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Headteacher: Mr B Storey, B.A.Hons

16<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to say a huge welcome to the children joining us in Reception this new academic year. We hope you have had a lovely summer.

Each term we will send a newsletter home to notify you of up-coming events, share any necessary reminders and inform you of the themes and topics we will be focusing on. The school website also provides you with key information, and contains a class page for Reception, which will be updated over the next few weeks, and at intervals through the year.

The beginning of the Reception year is a very exciting time for both children and staff and we are all looking forward to providing interesting and exciting learning opportunities within our classroom, hall, dance studio, art room and also in our own designated Early Years play area. All the Reception children will work closely together during the school year, and will be able to free-flow between both classrooms during 'Explore and learn' time. This allows the children to access each area of provision on a larger scale, with more space, as well as having the opportunity to interact with a wider range of children.

In our first couple of weeks, we will focus on getting to know one another, whilst sharing expectations for looking after our classrooms and learning about routines. Once the children are ready, we will begin our first topic which is called 'Super Duper Me' where we will be learning all about ourselves, our families and friends and what makes each of us special.

Each week, Reception will take part in a PE lesson every **Friday**. Please ensure your child comes to school in their PE kits which they will then stay in for the remainder of the day. PE kits include:

- Plain white T-Shirt
- Plain black jumper or fleece
- Plain black bottoms - jogging pants, leggings, shorts or skort
- Black or white socks
- Plain black Velcro trainers

As the weather can be unpredictable and sunny days are a rarity, we would recommend that your child has sensible footwear for wet or icy conditions with a firm grip. We also strongly advise that you send your child with a coat every day, even if the weather appears warm in the morning, as this can change over the course of the day.



Please also send your child to school with a labelled water bottle. This will be returned daily so it can be washed and refilled at home. We must kindly request that you put your child's name on absolutely **everything!**

Later on in the half term, we will begin to send home reading books, key words and other homework activities. We will send further information regarding reading books and homework activities nearer the time. For now, we would like the children to focus on developing their independence skills. This includes putting on and taking off their own coats, jumpers, shoes and trousers as well as pulling sleeves through when dressing. We also encourage them to manage simple toileting routines, such as going to the toilet, wiping themselves, flushing and washing their hands.

It will also take us a few weeks to set the new children up on Tapestry, which is the online learning journal app which we use to document much of our children's learning, and to share observations with you at home. Please keep a look out for an email from Tapestry in a few weeks, as this will allow you to set up your own parent log-in, view observations created by staff within your child's journal, and contribute observations of learning and significant memories you wish to share with us from your child's time at home.

We hope the above information is useful but please don't hesitate to speak to us if there is anything you are unsure of. We will be at the classroom door before school and at the end of the day or for a more detailed discussion please request an appointment.

We look forward to the exciting year ahead!

Yours sincerely

Miss. N. Gabbidon and Miss. C. Humphries

Elm and Ash Class / Reception

