

September 2024

Dear Reception parents/carers

We hope that you have had a great summer! We are really looking forward to getting to know all the new children and catching up with the children who are returning to school after the summer break.

Uniform

Please make sure your child is wearing full school uniform and all uniform is **named**:



Shoes need to be traditional school shoes with a low heel or trainers in plain black, brown or blue - no bright colours or patterns/logos. We do not allow children to wear clogs, open-toed or sling back shoes or "jellies" as these are unsafe for running and climbing. If you need any support with uniform please come and talk to Miss Barbara.

PE

PE will begin after the October half term. On PE days (Thursday) children can come into school in their PE kit and keep it on all day.

Kit:



Punctuality

Being at school on time every day is really important – if a child is 5 minutes late every day they will miss 3 whole days of learning over the school year.

To support this, we will be using a '**soft start**' approach. The Early Years classrooms will be open from **8.45 am** so children can come in and explore the learning environment before settling down for their phonics or reading sessions. Please make sure your child is in between **8.45am and 9.05am**.

Phonics and reading sessions start at **9.05am**; the door to the Reception classroom will be shut at this point. Any child arriving after this time will have to wait outside with their parents until the phonics/reading session is over at 9.30. This is to support the children's focus and concentration.

Please make sure that you get to school on time!

Homework

Homework will be given out when all of the children have completed their settling in period – this is usually week 2 or 3. Homework will consist of an added extra on doodlemaths and trying to stay in the green zone and a writing or language activity. These will be set on Seesaw (our online learning platform) and answered via Seesaw or in homework books. Logins for both of these will be given out in the next few weeks. **If you do not have access to the internet and completing homework online will be challenging for you then please speak to Miss Barbara.**

Reading

After the settling period children will take home a reading book each week. Initially these books will be wordless and you should focus on the children telling the story through looking at the pictures and talking about what they can see happening. As they start learning to link sounds to letters their reading books will match the sounds they have been learning in the classroom.

It is important that that your child **reads to you every day** and that you write a comment in their reading journal using the prompts at the front. **Reading Records need to be brought into schools every Wednesday. They will be checked, books changed, and then returned to you on Friday.**

Phonics – the children will learn to read through synthetic phonics. This half term we will be consolidating oral blending and segmenting. This is when the children understand that if an adult says separate sounds they can be blended together to make a word and vice versa. For example, c - a - t says cat and the word cat can be broken down into its individual sounds, so map would be m – a – p. We will then move onto introducing new phonemes (sounds) and linking them to their graphemes (letters). There will be 4 new phonemes a week and these will be sent out on Seesaw. Please make sure that you support the children to watch these videos every day. **There will be a phonics session for parents on Thursday the 26th of September please try and attend if you can.** It will last for approximately 30 minutes and I promise there will be tea and nice biscuits!

The children will also use the school library each Thursday and will bring the library book home for you to read to them. Please return it with the homework on Wednesdays.

Parentmail

If you have yet to complete the school admission then please do so asap. Return it to Tara so that she can put you on the school system which will allow you to log onto parentmail. Please download the parentmail app. Many of the general communications with parents will be sent through text or email via parentmail. You can also use parentmail to book Breakfast and Buzz Club (after school club) and pay for trips. If you need support with the app, please speak to Miss Tara in the school office.