

Grasmere Primary School
Half Term Parent Information
Reception
Autumn Term 1
10/9/21



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Reception (**Sky Brown Class**)

I hope you agree that your child is settling in well to Reception. The first two weeks will be about getting to know each other, adapting to new routines and doing some new learning. The Reception staff are already impressed with how well the children have adjusted to their new class.

All the classes in the school this year will be named after inspirational people. Our class name will be **Sky Brown**, named after the youngest professional skateboarder in the world. At only 13 years old, Sky has already won a bronze medal at the Olympics. She has been an inspiration to so many people across the world, demonstrating that age is no barrier to success. As Reception are some of the youngest in the school, she will be a great role model to show us that no matter how young you are you can still achieve great things.

Each half 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 families, senses, body parts (inside and out) and how we can stay healthy. See the curriculum map for more details.

We will have a role play area in Reception. At the moment, it is a shop. 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 and Weds). On Thurs and Fri I am in school but doing my other role of Assistant Headteacher.

Barley: Teaches in Reception on Thu and Fri. She is in school on Tues as well, teaching Art to other classes.

Teaching Assistants: Clair and Nadine

The children are also taught Spanish by Lorena, a specialist language teacher. Our lesson is every Tues morning for half an hour.

Music is taught by Lisa, a music specialist. We have a lesson with her every Weds morning and we will also attend her whole school music assemblies. Our music lessons consist of learning a variety of songs and patterns, increasing the children's confidence, singing skills and musical repertoire.

Assessment: This year there will be a Reception baseline assessment. You will receive a more detailed letter about this next week. This assessment will be done within the first six weeks of your child starting Reception.

Homework: Your child will have homework every Friday. Please return it by the following week so new homework can be put in their homework books.

Show and Tell: Your child will be allocated a day once a week. We will let you know what that day is so you can help your child prepare for speaking in front of the whole class.

Clothing and footwear: The children enjoy getting messy, jumping in puddles and crawling around on the floor! We have regular visits to the school garden where children can climb, dig in the mud and explore their surroundings. We would encourage them to wear comfortable, appropriate clothing and footwear and not their best clothes., Footwear should be something that they can run in. Trainers are ideal! Reception is an active place and many of our activities are physical. Jewellery should not be worn to school as accidents can happen where it gets caught on things and cause injuries.

Book Bags: Each child will be given a book bag. The children need to bring in their book bag on **Tuesday** and **Friday**. We will be sending home phonic reading books and picture books. Please fill in the reading diary each week as it really helps us know how your child is doing with their reading, The homework book will be put in the bookbag too on **Friday**.

Star of the Week: Each week we choose two Stars of the Week. These children will be given a certificate in Assembly explaining why they are Star of the Week. Merit certificates are also given when your child has achieved 10, 25, 50, 75 or 100 Merits.

Spare clothes: We thoroughly enjoy messy play and water related activities in Reception, it would be very helpful if your child had their own set of spare clothes (including underwear, socks/tights) to keep in school. Please bring these clothes in a bag labelled with your child's name so they can keep it on their peg.

Assembly: When the Reception children are all settled, we will attend whole school Assemblies on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. This is in addition to the music assembly on Wednesday. As the children progress through the year they will perform in class assemblies in front of the whole school.

Cooking: Each week we provide a play dough activity or cooking activity. We ask for a donation of 50p to cover the costs of the ingredients. There is a little pot put out every Monday. We appreciate all contributions.

PE: Every Thursday we will be doing PE in the Hall or outside. Please dress your child in loose clothing such as leggings or jogging bottoms, as they will be able to move more easily. Please also make sure they are wearing trainers or plimsolls. At some point in the year, your child will be taught cricket by a specialist cricket coach as well.

If you have any questions, then please come and see a member of the Reception staff.

We are looking forward to a fun half term! Thank you for your support.
Lena, Barley, Nadine and Clair