

Welcome back to school to all those in Y1 and a very warm welcome to our new starters in Reception.

Your teachers in Reception and Y1 are Mrs James who teaches Monday to Thursday and Mrs Wilson who teaches on Thursday afternoon and all day Friday. Our teaching assistants are Miss Hunter who will work in Class 1 every day except a Thursday morning and Miss Young who will work in Class 1 every day except a Thursday. Miss Ford-Senior will complete her teaching assistant apprenticeship placement in Class 1 on a Thursday afternoon.

Please don't worry if your child is tearful or begins to become tearful, these are big changes for them. It is a completely different environment from nursery and so many new faces (and bigger children). Rest assured that within a couple of minutes of you leaving they are absolutely fine and we would let you know if they weren't! Often they are fine for the first few days but once the reality of longer days and the tiredness creeps in they may become more upset when entering school. This is completely normal and we will continue to create an environment where they feel valued and happy.

Playtimes

Children have a 15 minute break in the morning from 10:30 - 10:45 and lunchtime is from 12:05 until 1:15. At first it can often be daunting for young children to play in a space where so many bigger children and unfamiliar faces are running round. It can often seem noisy. Mrs James will stay in the yard with other staff members at the beginning of term until the children are settled and familiar with this new environment.

PE

PE will take place as a whole class on a Monday afternoon and a Tuesday morning and at least until half term. PE will be taught most lessons by Mrs James. After half term one lesson a week will be taught by a sport's coach. Reception children may have some extra fundamental sessions with a teaching assistant. Children will need royal blue shorts and a plain white t-shirt, PE shoes or trainers with everything clearly named. The P.E. Kit can remain on their pegs so it is always in school (feel free to take it for washing whenever you want to, we will send it home every half term). Please try to help us and your child by making sure they can dress and undress independently as quickly as possible. We have a limited amount of time in the sport's hall which we also share with St. Michael's R.C. School so getting ready quickly means more time to be active. Thanks!

As well as PE Kit, all items of uniform and coats etc need to be named so we can reunite them with their owner after PE or the end of the day.

TOPICS

Our main topics for this half term are:-

- Dear Zoo
- Animals from hot countries (jungle/safari)
- Harvest/Autumn
- Dinosaurs

As always we also want to follow the children's interests so new topics or activities are planned for as they arise.

Learning Journeys

We are setting up new Learning Journeys for Reception children and continuing them in Y1. Learning journeys give a picture of what your child has achieved at home and school throughout their Reception Year. We are hoping to organise times every half term where you can look at the photographs etc in their files and see what they are learning at school. You are welcome to view them at any time though please give us a little notice so we have them as up to date as possible for you. We would like you to be involved as much as possible so we are sending some sheets home, which you can fill in when you want and send to school to put in the Learning Journeys. They are as much about the things you do at home as at school and it should be a partnership between the two.

Boxes

Please could you send some boxes or tubes with your child each week for our creative table as the children love to build!

Water

Please provide your children with a named drinks bottle so they have access to fresh water each day.

Tuck shop

We run a Fairtrade tuck shop each Wednesday. Items cost 50p and there are a variety of cereal bars and apple or orange juice cartons. Children can spend a maximum of £1 for a cereal bar and carton, or 50p for a cereal bar or a carton. Children are unable to purchase two cereal bars at a time.

Fruit and Milk

Children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 are entitled to a free piece of fruit or vegetable each day. Depending on the season one choice is sent per day from the following:- apples, pears, tomatoes, easy peels, bananas, carrots, sugar snap peas, mini cucumbers, raisins and sometimes strawberries in the summer. You are welcome to bring in your own piece of fruit or raisins but please no nuts or other snacks. Children in Reception are entitled to a free carton of milk daily until the week of their 5th birthday. After that, if you wish, you can purchase milk from www.coolmilk.com

Key rings

If you haven't already done so it is helpful to put some sort of key ring or tag onto your child's book bag so that it is instantly recognisable to them at the end of the school day. As most look the same it saves time hunting for names on them.

Keeping in touch

We are available before and after school to see us. If you have a concern and wish to see us in a more private setting please phone school and we can arrange an appointment. Parents Evenings will be held on Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th October. Written reports are given in February and July. We try and update the school website with photos as often as possible. Please also check out our Learning Wall above the coat pegs which shows photographs of activities the children have completed in class or English and Maths work they are working on. We aim to change these at least twice a half term. We also have a Twitter feed which we try to post on frequently - @eshceprimary.

And the rest...

We provide all pencils etc in school so there is no need for your child to bring in their own pencil cases. Storage is an issue in school and we simply don't have the space for everyone to bring their own in.

As always if you have any questions please catch us. We look forward to a wonderful term.

Many Thanks,

Mrs James, Mrs Wilson, Miss Hunter and Miss Young.