



September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Reception! We are really looking forward to getting to know you and your child over the coming year. We hope that everyone had an enjoyable Summer holiday.

Uniform

It is lovely to see all the children looking so smart in their uniform. Please could you make sure that all items of clothing, including shoes/wellies, coats and hats are **clearly named**. Please be aware that much of our learning takes place outside so please send a named coat every day.

School Lunches

We would like to remind you that your child is eligible for a free school meal each day which your child can order each morning in class. If you would prefer, your child may bring a packed lunch. The children have access to a daily café where they can have water, toast and fruit and are encouraged to help themselves independently. The children also have access to water throughout the day, whenever they wish so no water bottles are required.

Reading Books

Children will shortly be bringing home a reading book each night. Please look at the book with your child every day, encouraging them to talk about what is happening in the book. We place a large emphasis on understanding in reading, therefore asking questions like how, what and why will help to develop this skill. Please sign the reading record book when your child has read each day and return it to school every morning. We will be changing books 3 times a week, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Reading with your child four times a week will be rewarded through a sticker on their bookmark, which when full is laminated and sent home with a certificate and celebrated in class.

We believe that reading is a shared partnership between home and school. Children who read regularly develop their skills and understanding much more rapidly than those who do not. We really appreciate your time and support with this. Just 5 to 10 minutes a day can make a massive difference.

Phonics

The children will also take part in a daily phonics session. Please find attached a list of the sounds that will be covered this term. In time, your child will also have some keywords to learn to read. We will be having a **Foundation Stage meeting on Tuesday 2nd October at 6pm**. This is an opportunity for you to find out about the curriculum your child follows and we will also be able to explain how we teach reading and how you can help your child at home. We will also be explaining our assessment procedures and how you can access your child's learning journey online. During this meeting you will be given your child's individual journal login. We hope you will be able to attend.

Helping in Class

Over the course of the year, we go on various trips and outings for which we require extra adult support. If you are able to help in this way or are able to come into school to listen to children read for half an hour each week, please let your child's class teacher know.

School website

Information about this term's topic and areas of learning plus a weekly timetable is available for you to read on our school website. We also have a Foundation Stage 'blog' accessible through the website and we hope you will enjoy seeing what your child has been busy learning at school.

Communication with Parents

Most of our communication will happen through email. Please ensure you check your email regularly in order to keep up to date with forthcoming events. Also, if you change your email address, please let the office know as soon as possible.

Sickness

Please can we remind you that if your child has sickness or diarrhoea they need to stay at home for 48 hours after the last episode. If your child is absent from school please can you phone the school office by 9:30 to let us know.

Attendance

Your child will learn best if they are here every day. If your child has a temperature or is clearly unwell we understand that they cannot come to school, however if your child is just tired please do send them into school and be reassured that we would phone you to collect them if we felt they were too unwell to be here.

Our Curriculum

Our curriculum is called "The Early Years Foundation Stage" and consists of three prime areas. These areas support the children as they develop through the Foundation Stage and are key for life-long learning.

These are:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

These underpin the specific areas of learning which include:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding of the World
- Expressive Arts and Design.

Children meet each of these areas of learning in our well-resourced and organised classroom environment. The children have access to a wide variety of resources to support and challenge their creative play. They may learn independently, with others, as well as times when learning is led by adults.

More detail on the curriculum will be given at the Foundation Stage meeting on Tuesday 2nd October.

'Wow' moments

We love to know about and praise the children's achievement outside the school too. Please do let us know if your child has done something special you would like to celebrate. You can also upload a photo and comment onto your child's Learning Journal via the Early Excellence login details you will receive in a few weeks time at our Foundation Stage meeting.. These comments and photos will be shared with the class.

Dates for the diary

- Curriculum meeting - Tuesday 2nd October - 6 till 7pm.

- Parents drop in - 26th September - 3.15 till 5pm.
- Monday 22nd October - Friday 2nd November - Half Term.
- Stay and play sessions - Tuesday 13th November and Wednesday 14th November - 1:45 till 2:45pm
- Individual Photo's - Wednesday 10th October
- Work show - Wednesday 7th November - 3.30 till 4.30pm.
- Children in Need day - Friday 16th November.
- Parents evenings: *appointments only*
 - * Monday 10th December 3.30-6.30pm
 - * Tuesday 11th December 3.30-5pm
 - * Wednesday 12th December 3.30-6.30pm
- Nativity performances - to be confirmed (hoping for the week beginning Monday 3rd December)
- Break up for Christmas - Friday 21st December.

Please Note:

For the week of 10th September - 14th September you may bring your child into the classroom at the start of the day to settle them. From Monday 17th September, your child will be able to come in by themselves to the classroom. Please wait in the playground with your child until 8:50am when the bell rings. Your child can then come independently to their classroom. If you need to speak to your child's class teacher in the mornings, please ask the member of staff on the door to pass a message to us. Alternatively put a note in their reading record book, or call the office, who will pass your message on to your child's class teacher.

Foundation Stage Team

We would like to welcome Mrs Victoria Humphrey to the St Michael's Foundation Stage team. Mrs Humphrey will be job sharing with Mrs Harding. Mrs Harding will teach on Monday and Tuesday. Mrs Humphrey will teach on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, whilst Mrs Harding carries out her management responsibilities. We would also like to welcome Mrs Aplin-Moore to our team, who is the class teacher in Froglets.

We understand that starting school is a big milestone in your child's life and there can sometimes be teething problems. We are here to help and would encourage you to always come and speak to us if you are worried about anything no matter how big or small. We are always available at the end of each day and we will do our very best to help. If you are not collecting your child and you wish to speak to us, the office staff are able to pass on a message.

We are all looking forward to a busy term and we thank you for your continuing support.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Alix Harding, Mrs Victoria Humphrey and Miss Kirsty Bowman.
Reception class teachers