



*We strive  
for success for all*

Welcome to the Foundation Stage; the Beginning of a  
Great Educational Adventure



**VISION**

To create a caring, happy and vibrant school where all children are challenged and inspired to achieve their full potential, whilst developing a love of learning that will continue to enrich and motivate throughout life.

*“We strive for success for all”*

## Welcome

Welcome to the Reception Year. We are delighted that you have chosen our school and we hope that your child will have a happy and enjoyable experience. The purpose of this booklet is to introduce you to the organisation of the school day as well as to provide you with valuable information about life in the Reception Class at our school.

The early years of a child's life are an important stage where the foundations for future development are established. At school, in the Reception Class, we foster the child's own interests and offer activities that extend, enrich and develop potential. Activities and firsthand experience are the key to learning and lay the foundations for the National Curriculum. Relationships with parents / carers are highly valued and fostered through dialogue between home and school, whereby parents / carers are encouraged to continue as educators. We aim to keep you fully informed about your child's development and progress. If you are concerned about anything at all, please speak to us straight away. We look forward to working in partnership with you in order to achieve the very best for your child.

## Reception Class Structure

Each Reception Class is staffed by a teacher and a full-time teaching assistant.

### Reception Class Times



Morning session	Afternoon session
8.55am - 12.10pm	1.10pm - 3.15pm

Children are able to go into the infant playground from 8.45am onwards. The Class Teacher will be available to speak to you both before and after school if the need arises. The children will have a short break during the morning and afternoon sessions. When the weather allows, children are expected to go outside: please ensure that they have suitable named clothing.



At morning break we provide the children with free fruit. Children may also bring their own healthy snack for break. After break all children are given milk unless we are told otherwise.



Children are collected from the Junior playground at hometime and must be collected by an adult known to the staff. If for any reason you are unable to collect your child and have arranged for another adult to collect them, or if you have made alternative transport arrangements, please inform the Class Teacher in writing. No parent must use the staff car park for parking or dropping off their children.

It is important that the School Office is informed immediately of any change in contact details or medical conditions which may arise, so that the School's records can be kept up-to-date.

## **School Lunch**

All children in the Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 are able to have a hot school meal, without charge. This is in line with Government arrangements. Our meals are currently provided by Willoughby Foods Ltd, Chain Bridge Road, Boston. Please refer to the separate letter which explains how you should order your child's meal.

**You may also have heard about the 'Pupil Premium' which is a sum of money given to the school to support and enhance the education of children who qualify for Free School Meals. For this reason, if you are in receipt of any of the benefits listed below we would ask you to fill in the form attached to this information booklet. Please return the completed form to the school office by the end of June. This may trigger additional funding for the school:**

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support allowance
- Support under part VI of the immigration and asylum act 1999
- The guarantee element of state pension credit

- Child Tax Credit provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) that does not exceed £16,190.
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further 4 weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.
- Universal Credit

**If you wish to clarify any of these points please speak to Mrs Baxter in the School Office.**



## **Absences**

If your child is absent due to vomiting or diarrhoea, it is recommended that that stay at home for 24 hours after they last vomited and 48 hours after they last had diarrhoea. Please inform the School by telephone before 9.30 am on the morning of your child's illness.

**The School's telephone number is 01775 820467**

## **First Aid**

All staff have undertaken first aid training. Minor injuries will be treated at school. In the event of a head bump, your child will be given a letter. In the case of a serious accident, we will contact you immediately. It is important that we have the contact number of at least two people who can collect your child in the event of an emergency.

## **Clothing**

School uniform and book bags can be purchased through the School Office. This includes shorts and T-shirts required for PE. Plimsolls and trainers are also required. Please ensure P.E bags are named and big enough for both outdoor and indoor kit! We have found that some spare clothing to cope with accidents is very useful! All children must wear suitable footwear i.e. No heels or slip-on shoes.

## Lost Property

We ask that all your child's property and clothing be clearly named. You would be amazed how much clothing we end up with without names!

## Curriculum

### Reading

In the early years, reading and sharing stories with the children is very important. We have a quiet area in the classroom where the children are encouraged to read and share books.



Book bags are taken home daily along with a reading record book in which we ask for your comments. Reading books are changed on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday and we expect children to read at least 3 times a week. Your child will also have some key words sent home. They are tested every Tuesday and once they can read them they are given a new set.

### Speaking & Listening

We have carpet time every day where we share news and ideas and encourage the children to extend their vocabulary and listen to the ideas of others. The children also take part in Class assemblies and an Easter play. We do not allow the children to bring in toys except if they are relevant to our topics or phonics work.

