your child's learning. Your child will have time to initiate their own learning through play. They will take part in whole class, small group and individual activities.

We are all looking forward to teaching your child and working in partnership with you to support your child's learning.

### **Themes**

Throughout the year we will plan activities based upon the children's interests to optimise their learning across all areas of the curriculum. Some of last year's themes for example were; 'Why do squirrels hide their nuts?', 'Are we there yet?' and 'Do cows drink milk?'. In addition to this we will plan activities based on yearly events such as different festivals. One of the themes during your child's first term will be 'Do you want to be friends?'

### **Home learning in Reception**

At an appropriate time of the year in Reception, your child will bring home a reading book for you to share with them. This will be a text linked to the sounds they have been introduced to in order for you to support your child applying their phonic knowledge to their reading. We will send home the sounds the children have learned for you to refer to and practice with your child. By supporting your child with this regularly at home you will make such a difference to the progress your child makes.



There is a useful website called Hungry Minds, which offers excellent ideas on further ways to support your child at home. It is broken down into different ages and stages, so it is useful for other young children that you may have at home. If you are interested in looking at this, please use this link: <http://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/>

You might like to also have a look at this website: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/collections/starting-primary-school/1>

### **School uniform and PE**

Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct school uniform. Our school colour is bottle green, so we ask that cardigans and jumpers are that colour. Skirts and trousers should be grey. School shoes should be black and please no trainers.

Your child will have lots of opportunities for physical play in our outdoor zone. Your child will also take part in weekly PE activities with Mr Bordley. Due to the current circumstances children will need to come to school in their PE kit, which they will wear all day. PE days for both classes will be on **Monday**. As PE will be outdoors the kit should consist of jogging bottoms, a t-shirt, a warm jumper and a pair of trainers, please be aware these are likely to get muddy so they will need a change of footwear for indoors.

**PE will begin on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September, so please send your child to school in their PE kit.**

### **Your child's belongings**

Please ensure that all your child's belongings are named, including their water bottle, jumpers/cardigans and book bags. It is very useful for staff so we can easily identify which items belong to who. Children are permitted to wear stud earrings only, no hoop earrings for safety reasons. Thank you for your understanding in this.

### **Entering school in the morning**

Due to current circumstances adults are not permitted into the school building, therefore you will need to say goodbye in the courtyard area. Please be reassured that we will help them to complete their morning jobs such as putting their book bags away and changing their shoes.

Should you have any messages to pass on, such as a change of person collecting your child, these messages can be given to the member of staff on the door. If there is a matter you would like to



discuss further we will try our best to talk to you in the morning but as you can appreciate this can be difficult when surrounded by over 40 children. You are always welcome to speak to us after school. We would just ask that if you would like to speak to us after school you wait until all children have been released to an adult to ensure the safety of the children and so that we can release them to you quickly.

### **Pick up and collection times**

During the week beginning the 14<sup>th</sup> September, you will have been asked to select a drop off and collection time for your child so that we are able to stagger the number of people arriving on site. If you already have other children in school, then the drop off and collection time for your Reception child will be the same window that you have already selected for your older siblings.

Just a reminder for you to leave a little more time for drop off and pick up as we have a one-way system on the school site. Entry is only through the main entrance on Ashington Grove and exit is only through the Ash Path gate. We are aiming to have a steady, socially distanced stream of parents and children during drop off and pick up, so no loitering on site please for everyone's safety. Thank you.

### **Lunch**

School meals are universally free to children in Reception and Key Stage One. If your child prefers to bring a packed lunch instead, we request no fizzy drinks or sweets, please. Thank you for your support. We ask the children who have packed lunches to leave any uneaten food in their lunch box so you can see what they are eating. One week's notice is required if you want to change from packed lunch to school dinners and visa-versa. The class teachers will take the children to the lunch hall in the first few weeks to settle them into this new routine. Once the children are settled, they will be supported by our fantastic dinner staff who supervise the children at lunchtime and will let us know if your child isn't eating or doesn't like particular food, which we can then pass on to you.

Although your Reception aged child is entitled to universally free school meals, if you think you may be entitled to the benefit based free school meals it is still worth applying. Please see the separate letter in this pack, as if you qualify you will receive additional benefits relating to trips and school milk.



### **Promoting healthy eating**

Free fruit is provided for the children as their mid-morning snack. You can send in a piece of fruit from home if your child prefers particular types of fruit. Please ensure that if you are sending in grapes they need to be cut in half lengthways to prevent choking. Please send in a named water bottle which your child can keep in school so they can drink water throughout the school day as we find that it supports concentration, children are permitted to drink water only throughout the school day. Water bottles will be sent home every day to be washed.

### **Free milk**

Every child under the age of five is entitled to free milk. See [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com) for more information. Once your child has their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday, there is the option for you to continue paying for daily milk or you may be entitled to continue with this service for free.

### **Thrive**

We are a Thrive school. We use an activity planning resource called Thrive-Online. This allows us to check that children are working appropriately for their age and to develop the whole class with activities that ensure that they are as emotionally and socially supported as they can be. Using Thrive-Online will also identify to us any children in need of extra help. If the screening process suggests that your child would benefit from additional one-to-one support, we will contact you and, with your consent and involvement, we will carry out a more detailed assessment to develop an action plan that gives specific strategies and activities for supporting your child within our school. We understand that some circumstances may be sensitive and confidentiality will be paramount at all times when you are discussing your child's needs with us.

We value the role that parents play in education and by working in partnership with you we can provide opportunities to inspire your child's learning.

Thank you in advance for your support. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need any other information or you have any queries regarding your child.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Riley and Mrs Gray