

Dear Parents

Welcome to Reception and your child's first year at school. Thank you very much for your hospitality during my home visits; these visits are so helpful and teach me a lot about your child and I hope that they helped with the whole process of starting school.

I am happy to say that all the children already appear settled and are dealing with all their new routines and tasks confidently and co-operatively.

I am in the process of collating a base line for each child and will share this information with you at parents' evening. This information will be used to group the children for numeracy and literacy activities.

For those of you new to Early Years Education, let me explain briefly what the curriculum looks like. There are 7 areas of learning that I have to plan for: **Prime Areas of Learning**, which are Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language and Physical Development; **Specific Areas of Learning**, which are Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design. The children will be taught in a variety of ways: whole class, small adult led groups, one to one and independent learning through structured play and adult initiated tasks.

We try to make learning as fun and interactive as possible through a 'Creative Curriculum'. Our first topic is 'Where My Wellies Take Me'. The children have started to share their photos and talk about where they've been in their wellies over the holidays. We will then list all the places we can go, where we need to wear wellies. This will lead us smoothly to 'the farm'. We are going to look at farming today and in the past, so if you have any old farming photos or implements hiding in your loft or garage, please may we look at them in the classroom. We are in the process of trying to organise a trip to a local working farm, linking in with harvest and after half term, to a farm museum.

Numeracy this term will be taught both as a whole class and in small work groups. We will be reciting numbers in order, matching numerals and quantities, counting out a given number of objects, making estimates, and where appropriate, beginning to use the language involved in adding. We will begin to use mathematical names to describe 2D shapes and

mathematical language to describe them. Children will work at their own level and tasks will be differentiated accordingly.

We teach phonics using a program called Read, Write, Inc. I would like to invite you to an evening meeting, where I will explain how we teach reading and writing in the classroom. If you are not able to make the meeting, I will arrange a mutually convenient time with you and go through everything after school. The meeting will be held in school at 7pm on Thursday 1st October.

PE, will be taught on Tuesday and Friday mornings, by a peripatetic teacher. Please would you keep your child's PE kit in school and would you be kind enough to put a change of underwear and uniform in the bag, just in case of accidents.

Every morning, the children will have access to the snack table. Mrs Nichols keeps us supplied with a lovely selection of breads and other healthy and tasty food to try. We do ask for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of this: £1 per week. Please could I ask you for £7 towards the cost this term. Fruit is available throughout the day and please would you provide your child with a water bottle, so that they can have a drink whenever they need one.

Could I also ask you to keep a coat at school, as the weather is about to become more temperamental and the children will always go outside to play.

As you come into the classroom, you may soon notice 'scarecrows' on the board over the heater. Subtly linked to the topic, this is our home/school link board. If your child achieves something new at home, please get them to tell us, show their certificate or trophy or whatever it might be and we will write it on a 'crow', to celebrate their success.

If there is anything you want to know about the Foundation Stage/Reception year, or if you are anxious or confused about anything, please come and see me any time after school or ring me if you can not get in that particular day.

If you are settled and happy about school, then your child will follow suit.

Please fill in the reply slip below and let me know if you will be able to attend the Read, Write, Inc. evening.

Many thanks  
Sally Wharton

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I am/ we are able to attend the Read, Write, Inc. meeting on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 7pm.

Signed

Child's name