



## 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?**

Arrival time is 8:40am. 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 (currently Tuesdays)
- Wellingtons and appropriate clothing for Forest School when needed

#### **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 diarrhoea 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 which are 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).

### **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 and bring them to you.

If you are late for school you will need to go to the school office to sign in your child on our electronic system. They will then be taken to class by the office staff.

### **How is reading/writing/maths taught?**

In Reception we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and tailor our teaching to support the individual needs of each pupil. Teachers read daily to the whole class, children also read in small groups and individually with the teacher. We teach phonics daily and from September 2022 we will be following the 'Little Wandle' phonics programme, which develops reading and writing alongside each other. There are always lots of exciting opportunities to practise reading and writing in all areas of learning. We teach maths in small groups following a whole class input using the 'White Rose Maths' scheme of work. After our short class inputs for reading, writing and maths we have lots of activities, both inside and out, for the children to practise their new skills in

different contexts and work with the adults in the learning areas to extend and embed their learning even further.

### **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 each class has a Midday assistant. 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 this on our website to help your child pick what they would like to eat. 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. If your child has a school dinner it is important that you pre-order your child's meals as soon as possible. If you leave it until the day before, their choice may not be available as we order ingredients in advance.

### **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. When playing outside in the shared area, there will be a wider range of adults who they will come into contact with, but they will quickly learn everyone's names. There is a designated Midday assistant to support each Reception class in the hall and outside at lunchtimes.

### **Can I 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 encourage parents/carers to participate in Forest School sessions.

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

In Reception the school day starts at 8.40am and finishes at 3.10pm. During the day children have circle time (focusing on speaking, listening, personal, social and emotional development), a phonics lesson, maths, reading and writing activities, opportunities to play outside and also time to explore the challenges in all seven areas of learning. We learn Spanish and Makaton alongside our half-termly themes that link to the school's wider curriculum.

### **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, climbing opportunities, covered areas for inclement weather, water and sand play, a small farm, an on-site Forest School area in addition to Forest School sessions off-site in the local park. 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 bug hunt! Wherever we go, we ensure that your child's safety is our top priority and encourage parents/carers to join us. We also have visitors to 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. Children will be invited to attend after school clubs later in the academic year. We inform parents/carers of the clubs as they evolve.

### **When are the school holidays?**

Check the relevant section on the school website - see term dates or look at our calendar for events. 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/carers?**

We encourage parents/carers to take an active role in their child's school life. This will include; reading at home, attending parent/carers workshops (where possible), attending Parents' Evening, 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 find 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 holiday. Summer is the best time to do this. We encourage all the children to use the toilet independently from Nursery age upwards, and to adhere to health and hygiene advice. If you need help or advice, please speak to your child's teacher.

### **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 teaching assistant 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 child and we appreciate your understanding for adhering to this procedure.