

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS OF NEW RECEPTION CHILDREN

Mrs Walton and I would like to offer you a warm welcome to the Reception Class at Rothbury First School. We look forward to your child joining us in September in our Reception Class. These notes are a quick guide to joining Reception in September 2016 as outlined at our meeting on 6th July. If you have any further questions that aren't answered here, please either drop in to the office or call on 01669 620283 and we will do our best to answer your query.

Start of day: As we discussed at our new parents meeting, in the first week of next term we would like you to bring your child straight into the class in the morning at 8.50am. We will have tea (and tissues!) available in the staff room for you if you would like to stay for a short while as we understand that this can be an emotional transition time for parents as well as for children.

We suggest that from the second week of term, we line the children up with the rest of the school at the start of day. They will be used to doing this at the end of breaks and lunchtimes, however there may still be a few tears at parting from you. Please be reassured that if we have any concerns about their welfare when in school, we will call you. Any children who arrive on school transport will be walked to the front entrance by the operator and will be met by staff.

Organisation of the day: Once we are into the school routine, our day will generally run as follows:

Morning: Read Write Inc, snack time, playtime, maths – whilst there will be some adult-directed aspects to the learning, there will also be plenty of opportunity for children to explore their learning through play in accordance with the principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum.

Lunch: all meals to be taken in the Dining Hall. For the first couple of weeks, Buddies (older children) will sit with the children in the Dining Hall. The Buddies will also support the children during playtimes. Buddies will be allocated during the first week of term. Please note that all Reception children will be entitled to a free school meal as part of the Government initiative for school meals for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children.

Afternoon: a variety of activities with a mixture of child and adult-led opportunities for learning both inside and outside. We request that a pair of wellies is left at school.

End of day: During the first week, to aid their transition from Nursery to Reception, children should be collected from school at 1.30pm. Please do not come on to the school site (including the carpark) until 1.20pm, ie: after the children have returned to school from lunch.

From the start of the second week they should be collected at 3.15pm, however we will talk to you on an individual basis if we feel that your child would benefit from a longer transition time.

Uniform and PE Kit: Please see the 'Our School' section of the website for further information about uniform. We ask that your child has a PE kit containing a t-shirt, shorts/jogging bottoms and sandshoes/trainers. We suggest that this is brought to school at the start of each half term and we will send it home to you at the end of each half term. Long hair should be tied back and children should not bring in toys, jewellery or spare clothes.

What to bring to school: Early in the term your child will receive a bookbag which should be brought into school daily with the reading book and reading record. Please read with your child as often as possible as this sharing of books with you, not only helps to develop a love of reading but also builds confidence and helps your child to progress as much as they can.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Who will be teaching my child? Your class teacher will be Mrs Walton, and she will teach the class on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. On Monday mornings I will be teaching the class (Mrs Mathewson), on Monday afternoons it will be Ms Gladston.

What if my child doesn't settle? Sometimes children can be a little tearful at the start of the day but we find that children generally settle into their new routines quickly and happily. However please remember that if we have any concerns about your child, we will contact you.

What if my child falls ill during the day? If your child becomes ill during the day to the extent that we do not feel it is appropriate for them to stay in school, we will contact you. Please note that we are only able to administer prescription medicine. Please contact the office for further details if your child requires prescription medicine to be administered during the day.

What if my child falls asleep during the day? Sometimes in the first few weeks, new Reception children do fall asleep. We ensure that they are comfortable and carefully monitor them. If they are asleep for more than 30 minutes then we will gently wake them. If we feel that their sleeping patterns are becoming of concern, we will contact you.

What if someone different from usual is collecting my child? It is really important that we know who is collecting your child on a daily basis, and that we are told if there are any changes to the normal routine. It is really helpful to us if we are given the opportunity to meet any new people (for example, grandparents) before they collect. If there are changes to your normal routine, please either call in to the office, send a note in with your child or give the office a ring.

When can I speak to my class teacher? The start of day can be a very busy time for teachers so we request that any informal chats are kept to the end of day where possible. Urgent messages can always be left at the office during school hours. We will be holding parental consultation meetings during the autumn term to talk to you about how well your child is settling in. We are also planning to hold more informal events during the term to share your child's work with you. If you would like to arrange a meeting with any member of staff, please call in to the office to arrange a time.

I have a little free time, can I help in school? We are always very pleased to receive offers of help from parents or grandparents. Please call in at the office to discuss further.

How do I send money to school? If you are sending money to school, such as a voluntary donation towards the cost of a school trip, please send it in either a named envelope or a named purse.

Is my child eligible for Pupil Premium funding? Please call into the office and we'll discuss this with you.

What are the school term dates and teacher training dates for next year? These are published on the Northumberland County Council website in the Term Dates section:

<http://northumberland.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=438>

Where can I find out more about Read Write Inc? We have some information on our website under the Our School section. We also plan to hold an information evening early in the autumn term. The official Read Write Inc website, www.oup.com/oxed/primary/rwi/ provides lots of useful information.

We look forward to seeing you and your child in September.

Kind regards,

Nicki Mathewson

Headteacher
Rothbury First School