

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 all the fun learning we have planned for them.

### Urgent Messages

If you have a message that a member of staff needs to know about your child that particular day please ring the **school office**. Non urgent messages can be sent via Tapestry on an 'observation' but we might not have time to read Tapestry messages or emails during the day. Thank you.

### Pick ups

Please can you fill in the grid sent home with your child today to let us know who is collecting your child. This is so we have a record to put in our files. Please hand your grid to a member of staff ASAP.

### Tapestry

We are really enjoying using Tapestry for our online learning journals and we hope you are too. Thank you for bearing with us whilst we work through a few teething problems! Make sure you have changed your notification setting to 'immediate' if you want to see photos and observations as soon as they are posted, otherwise you will just get a daily summary. It is a good idea to get into the habit to check in daily on Tapestry to check on Memos and information that is posted.

### Water bottles

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.

### Cookery

Unfortunately we can't do cooking due to Covid restrictions. We will let you know when this can resume.

### Lunches

Please check the school dinner menu if your child is having hot school lunches. 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 as this is a serious choking hazard).

### **Toys from home**

Please encourage your child not to bring in toys from home. Toys and personal belongings may get lost or broken and can cause considerable upset to the child (and parent!).

### **Birthdays**

It is always special to celebrate your birthday at school. Please see the note on the school newsletter about sharing of sweets. We will still celebrate in class with a photo posted on Tapestry!

### **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 Cherry and Mrs Howlett leading Ash; Mrs Davies will be the Early Years Support Assistant. Mrs Bradbury will also be leading Ash Class on some Wednesday mornings when Mrs Ellis has Leadership time out of class. We all work closely together and all the staff are very experienced in teaching Early Years children.

### **Reading and phonics workshop**

We normally have a phonics workshop and invite parents into school to learn how we teach reading at Madley Brook. Things are a bit different this year! In the next week or 2 we will be videoing information sessions for parents and carers on how we teach reading and what you can do to support your child at home. Please check Memos on Tapestry for this.

### **Child Focus Week**

We will start this in the next few weeks and you will receive a letter informing you when it is your child's turn. We will be doing Parent Meetings a little differently as we cannot meet you in person at the moment, we will arrange a virtual online meeting and details of this will be on the child focus letter.

### **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. If you have an issue to discuss then we are happy to make an appointment to speak on the phone or via video on Google Meet.

With best wishes

Kirsty Ellis and Lorraine Harris