Our Foundation Stage Curriculum aims to develop each child to his / her full potential. Experience in the form of structured play forms the basis for this aim. The Curriculum Plan is based on the seven areas of learning and development. All the areas of learning are important and inter-connected. The 3 prime areas are: communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development. There are also 4

specific areas through which the 3 prime areas are strengthened and applied. These are: literacy, mathematics, understanding the world and expressive arts and design.

## Communication, Language and Literacy

- listening to stories, poems and information
- conversing with others
- looking at books
- joining in with rhymes
- imagining
- creating and re-telling stories
- making marks as 'writing'
- using a word-processor
- opportunities for role-play



## Mathematical Development

- using table games and jigsaws
- solving problems
- making patterns with colour, shape and number
- sorting
- counting games
- number rhymes
- number recognition
- mathematical vocabulary (size, shape, position etc.)



## Expressive Arts and Design

- exploration of materials, tools and techniques
- representing in different media
- making and listening to sounds
- responding to music
- singing
- using instruments



## Understanding the World

- experimenting
- testing
- looking after things
- planting seeds
- observing with all five senses
- using different materials including sand, water, dough
- using wheels, cogs and moving parts
- preparing and tasting food
- giving and following instructions
- making models
- designing and making
- being aware of home, the environment, families past and present
- meeting people



## Physical Development

- dancing
- climbing
- balancing
- crawling
- rolling
- running
- jumping
- skipping
- riding wheeled toys
- throwing and catching
- use of tools like brushes, scissors and pencils
- being aware of the importance of physical activity
- making healthy food choices



## Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- taking care of ourselves
- consideration of others
- co-operation

- ☐ perseverance
- ☐ trying new things
- ☐ sense of achievement
- ☐ finding limitations
- ☐ finding out about self and others
- ☐ sharing and taking turns
- ☐ making friends
- ☐ celebrating special occasions
- ☐ having awareness of cultural and religious events



## **Homework**

Children in the Reception Class are asked to share their reading book with you daily. They will also be expected to spend a short time each evening practising their key words. They will be issued with literacy, numeracy or topic homework on a Friday which needs to be completed by the following Thursday. Included with your child's homework will be a learning log which details what we have been learning that week, and also what you can do to help at home. We welcome any comments from parents in the space provided at the bottom.

## **Foundation Stage Profile**

Each child has a profile to which parents, staff and children contribute throughout the Reception Year in school. During the first few weeks after starting school all children will be assessed during everyday classroom activities. These assessments, which are made through observations and discussions with you and the children, will help us find out about your child's knowledge and abilities so that we can plan effectively for your child's learning needs. They also help the school to measure and monitor the children's progress from when they start school. We will then continue to assess your child's progress throughout the year.

The Foundation Stage Profile will be completed at the end of the Foundation Stage where your child's knowledge and abilities are assessed in preparation for the transition to Year One and the beginning of the National Curriculum.



## Things to do at home to help your child.

There are many ways in which you can help your child at home. Here are some suggestions:

- ☐ Talk with your child about what you / they are doing.
- ☐ Colour recognition.
- ☐ Counting (e.g. stairs, red cars, knives and forks etc.)
- ☐ Number recognition.
- ☐ Correct number formation (all numbers should start from the top when they are written).
- ☐ Simple sorting activities - sorting everyday objects by colour, shape, texture etc.
- ☐ Reading aloud to your child - enjoying stories together.
- ☐ Look at books together encouraging your child to talk about the pictures, make up own story, predict what may happen, re-tell the story.
- ☐ Sing and say nursery rhymes, finger rhymes, number rhymes.
- ☐ Play simple games e.g. snap, pairs, dominoes, simple board games with dice.
- ☐ Encourage your child to complete simple jigsaw puzzles.
- ☐ Encourage the use of construction toys and building with bricks, using these activities to stimulate discussion on shape, colour, counting.
- ☐ Encourage correct pencil grip from the beginning and provide a variety of activities to promote good pencil control e.g. colouring books, tracings.
- ☐ Teach your child to use scissors safely and effectively.
- ☐ Learn letter names and sounds. Encourage correct formation of letters (see our sheet on letter formation). Please teach your child to write with lower-case letters except for a capital letter at the beginning of their name.
- ☐ Encourage your child to listen attentively by getting them to follow instructions e.g. "put all the red bricks away and put the box in the cupboard".
- ☐ Encourage your child to dress and undress themselves. They will need to be able to do this for P.E. lessons.
- ☐ Help them to learn how to tie their shoe-laces and do up buttons, zips on coats etc.
- ☐ Encourage correct use of knife and fork at mealtimes.

*We hope you find this booklet useful. We are a very happy school and we look forward to you and your child joining our community.*

