Reception Newsletter Term 1

**Welcome**

We would like to welcome you and your child to Reception. Please read through this letter carefully to find important information about your child’s first term at school. Newsletters and Topic Webs will be uploaded to the school website at the beginning of each new term.

**Entering school and leaving your child**

Your child can enter school through either the gate on Plymouth Street or Southampton Street, however, we recommend for the first term that your child enters through the gate on Southampton Street as this is closer to the Reception teachers. Miss Liddiard, Miss Barnes-Long and I will be waiting on the playground to greet your child each morning. When picking your child up from school at 3.30PM, you need to enter the Reception playground and wait outside the door of your child’s class. Members of staff will be on the playground to guide you if you are unsure where to go.

**Learning through Play**

In Reception we teach the children through a mixture of adult-led learning and child-initiated play. It may seem that your child is just ‘playing’, but they are playing with a purpose. Please be assured that teachers and teaching assistants will be guiding your children in their play and allowing the children to explore the world around them, develop their social skills, communication and turn taking skills, as well as developing their numeracy skills.

**Parent involvement**

As you are your child’s first educator, it is important that you are involved in your child’s learning as much as possible. On the school’s website, we have created Phonics, Maths and Physical Development presentations. Please take the time to go through them as they will explain how we teach these subjects at school. In Term 1 we will be holding parent workshops for these subjects where you can come into school and have a face to face presentation on how we teach these subjects and understand what you can do at home to support your child’s learning, along with the opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

**Lunchtimes**

All of the children are entitled to a free hot school meal. Please ensure you book your dinners online using ParentPay a week in advance. You will receive your Parent Pay logins the first week of school. You are able to send your child with a healthy packed lunch if you prefer. Please do not pack nuts for your children’s lunch. We are a nut free school, due to some children having severe allergies. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to speak to your teacher.

**Becoming Independent**

Although staff are always on hand to help, while in Reception children are encouraged to be as independent as possible. This means that they take themselves to the toilet and can clean themselves independently, put on their own coats and aprons, feed themselves at lunchtimes and change for PE. Please encourage them to be independent at home too.

**PE**

Your child will be taking part in PE every Thursday so will need a kit as shown below. All of their items will need to be clearly labelled. Please can you make sure that they bring their PE kit into school, in suitable bag to stay on their peg by 21st September 2023. They will bring their kit home at the end of each term to be washed and ready to bring back for the beginning of the following term.



Spare clothes

Please ensure you child has spare clothes in their bags. (top, trousers, pants, socks and spare shoes). Please ensure all clothes are labelled.

Snack

We have a specific time of the day, where the children will sit down and have a piece of fruit or vegetable and have the option of milk or water. This time, gives them the opportunity to have conversations with each other and have time to relax. Please do not bring in snack for your child as we provide it for them. The children are welcome to bring in a clearly labelled water bottle, they will have access to their water bottles throughout the day.

**Reading**

At Drove we use the reading scheme ‘Rising Stars’. You will have a Rising Stars log in and password and this provides you with access to online books. We will also set your child a story a week and will be according to their reading level. Please read with your child each day and record it in their reading record. Encourage your child to look carefully at the pictures and to tell a story about what they see.

**Dropping Off/Picking Up and absences**

Please ensure you are on time to drop off and pick up your child. From 18/09/2023, the gates will open at 8:20am and gates will close at 8:30am. Again, please make sure you are on time. Pick up time is at 3.30PM.

If you are running late to pick up, please contact the school office to let us know. Your child will be waiting in the playground for you with a member of staff.

If your child is running late or sick, please phone the school office to inform them of your child’s absence. It is important that you do this, so we know the whereabouts of your child. The school office number is at the top of the newsletter.

Your contact information

Please ensure that if you change your home address or phone number, that you let the school office know so that details are up to date in case we need to contact you.

**Homework**

Phonics handwriting books will be sent out on Friday’s and need to returned back into school by the following Wednesday. Reading books will also be set every Friday online using a website called Rising Stars Reading Planet. Please spend time with your child supporting them with reading the book they are set.

Both Phonics books and reading books will be sent out/set a couple of weeks into the first term, once the children have settled in.

**Class Dojo**

Over the summer holidays, we opened up our Class Dojo. You will receive instructions during your child’s first week with your Class Dojo code to sign up. Please ensure you have signed up and logged onto your account. This is where we will be communicating. We will send out reminders and updates. It is vital that you are logged on.

Thank You

Reception Team

