

6th September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Reception!

The children have all had an amazing start to the school year! We are delighted with how quickly they are settling in and we are looking forward to getting to know them and to helping them grow over the coming months.

The start of the day

From Monday please continue to say goodbye to your child at the classroom door and let them come in by themselves to hang up their coats and put their book bags away. Water bottle baskets will be outside the classroom door in the morning and they can put their water bottle in their colour group basket before they come in. This will help to ease the congestion in our busy cloakrooms, which can be a health and safety issue, and this will also help to develop independence in your child.

Water bottles

We are just waiting for our delivery as there has been a delay with the supplier, but as soon as they arrive each child will receive their free school water bottle. Please name and decorate it for easy identification and bring to school daily filled with **water**. Fruit drinks are not permitted throughout the day, but if your child is having a packed lunch they will need a separate drink in their lunchbox, and this can be a carton of fruit juice or squash.

Clothing

Please remember to name all school uniform including coats and shoes. Please can you provide your child with a pair of named wellies which can be kept in school by their coat peg (please send them in as soon as you have them). These are essential for enabling pupils to access outdoor learning, especially in puddles or the mud kitchen. Please also remember that your child will need a coat every day for outdoor learning.

Don't throw it out!

Do you have any contributions of junk modelling items for our workshop areas? We are not permitted to use toilet rolls, for health and safety reasons, but are happy to receive cereal boxes, kitchen roll tubes, yogurt pots and plastic trays from fruit, and so on. Please make sure that plastic items are clean. We also can use fabric, wool, old greetings cards, rolls of wallpaper, plus large newspapers. If in doubt, please ask as we can probably find a use for many items!

Wows!

We like to celebrate children's achievements from home and school throughout the week. Soon we will start to send a blank "Wow!" slip home regularly in your child's home learning folder for you to complete when your child has a "Wow!" moment. The Wow box will be outside the classroom so that your child can post the slip in. Please complete with comments such as 'James rode his bike for the first time without stabilizers today!' or 'Sarah has been brilliant at sharing toys with her sister'. There will also be "Wow!" slips available outside the

classroom door.

Cookery

If you would like to make a voluntary contribution towards cookery, we would be very grateful. Some parents/carers are happy to give £5 for the year; others would rather give £1 a term. Please send this in to school in a named envelope at any time. We make things like soup, sandwiches, bread and cakes throughout the year, as well as our playdough, which encourages the development of physical, sensory, mathematical, understanding the world and language skills.

Lunches

Please check the school dinner menu if your child is having hot school lunches, as these start next week from Monday. It is helpful if your child knows what option they are having as a hot school dinner, so please discuss this with him/her each day. Hot school lunches are free for Reception and Key stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) pupils. If your child has any food allergies or intolerances then please speak to a member of staff as you will need to complete a form for the school kitchen.

If your child is bringing in a packed lunch then please make sure that their name is on the outside of their lunch bag. Also please make sure that any containers inside are named and please cut up smaller items, such as grapes, cherry tomatoes and olives (please halve them).

Tuck shop

This takes place every Friday from next week. Reception children can buy one food or drink item from the trolley. Please remind us if your child has any food allergies or intolerances. Items available include flapjacks, scotch pancakes, small cheese, ham or tuna wraps and raisins. Items cost between 20p and 50p. You can buy a Tuck shop card for £5 (which is kept in school), and please send this into school in an envelope with your child's name and class on, before next Friday. You will receive a reminder when the card is about to run out (but this won't be for some time).

Toys from home

Please encourage your child not to bring in toys from home, other than when it is their "show and tell" day. Toys and personal belongings may get lost or broken and can cause considerable upset to the child (and parent!). We will let you know when it is your child's turn to bring something in.

PPA time

On a Wednesday afternoon then the Early Years teachers have their PPA time out of class (planning, preparation and assessment). At this time Mrs Heritage will be leading the class and Mrs Davies will be her Teaching Assistant.

And finally...

As firm believers of the importance of good home-school links we encourage you to talk to us if you have any questions or concerns. We are usually free for a very quick chat at the end of the day, but if you have an issue that may need a little more time to discuss then we are happy to make an appointment to see you at a mutually agreeable time.

With best wishes from the Reception Class staff:

Lorraine Harris, Tracy Heritage