**Flowery Field Primary School – Frequently Asked Questions**

**Reception Class**

We understand that as a parent/carer with a child starting school for the very first time, you may have lots of questions to ask. We have anticipated some of these questions, however, if you can’t find the answers you are looking for here, please get in touch.

**What is the routine on arrival?**

School starts at 8.45am. There is a member of staff at the external classroom door waiting to welcome all of the children on entry. Reception children come into class on their own and hang up their coats and bags in the cloakroom, then they start their morning tasks such as learning to write their name or counting.

**What equipment will my child need to bring to school?**

* A book bag (provided free of charge)
* Hat, gloves and scarf (for the winter months)
* Sun hat (from spring onwards)
* Spare underwear/clothing if required
* Children will come to school in their PE kit on PE days

**Can my child bring toys into school?**

We know your child may want to bring a toy in from home however, to prevent things getting lost or broken in school, it is better for these to stay at home where they are safe. If your child wants to bring something in to show the class at ‘Show and Tell’ - a special artefact, photograph, project etc. - we are always happy for this to happen, but please pass items directly to the teacher so that they can be stored safely until the right time.

**What should I do if my child is ill?**

Please telephone the school office as soon as you can. Please note that following a case of diarrhea or sickness your child is not permitted to return to school until they are clear of symptoms for 48 hours. If you suspect your child has a communicable disease (for example measles, chicken pox, scarlet fever, whooping cough, mumps, please follow the Public Health advice and inform school).

**What if my child needs medicine during the school day?**

We do not accept medicines at the classroom door. You will need to fill in a form which is available at the school office. We are only able to administer current medicines prescribed by a doctor and clearly labelled with your child’s name.

If your child needs an inhaler, please provide one that can be kept in school (check it is labelled with their name and is in date). You will be asked to fill in a form so that your child can be added to our asthma register.

**What if I need to collect my child early for an appointment/we are late coming to school one morning?**

Please inform the office if you need to collect your child from school early for an appointment - wherever possible we ask to see an appointment card/letter. On the day of the appointment please go to the office and someone will collect your child for you.

If you are late for school you will need to go to the school office - rather than your usual gate - as your child will need to be signed in on our electronic register. They will then be taken to class by the office staff.

**Where will my child have lunch (and what will they have)?**

Your child will eat their lunch in the main dining hall. Reception children go to the hall at 11:30. They will be supported by a member of the Reception team and Midday assistants. School meals are free of charge for pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes. A menu will be available in September and we will ensure you have access to these to help your child pick what they would like to eat in advance using the MCAS (My Child At School) App. Vegetarian and Halal options are always available. Please let us know about any food allergies or intolerances so we can liaise with the school cook.

**Who will be working with my child?**

Your child will be in one of three Reception classes and they will work closely with their own class teacher and teaching assistant. Your child will be nominated a Keyworker for the year who will monitor development, provide emotional support, direct their learning and they will also be your main point of contact as they will know your child so well. Throughout the week there will be a wider range of adults that they will come into contact with, such as our PE team, but they will quickly learn everyone’s names.

**Will I be able to come into school?**

There will be lots of opportunities to come into school to share your child’s learning. There will be information days, workshops, celebration events and activities throughout the year. Parents’ Evenings take place twice a year (usually in the autumn and spring terms). These events are posted on the school website and in regular newsletters. Other opportunities to come and help may include; story-telling, crafts, baking or reading with the children. We openly encourage parents/carers to participate in Forest School sessions with their child.

**What sort of things will my child be doing at school?**

In Reception the school day starts at 8.45am and finishes at 3.15pm. During the school day children will have circle time (focusing on speaking, listening, personal and emotional development), a phonics lesson, small group maths, reading and writing activities, opportunities to learn outside and also time to explore the indoor areas of learning through a variety of challenges. We learn Spanish and Makaton alongside our half-termly whole school topics.

**Will my child go outside?**

We are very lucky with our outside space - our facilities are fantastic and if you haven’t been to see them we encourage you to do so; please call to book an appointment! Your child will be able to go outside whatever the weather. We have a garden to grow our own produce, story trail, climbing opportunities, covered areas for inclement weather, water and sand play, a small farm, an on-site Forest School area and we also we have Forest School sessions off site in the local park. We ask parents to make sure that children are sent with suitable clothing to allow this to happen. In addition to playtimes outside, children will go outside for small group activities and also for guided choosing time.

**Will my child go on school trips?**

We offer a number of opportunities for trips, although these do change each year. These range from visits to local shops, the park, trips to the farm or we might even go on a bear hunt! Wherever we go, we ensure that your child’s safety is our top priority and encourage parents to join us. We also have visitors in Reception to support our learning.

**Can my child go to an after school club?**

In the autumn term, it is important for children to settle and adapt to the new routine and this can be exhausting for them initially. We do not encourage children to attend after school clubs early in the academic year. We inform parents of the clubs and activities later in the year, as they evolve.

**When are the school holidays?**

Check the relevant section on the school website or speak to your class teacher and they can get you a copy of the calendar. Please note that we have a two- week holiday in May/June in line with Tameside LA.

**What is expected of me as a parent/carer?**

We encourage parents/carers to take an active role in their child’s school life. This will include; reading at home, attending parent/carer workshops or information evenings, attending progress meetings, keeping school up to date with any changes in circumstance and most importantly making sure your child is prepared for the school day e.g. having a good sleep, regular daily routines and eating a healthy breakfast. If you need any help, or even just someone to talk to, please remember to call school for advice; we are here to help and support you in any way we can.

**Do the children need to bring a snack to school?**

All Reception children will be provided with free daily fruit. Every child has access to water throughout the day. There is no need for them to bring any other snacks into school. It is important that we are made aware of any food allergies or intolerances that your child may have.

**My child isn’t toilet trained. Can they still come to school?**

Yes, they can, but we would encourage you to toilet train your child over the summer break. We encourage all the children to use the toilet independently from Nursery age upwards, and to adhere to health and hygiene advice. If your child has medical needs that means they are not yet using the toilet, please let us know and if you need help, please speak to your child’s teacher; we are always happy to support you in this or signpost to specialist advice.

**When can I speak to the class teacher?**

We have an ‘open door’ policy. This means that you can speak to the class teacher or keyworker at any time, for example at the start and end of the day. However, if this is not convenient, or you require a private room, you will be asked to make an appointment.

**What do I have to do if someone else needs to pick up my child?**

We keep photographs and contact details of adults permitted to collect children so that if there is any change in staff at the door, they can check the records to confirm identity. If someone else is collecting your child, you must call the office in advance to inform them and ensure they have a confidential password (known to the teacher) to confirm their identity. The teacher may ask to take that person’s photograph for future reference. This is for the safety of your children and we appreciate your understanding for adhering to this procedure.