Starting School

2020

The Early Years Foundation Stage runs from birth to the end of the Reception year and the Early Learning Goals set out what most children are expected to do by the end of it.

The Foundation Stage curriculum is organised into seven areas of learning:

* **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**
* **Communication and Language**
* **Physical Development**
* **Literacy**
* **Mathematics**
* **Understanding the World**
* **Expressive Arts and Design**

Learning for young children is a rewarding and enjoyable experience in which they explore, investigate, discover, create, practise, rehearse, repeat, revise and consolidate their developing knowledge, skills and understanding. Well-planned play activities both indoors and outdoors enable the children to learn in this way with enjoyment and challenge.

In our reception class, the children will learn to be confident to try new activities, initiate ideas and speak in a familiar group. They will learn to form good relationships with adults and other children and have a developing awareness of their own needs, views and feelings, and be sensitive to the needs, views and feelings of others. The children will work as part of a group or class, taking turns and sharing fairly and understand what is right, what is wrong and why.

During their time in reception, the children are given opportunities to experience a rich language environment. Throughout the year, children develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves. The children are encouraged to listen attentively to stories and the views of others.

The activities in this area develop reading and writing skills. Our classroom has writing areas where the children can experiment with their newfound skills and we encourage and value their own “have a go” attempts. The children will enjoy a wide range of stories and rhymes, sharing big books as a class. They will learn to read a range of common words, eventually reading in a small group with the teacher. The children will hear and say the sounds in words, then link the sounds to letters, naming and sounding all the letters of the alphabet.

In the reception class the children will use indoor and outdoor equipment and space to develop their physical control and co-ordination, to move with confidence, imagination and in safety. They will recognise the changes that happen to their bodies when they are active and the importance of keeping healthy. The children also take part in activities to develop their fine motor skills to help the children during writing tasks.

During their time in the reception class, mathematical understanding is developed through stories, songs, games, practical activities and imaginative play, so that the children enjoy using and experimenting with numbers.

The children will recognise, and begin to write numerals, and will use mathematical language such as taller and shorter. They will make simple patterns and will use appropriate language to describe the shape and size of solid and flat shapes.

In this area of learning, children are developing the skills, knowledge and understanding that helps them to make sense of the world. By the end of the Foundation Stage, most children will be able to investigate objects and materials by using all of their senses as appropriate. They will find out about, and identify some features of living things, objects and events they observe, asking why things happen and how things work. During the reception year, the children will build and construct with a wide range of objects, selecting the tools and techniques they need to shape, assemble and join the materials they are using. They will use the computer and programmable toys to support their learning.

Our reception children will have opportunities to draw, paint, make models and do collage, using a variety of materials and tools to express their ideas. They will show an increasing ability to use their imagination through music, dance, role-play and stories. They will respond to what they see, hear, smell, touch and feel in a variety of ways.

During the year we continually observe and monitor the children’s progress in all seven areas of learning in the Foundation stage. These assessments feed into their final report known as the Foundation Stage Profile. The profile will be completed at the end of their Reception year. It will help to build up knowledge of each child’s capabilities throughout the year and will give an accurate picture of what each child can do as they enter Key Stage 1.

At the beginning of term, small groups of children will be introduced to school each day. After the second full week, the children will be coming to school full-time.

When your child starts school, there are a few things we would like them to do:

* Dress and undress
* Put on, take off and hang up their coats
* Flush and use the toilet sensibly
* Wash and dry their hands
* Share their toys and tidy them away
* Use a knife and fork
* Use a handkerchief

All children in Reception and Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) have been entitled to a free school dinner.

We promote healthy eating and in order to support this initiative, children on packed lunches are encouraged to have a balanced diet, which should include a sugar free drink. If your child is to have a packed lunch, then please make sure the lunch box is clearly named. At dinner time all meals are eaten in the school hall.

We encourage our children to eat healthily and so, as our school is now part of the National Fruit Scheme, all the Reception and Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) children receive a piece of free fruit every day.

Children are entitled to receive free milk every day until they are 5. The school kitchen provides milk (18p per carton) and toast (25p per slice) each morning. This is to be paid via parent pay. Sufficient funds need to be on the account at 9am each morning for snack to be issued.

**Water bottles**

On their first day at school, the children will be given their own school water bottle so that a drink of water will be available for them throughout the day.

**Wellies**

Since the outdoor classroom and environment are as important to our reception children as the indoors all children will need to bring a pair of wellington boots that are to be left in school. We enjoy a weekly visit into Willow Wood come rain or shine so Wellies are very important.

**P.E.**

P.E. is weekly. All children will need a P.E. kit (black shorts, a white t-shirt, and a pair of black pumps) in a named P.E. shoe bag, which are available from the office. Please ensure all uniform in named.

**Swimming**

During the summer term, the children will need a swimming kit – swimsuit, towel, a pair of flip-flops or jelly shoes and a swimming cap for all children with longer hair. (Caps will be available from the school office)

Thank you for taking time to read this booklet. We do hope it will be of some use to you and that your child will enjoy their first year in school. We will!

Looking forward to seeing you in September,

From Miss Parkin and Mrs Blackburn