



## **Preparing your child for school**

### **Parents' Guide**

This guide is to help you prepare your child for starting school into Reception. Starting school is a big step but there are a number of steps that you can take to ensure your child makes a confident start that will set them up for years of successful learning.

We welcome and encourage support from home and hope that the information in this booklet will be of help in this partnership between home and school.

## Getting ready for school

Getting your child ready for school begins many months before your child actually starts in September.

- Please be positive about school – Please don't say things like 'your teachers will tell you off if you do that at school'.
- You and your child may be anxious about the first few days. Do acknowledge this and tell them that it is ok to be a little scared about new things.
- Help your child have the best possible start by helping them to be confident at doing things such as dressing and undressing, putting on their shoes and coats and managing the toilet.
- Clearly name **ALL** of their clothes, including PE kit – this reduces stress for the teacher as potentially we have 30 identical jumpers in the same size!
- Encourage your child to write and draw, helping them to hold the pencil correctly and encouraging them to use which ever hand they feel most comfortable with.
- When writing your child's name with them, please only use a capital letter at the beginning.

We will be helping your child to settle into school over the next few weeks by offering some taster sessions before they start school. Your child will come into school and spend some time with us. This helps the children to get used to being part of a larger group, get to know their teachers and the other children, and of course the environment itself.

We will be operating a snack system in the mornings. Each child will be provided with the opportunity to have a piece of fruit or some vegetables each day. There are usually satsumas, apples, bananas, tomatoes or carrots. Every child will also be given a water bottle with their name on it. Please ensure this comes to school every day with only water in it; no juice or squash please.

## The Early Years Foundation Stage

Your children have already achieved a lot within the Foundation Stage. The curriculum begins at age 3 and continues until the end of the Reception year. Some of the learning has already been accomplished while your child has been at home with you, with a child-minder or attending pre-school or Nursery. We build on this

start and help your child to achieve their full potential and be ready to begin the National Curriculum at the beginning of year one.

The photographs displayed at the open evening show a broad overview of the types of activities that take part Reception. Children are involved in adult focused work, where they spend time with the Teacher or TA on a specific learning task, adult directed work, whereby an adult will assist the child to access the activity but will not remain with them the whole time, or child initiated learning, whereby the adult acts as a facilitator to help the child achieve what they want to do.

Much of the assessment of children in EYFS is through observations and guidelines suggest that around 80% of this should come from the child initiated activities. As teachers of EYFS, we have become very skilled at monitoring the children through their learning journeys and ensuring that they are still progressing even though we are not necessarily planning everything that they do.

## Procedures

- We understand that sometimes you may not be able to collect your child from school yourself. Please let us know if someone else will be collecting your child and who that person is. If possible, please also inform your child before you leave them in the morning.
- We expect that your child attends school **every day** unless they are ill. If your child is ill, or unable to attend school, please call the school office and leave a message. Absences for holidays and non-essential reasons such as shopping, visiting relatives are not authorised. Doctor and Dentist appointments should also be made out of school hours – many thanks.
- We also understand that occasionally problems happen at home, such as a family member going into hospital or on a tour of duty, a death in the family or a change in circumstances. Do take us into your confidence and tell us about these situations. Such events can trigger a change in a child's behaviour or attitude to work and if we are aware of the situation, we are able to be more understanding and supportive.

**Thank you very much for supporting your child's learning. If you want to find out any further information, speak to your child's class teacher.**