



# Welcome to Foundation

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## Reception Class



### Settling in

Starting in a new class can be exciting but it can also be a little overwhelming for some children. We expect a few upsets in a morning and the children have coped brilliantly during their transition days. By 9:15am we normally have a lovely calm class ready for the day. All the children will be learning school routines and remembering where to put all their things. We will send photos on dojo to reassure parents as soon as it is appropriate.

### Pick up and drop off

Children will enter through the main entrance between 8:35am and 8:45am. Home time will be 3:20pm. At home time, please line up at the rainbow fence near the Forest Kingdom. I will line the children up inside the Forest Kingdom. I will then call the children according to which parent is at the front of the line. Please be patient with us at the start of the year as home time is an important time and I would rather do this calmly and slowly so that all children are handed over safely.

If you are using the breakfast club facility you can drop your child off from 7:15am. Please come to the main entrance at the school office and ring the bell in the foyer. A member of the breakfast club staff will welcome your child. Parents are not allowed into the school building at breakfast club. If you are collecting your child from After School Club you will use the same entrance for collection.

### Class Dojo

Class Dojo is a useful way to keep up to date with new information. Please use the messaging service to communicate anything that we need to know about; changes in pick up, if they haven't been feeling well the night before, photos or notes of what you've been up to over the weekend (which we will share during circle times) and so on. Please only try to send messages between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday. We will try to get back to you when possible, but staff will be working with children during learning time.

### Labels

The children try very hard to keep their things together but are finding it difficult if they do not have their names in. Please ensure you write your child's name on all their items of clothing, bottles, bags etc. Name stickers are very helpful as they do not fade in the wash.

## Footwear

Children will have the opportunity to bring a pair of wellies. These are very useful as we spend a lot of time on the field, doing Forest Schools and using water play in the outdoor learning area.

Please do not send your child to school in trainers with laces unless they are confident to tie the laces. At this early stage I would really recommend Velcro straps.

## Water bottles

Please could you ensure that your child has a water bottle in school at all times with their name clearly labelled on it. Please ensure that these are washed daily.



## Fruit

The government provides each child with a piece of fresh fruit each day. We receive a variety of fruit; apples, bananas, carrots, strawberries, sugar snap peas, peppers, pears, raisins and lots more. We are a healthy school and would like to promote healthy eating. Please do not send fruit into school for your child. Children will very often try new things when they see their friends trying it.

## Homework

The children will be expected to read at home (see below for more details), access Spelling Shed at least twice a week and access Numbots at least twice a week. You can keep online activities to 10 - 15 min sessions so that your child does not have too much screen time. I will be organising logins and passwords for your children. I will stick the login details to the inside of their yellow reading record. This is not set up yet but I will let you know via Class Dojo as soon as it is live.

As always, the work we do in Reception is a partnership between families and staff. During the holidays we will ask you to think about some Wow moments that you would like to share with the staff. This might be something amazing that your child has done out of school which shows progress in their development or it could shine a light on something that we might not see in school time.

An ongoing homework in Class Reception is to work on putting on your own coat, fastening zips and buttons, turning coat sleeves the correct way and becoming responsible for hats and gloves. Parents can support staff by encouraging children to get dressed at home and ensure there is time before you leave the house so you can model these skills.

## Reading

The children will be given reading books and a reading diary (this will state which day your child will read) and needs to be kept in their book bags and brought to school each day.

Please read with your child at least 4 times a week as we will read once individually in school. As soon as the children are settled and have established a routine, we will also begin to read in a group. If your child reads 5 times a week, they will receive a stamp on the chart on the inside of their reading diary. One stamp equals 5 reads and for every 25 reads, they will receive a certificate. Please do not fill in the reading chart at the back of the reading diary.

Staff will add stickers and rewards to this. We aim to award 1 sticker per week. Regular reading habits are much better than reading lots one week and missing the following week.

### Hot weather

Please remember to be sun safe. Keep your child hydrated with water, send them with a sun hat, apply sun cream before the school day. Put name labels on all items which could be easily misplaced.

### Physical Development

The children will access the hall and have specific Physical Development lessons, but they will also access Gross Motor through their ongoing play in the Forest Kingdom, on the bikes and on the school grounds daily. Due to the nature of the Early Years Curriculum, we will not be asking children to come to school in a 'PE kit'. They will wear navy joggers/leggings or shorts and a blue polo neck T-shirt throughout the week. In EYFS every day is an active day!

### Our School Website

Please check out our school website regularly to keep up to date with news and events.

I would really like to keep the lines of communication open between myself and parents. I am happy to phone you after school or during lunchtime if you would like to speak to me about anything. Please don't hesitate to drop me a message on Class Dojo and I will call you back.

Many thanks

Mrs Bruce