



Friday 23 September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Reception!

We have had a lovely few weeks getting to know your children and we are really impressed with how well they have settled in.

We are really looking forward to spending the year ahead with your child and excited about all the things we will be learning and experiencing together. We have put together some information about what is happening this coming year which we hope you'll find useful.

Please don't forget that we are always here! You can chat to your child's teacher at the beginning or end of the day or email them if that is easier for you.

Collection at Home Time

To ensure the safety of all our children, please could you inform your child's teacher if another adult will be picking up your child or phone the office during the day and a message will be sent to your child's teacher. Pick up time for Reception is 3:15pm so if you are more than 10 minutes late picking up your child without informing the office, your child will be taken to The Orchard and you will be charged accordingly. We will under no circumstances let your child go to another adult if we do not recognise them and haven't been informed.

Bumps and bruises

At the start of the year, it is not uncommon for your child to come home with several first aid slips. This is mainly due to the fact that they are spending more time together outdoors in a large group. The children are closely supervised at all times, but accidents do happen. We always encourage the children to tell an adult straight away if they have hurt themselves, but at the start of the year we worry that this might not always happen and sometimes you get to hear about it at home time for the first time. Please could you reinforce at home the importance of telling an adult when they have hurt themselves.



Behaviour Policy

At Paddox Primary School we have adopted an 'attachment aware' behaviour policy where we build positive relationships between children and staff to help pupils self-regulate their own emotions and behaviour. Through this we actively encourage reflective thinking and help pupils to understand their own emotions and feelings in order to make positive choices (you can read our full policy on the website).


In Reception, we have expanded on the school rules of 'Ready, Respectful, Safe' to make the classroom expectations clear and easy to understand for the children (see picture below).

We also use the 'Paddox Reward Tree' reward system at Paddox. This is to promote positivity across the school and develop a sense of achievement within the children. Your children may therefore come home talking about 'leaves' that they have been rewarded; the children can be rewarded 'leaves' by various members of staff for positive behaviours on their individual trees and get celebrated for these during our weekly KS1 celebration assembly. The Reception children will join KS1 assembly after half-term.


Reception classroom expectations




Lovely listening
Pay attention and follow instructions quickly.



Helpful hands
We share and care.



Marvellous manners
Please and Thank you works a treat, put up your hand and stay in your seat.



Super sitting
Legs crossed, hands still, ears listening, eyes watching, lips zipped.



Terrific tidying
Put away what we got out today.



Play safe, stay safe
Walk inside, look where you are going, ask if you need to leave the room.



Topics

The EYFS curriculum areas are:

PRIME AREAS

COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE: Listening, Attention and Understanding, Speaking

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT: Gross Motor Skills, Fine Motor Skills

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Self-Regulation, Managing Self, Building Relationships

SPECIFIC AREAS

LITERACY: Comprehension, Word Reading, Writing

MATHEMATICS: Number, Numerical Patterns

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD: Past and Present, People, Culture and Communities, The Natural World

EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN: Creating with Materials, Being Imaginative and Expressive

To enhance learning of these areas, the topics in Reception for the year are:

- Autumn term: I'm Special and Let's Celebrate
- Spring term: All Creatures Great and Small and Not All Heroes Wear Capes
- Summer term: Once Upon a Time and Around the World

If you have any expertise in any of these areas and would be willing to share your knowledge or talent with the year group we would love to know.

Items from home

We do not do show and tell in Reception so there is no need for your child to bring anything in from home. On the odd occasion we have had small toys that have been smuggled into school without you knowing and we would hate for these to get lost or stolen.

Lunchtime/Breaktime

All Reception children are entitled to universal free school meals, however if your child on occasion prefers to bring a packed lunch, this needs to consist of a nutritionally balanced meal, e.g. a sandwich/wrap, fruit, yogurt and water. All children within the school are provided with fruit at break times so therefore do not need to bring any additional snacks. As a healthy school we discourage crisps and chocolate bars in lunchboxes. **Please be aware we are a NUT FREE and SESAME SEED FREE school.**

Our menus operate on a 3-weekly cycle. So far, we have been using the menu options you filled out for us to select your child's lunch option, however, after this first cycle has been



completed (end of this week), we will be asking your child to choose for themselves to develop their independence, unless you indicate to us otherwise.

To help lunchtimes run as smoothly as possible, please could you encourage your child to use a knife and fork correctly at mealtimes at home.

