



September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Reception! We are really looking forward to getting to know you and your child/children 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, coats and hats are **clearly named**. Please be aware that much of our learning takes place outside so please can your child or children wear a named waterproof 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. Please also send your child to school with a named water bottle. We ask for water as we are a Healthy School.

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 twice a week, on a Tuesday and Friday. 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. In the Autumn term we will teach new sounds at a rapid pace. After having learnt each new sound, your child will come home with a sheet to help them practise forming the letter correctly. In time, your child will also have some keywords to learn to read.

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. We have a St Michael's School and Foundation Stage Facebook page. Here you will find regular updates about what we have been up to and things to come.

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. If you have an urgent message, please pass it onto Mrs Arnold or Mrs Copping on the school gate in the morning. Non urgent messages can be emailed to the class teacher.

P.E.

On P.E. days children can come to school in their P.E. kit. This will be each Wednesday for Holly and Thursday for Oak class.

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 they have 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 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.

The adults in Oak class are Miss Wainwright, Mrs Trendall and Ms Burley. In Holly class we have Mrs Foin, Mrs Jopson, Mrs Bramley.

'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 which can allow us to share their achievements with the class. You may also email a photos of your child and their certificate to Mrs Arnold. She will then share it with the school in our Friday assembly. You can also upload a photo and comment onto your child's Learning Journal via the Tapestry login details you will receive in a few weeks time.

Tooth Brushing

When the children are settled, we will introduce daily tooth brushing. We will do this after lunch. All the equipment is provided. If you have any questions, feel free to contact your class teacher.

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 contact us if you are worried about anything no matter how big or small.

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

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Claire Foin. Mrs Katie Jopson and Miss Emma Wainwright
Reception class teachers