

Reception 2021 -2022



Congratulations – you have safely navigated the stormy waters of the pre-school years and are about to arrive on the shores of FULL TIME EDUCATION! Whether you have been here before, with an older child, or whether it is your first time, we are here to offer you the warmest of welcomes, help you settle in and make you feel as comfortable as possible. This letter will hopefully pre-empt your many questions and we will follow this up during Wednesday’s ZOOM meeting.

The Normal School Day

8:55	School starts
10:30 – 10:50	Break time
12:00 – 1:15	Lunch time
3:20	School finishes

We know that getting children up, dressed, fed and out of the house can be a bit like climbing Mount Everest but it is important that the children do arrive in school on time and we ask that they carry their own things – a backpack on their back, a book bag in one hand and a packed lunch (unless, of course, they are having a school dinner) in the other. The smoother we can make things at the start of the day, the more relaxed the children will be.



The Reception Team

The Reception team for 2021-22 are:

- Mrs Lauren Arkontopoulos - Class Teacher
- Mrs Kim Bridge - Higher Level Teaching Assistant
- Mrs Claire Heaton - Class Teacher
- Mrs Sarah Evans - Teaching Assistant
- Mrs Claire Sommerville - Part-time Teaching Assistant

On one morning or afternoon per week the Reception teachers have time away from the classroom for Preparation Planning and Assessment (PPA) and during this time, Higher Level Teaching Assistants and Teaching Assistants take the class.

Backpacks



The children need to bring a backpack every day so that they have somewhere to put jumpers, cardigans, hats, gloves, snacks and so on. Please keep a small plastic bag containing a change of underwear and socks or tights in there as well in case an accident should occur. Also, it is a good idea to check the backpack every morning just to make sure the children are not bringing any toys to school!

Book Bags



The children need to bring a book bag to school every day. These are primarily for books, reading records and homework. Sometimes they might come in and go home empty but we never know when there might be letters to send home and it is nice for the children to put their 'paperwork' (drawings, paintings, writing) in there as well, rather than squashing things into their rucksack. Please check inside daily for any messages and take out the aforementioned paperwork.

Homework

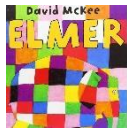


Homework will be sent out on a Friday and needs to be returned the following Friday, please; this will consist of the sounds the children have been learning through the week and sometimes a short maths task. Please stick all homework sheets into their homework books as this is our way of keeping a record of the tasks the children have undertaken through the year.

Books

Once a week, the children choose books to borrow from the class library for you to share together at home. To make the changing of books manageable for us, we divide the class into groups and give each group a specific day on which to bring their books and reading records. We will let you know at the start of term which day will be your child's 'Book Day'. Please don't send the books in every single day because this makes the book bags unnecessarily heavy.

These are 'sharing books'; we are not expecting the children to be able to read them to you, although they will soon start to recognise *some* of the sounds and *some* of the words. As the year progresses, some children might be ready to start bringing home 'reading books' and we will talk to you about this when the time comes. The children also have a 'Reading Record' book and this is for you to make a note of the title of the book you have been sharing and perhaps leave a comment about whether your child enjoyed it. This is a great way for us to see what sort of books appeal to the children in our class and to ensure they are not bringing the same book home week in, week out, although it is perfectly normal and, in fact, desirable for them to have their favourites!



Snack Time

At snack time the children drink from their water bottle and eat their snack. They are requested to bring in a piece of fruit from home every day. Grapes need to be cut in half please, to minimise the risk of choking. Snacks need to be separated from packed lunches because snacks remain in the children's backpacks whereas lunch boxes go on our lunch trolley; lunch boxes should also contain a separate drink, for the same reason. The children are allowed to have juice or squash with their lunch but are only allowed to drink water in class throughout the day.

Lunch Time

Children who are having a school dinner will eat their meal in the school hall. Children who bring in a packed lunch will eat their meal in the classroom. Whether eating a school lunch or their own packed lunch, children are encouraged to eat as much as they can and are not rushed. Children who have

brought in a packed lunch take home any food left over along with the accompanying packaging. If you believe your child is eligible for free school meals please contact the school office for further details.

Nut Free Policy

Although we recognise this cannot be guaranteed, we aim to protect children who have allergies to nuts. As such, we do not allow nuts or nut products in school lunch boxes or for breaktime snacks. This includes packs of nuts, peanut butter sandwiches, fruit and cereal bars containing nuts, chocolate bars or sweets containing nuts, sesame seed rolls, cakes made with nuts.

Labelling

We cannot emphasise enough the importance of labelling everything - we don't want you to lose anything! It is vital that backpacks, book bags, water bottles and snack pots are all labelled on the outside. All items of clothing, including coats and shoes, must be labelled too.

Uniform / P.E.

All pupils will be expected to wear freshly-laundered school uniform each day. Pupils will be expected to wear freshly-laundered school PE kits (white tops, navy blue shorts/joggers/leggings/ navy blue top/hoodie) on days when they have PE (twice per week). Your child's teacher will inform them of their P.E. days. On days when your child is not doing P.E. they will be expected to wear their normal school uniform (white shirt/blouse/navy trousers, skirts/ blue & white checked dresses), wearing shoes and not trainers. Clothes with elasticated waists and velcro-fastening shoes are ideal.

Communication

Our primary means of communicating with parents and carers is through ParentPay (an online messaging and payment service). In September your child will bring home a letter with all the necessary login details. We ask that you follow the instructions and sign up as soon as possible. We have our own school website and twitter page. We regularly update our website and twitter with information

and photographs to provide our families with an insight into school life. We send out a weekly school newsletter to all our families through ParentPay. We also use a digital platform called Seesaw. Through this we can send and receive messages, share photographs and videos and provide homework opportunities. You will be sent a Seesaw login code at the beginning of the year and it is important to sign up to get the full benefits of Seesaw. This is particularly important in the current climate of lockdowns as this is the platform we use to provide our children with learning opportunities. **We will seek your written permission prior to uploading photographs of our child onto any form of social media.**

Thank you!

We can't wait to see you in September!