Equipment

Children should bring in a water bottle (named) to school every day. We have a sink in the creative area with drinking water for the children to use to fill up their water bottle during the day, but they should bring it into school ready filled. **Please only send in water, not flavoured water or squash.**

We will often go outside at playtime and lunchtime if it is raining so children need to bring a warm waterproof coat to school; please make sure their coats are also named.



Please can you ensure your child has a book bag (shown in the picture above) and ensure that they bring their book bag to school every day as we often have letters etc to send home. They do not need to bring in any additional bags, e.g. rucksacks. Please, please, **DO NOT** attach any key rings to your child's book bag as they often get tangled up and lost. In your child's book bag there will be a named plastic folder. We use this to put letters in that are being sent home and keep reading books and reading logs in also, so please check it daily.

Phonics Workbooks

It has been lovely looking at the work the children have produced in their Phonics workbooks so far, thank you for supporting them with this at home. At this stage in the year, we are not expecting all of the children to be able to form all of the letters correctly so please don't worry if they aren't, it is just about them having a go and mark making. We will then be able to see the progress they have made throughout the year.

Please continue to practise all the sounds displayed in the children's workbook each week, it is important they remember them and recognise them in different contexts to support them



with their reading and writing. We will assess the children each Friday on the sounds and will tick them if the child is confident with them.

Reading Books

Reading books will be sent home with your child on Fridays. They will bring home a Phonics book (a book they can have a go at reading independently using the sounds they have been taught so far) and a book-banded book (a book that can be read between you and your child). We will make sure that each child has read a variety of books from a book band colour and is gaining more confidence with their reading before moving them onto the next colour band, this will therefore vary between each child.

We will write the books the children bring home in their reading records each Friday so we know which book(s) each child has brought home. You can then use the comments section to record any notes about how the child has read at home.

The Phonics books have been recently purchased and are very expensive so we will charge £5 per book if it is lost and not brought back to school.

Please note that this week, WB 19th September, the children will not be bringing home Phonics books, only a library book and book banded book. Phonics books will come home from next week after they have been read in school first.

Your child will also bring a library book home each week which is a book of choice and a reading for pleasure book. Please make sure these are in the child's bookbag on the correct day so the child can change it. The library days are as follows;

Acorns – Tuesday
Catkins – Wednesday
Conkers – Friday

Uniform

We expect our children to wear school uniform. Our school uniform is:

- School sweatshirt or cardigan, or a similar maroon coloured jumper or cardigan
- White blouse, shirt or polo shirt
- Black or grey trousers or skirt/dress
- Black or grey socks or tights
- Sensible dark shoes (not trainers, heavy boots or shoes without heel support)

You can also bring in a small bag containing spare clothes that your child can keep on their peg should they ever need them.

For safety reasons children should not wear rings, necklaces or bracelets at school. Hair accessories may be worn for practical reasons in order to keep hair out of children's eyes, not for fashion; can you please make sure long hair is tied back to avoid an occurrence of unnecessary visitors (nits). Hair accessories should be discrete and in school colours or black. Children with pierced ears may wear studs.

Children wearing large hair accessories, or rings, necklaces or bracelets, unless for religious reasons, will be asked to take them off.



PE

PE is taught to all 3 classes on a Wednesday morning. Acorns and Conkers class are taught P.E by Miss King and Catkins class are taught P.E by Mrs Atwal.

Please make sure your child comes to school on P.E day in their P.E kit. This is:

- Plain white T-shirt or a T-shirt the colour of their team (Radacanu – red, Simmonds – yellow, Peaty – green, Rashford – blue).
- Plain, dark coloured jogging bottoms or black shorts
- Trainers – please no laces (preferably velcro)
- Jumper/jacket

Please, please, please name **all** items of clothing. It is the children's responsibility to look after their own belongings and it makes it easier for us to help them if they do misplace something.

Timetables and 'The Blog'

Each half-term the website will be updated with timetables so you can see what learning takes place throughout the week and on which days.

We also update the Reception blog on the website fortnightly so please take a look to see what we have been getting up to. We only use photos on the blog of the children if you have given us permission for. If you want to double check this information, please speak to your child's class teacher.

We hope you found this information helpful but if you have any further questions please don't hesitate to ask us or contact us. Our email addresses are:

Merrick.s@welearn365.com

Nicholson.m@welearn365.com

Baldwin.j@welearn365.com

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Yours sincerely,

Miss Merrick, Miss Nicholson, Mr Baldwin and Miss Teixeira