

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Reception!

Here is some useful information as your child starts Reception. Settling in the children, helping them adapt to new routines and getting to know each other will be our main priority this half-term.

Each term we change our focus topic. Our topic for this half term will be 'Ourselves'. We will be using a range of stories and non-fiction books to help us understand our bodies and what they can do. We will also learn about our senses, body parts (inside and outside the body) as well as learn about our bones and what keeps us healthy. Part of our topic will also involve learning about our families, friends and homes etc.

Show and Tell

At the moment, children will not be able to bring items from home. Instead, they will have a focus to talk about linked to our topic. It could be talking about their favourite food, their family or pets. We will let you know what the focus is each week so that you can help your child practise.

Classroom set up:

We will have a role play area in Reception. This gives children the opportunity to interact with each other whilst re-enacting real world scenarios. Each table top activity is related to the Early Years Curriculum. We provide activities and play opportunities to develop the children's knowledge, play and skills. We will also have focussed activities where your child will work one to one with an adult or in a small group to help develop their skills. For example, using their phonic sounds to write words.

Staff: Reception Teachers: Lena (Mon, Tues, Weds) and Barley (Thurs, Fri)

Teaching Assistant: Nadine

Learning Support Assistant: Anjum

We have specialist teachers for music and Spanish. These will be taught once a week by Lisa (music) and Lorena (Spanish)

Lorena works in every class so can track the children's progress very well through engaging and age-appropriate lessons.

Lisa is also a specialist music teacher who comes in every week. In reception they will learn a variety of songs and patterns; increasing their confidence, skills and musical repertoire.

Lunches:

Unfortunately, we will not be able to provide any hot lunches. This is due to Covid restrictions. However, we are hoping to re-open our school kitchen as soon as possible. In the meantime, children will need a packed lunch. This will be eaten in the classroom. Lunches need to be healthy and should not contain ANY nut products. Packed lunches should consist of a sandwich/wrap/pasta (something substantial so they will not feel hungry later on in the day). You can include items such as carrot sticks, celery sticks and fruit too. Children should bring a water bottle each day.

Morning Snack:

Please only provide your child with fruit. No crisps or chocolate.

Equipment Needed:

Water bottle labelled with name, lunch and fruit for a mid-morning snack.

Homework: Your child will have homework this year. More information will be given to you about this at a later date.

Clothing and footwear: The children enjoy getting messy, jumping in puddles and crawling around on the floor! We would encourage them to wear comfortable, appropriate clothing and footwear and not their best clothes. We encourage outdoor play even when it is cold outside so please make sure clothing is suitable for the weather. If you think your child may need spare clothes then bring them in a bag labelled with their name. This bag can be kept on their peg.

Book Bags: Due to Covid, the situation about books being sent home will have to be clarified. We definitely want children to be bringing books home. It is an important part of their learning. However, we will have to find a way where this can be done safely.

Star of the week: Each week we have Star of the Week, Merit and Grasmere Values Certificates. These children will be given a certificate in Assembly explaining why they are Star of the Week or how they have demonstrated the Grasmere Values. Merit certificates are given when they have achieved 10, 25, 50 or 100 Merits. Assemblies will now take place via Zoom. We will inform you that week if your child is due to be Star of the Week.

Cooking: We often provide a play dough activity or cooking activity. We ask for a donation of 50p a week to cover the costs of the ingredients. Please give any contributions to Lena or Barley. We appreciate all contributions.

PE: You will be told when your child will have PE. On that day, we would like your child to wear their PE kit to school. This will eliminate the need for changing clothes.

Allergies:

Please let us know if your child has any allergies.

Thank you for your support.

Lena and Barley and the rest of the Reception team