



## Reception Information Booklet

Everything you need to know about your child starting Reception.



# Reception Class Information

## Welcome!

Welcome to Reception! This booklet will give you some of the daily information that you will need as your child starts Reception and a brief outline of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. We hope to answer many of the questions you may have about your child's time in Reception at Mereside Primary School. Please don't hesitate to contact us if there is something more you would like to know.

## Transition:

To make it easier for the children and staff to get to know each other we have created a system to ensure that your child's transition into Reception is as smooth as possible.

## Classroom Visits:

We arrange several stay and play sessions, a chance for you and your child to come in and play in the classroom and outdoors. It allows you a chance to speak to the staff, as well as allowing your child to become familiar with the room. We also offer you and your child the chance to come in and have a school lunch.

Additional visits are offered for children not attending Mereside Nursery.

## Starting School in September:

We operate a staggered entry in the first half term. This provides an opportunity for your child to become familiar with their surroundings and school routines, in smaller groups. We are aware that the staggered entry can cause some disruption to family routines. However, we know from experience that the initial transition is a crucial step for your child. We aim for all children to be full-time within a fortnight, but do believe the gradual integration enables all children to feel safe and secure in our setting.

## Staff:

Miss Smith- Reception Class teacher

Mrs Kirkpatrick -Reception Class teacher

Mrs Hargreaves - Reception Nursery Nurse

Miss Wright- Reception Class teacher

Mrs Jackson- Reception Nursery Nurse

Your child will also come into daily contact with:-

Mrs Brown-Nursery Class teacher and Early Years Leader

Mrs Lawrenson - Nursery Nurse

Mrs Fletcher- Teaching Assistant

## The School Day:

Doors are opened at 8:35 so that the children can go straight into class, and get themselves settled before the start of the school day at 8:45am.

8:35-8:55	Welcome to the classroom and breakfast Song time Register
8:55-9:10	Funky Fingers (Children working in groups to develop fine motor control skills for writing, set to music) Morning Maths session
9:15-11:00	Children can choose activities either inside or outdoors, and will spend some time working in small groups with an adult
11:05-11:30	Tidy up time Whole class phonics teaching time (Practising skills needed to read, write and spell)
11:30-12:30	Lunchtime The children eat their lunch in the Hall with Nursery children, then Reception children play outdoors
12:30-12:40	Register time Whole class Maths time
12:45-2:40	Children can choose activities either inside or outdoors, and will spend some time working in small groups with an adult. Children choose when to have their snack of milk or water and fruit.
2:45-3:15	Tidy up time Story time Getting ready for home time, collecting all belongings
3:15	Hometime The children stay in the classroom until their teacher can see who is here to collect them, to ensure that your child goes home with an authorised adult.

After school care is provided within school until 5:30 at an additional cost of £4 daily. Please ask at the Office about availability for this.

## Forming good habits:

Regular attendance is very important. During their first years at school your children will encounter many new learning experiences, meet lots of new people and make new friends. However, if your child is ill they are better staying at home until they are well enough to gain full benefit from school. Please let us know immediately if children are absent so that their absence can be authorised.

Please be aware that holidays in term-time can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. If you take your child out of school for an unauthorised holiday, you may be issued with a penalty notice.

## Lunchtime:

Children are able to have a school dinner prepared in our school kitchen or bring a packed lunch from home.

As part of a government initiative all school age children under the age of 7 are entitled to a free school meal, and we hope that all children will take up this offer. However it is very important that if you think you may be eligible for free school meals that you still apply. This is because school may get extra money known as 'Pupil Premium' which is used to improve the children's education. The school office can advise you in this case.

## Uniform:

Most items of our uniform can be bought from any of the major stockists or chain stores but jumpers and cardigans can only be bought through the school office. PE kits are also available at the school office. In the interests of health and safety, jewellery and trainers should not be worn in school.

### Uniform

Grey skirt or pinafore

Grey shorts or trousers

White polo shirt

Mereside blue sweatshirt (or cardigan for the girls)

Black school shoes (not trainers)

In the Summer term, girls may wear a blue gingham dress.

### PE Kit (in named PE bag)

Navy shorts

White T- shirt

Black elasticated pumps

## Physical Education:

Your child will need a PE kit to change into. PE will start once all the children are in school full time. Children need to have their kit in school every day so that they can take part in PE and other activities. Please ensure that all clothing is clearly labelled with your child's name.

## Early Years Foundation Stage:

The children in Reception follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and work towards the seven areas of Learning and Development. It is a very holistic approach to learning and places a strong emphasis on the individual child. It is a continuation from the active learning the children have been involved in at Nursery/Pre-School and culminates in the Foundation Stage Profile which

assesses all areas of learning for your child. At the end of the year we will provide you with a written report based around the Foundation Stage Profile.

## What will my child's learning look like?

Play and Exploration is a fundamental within our Reception classes. It means children are able to choose activities where they can engage with other children or adults or sometimes play alone. During these activities the children will learn by first-hand experiences; by actively 'doing' as well as through scaffolding and modelling by adults. We will provide them with sufficient space, both indoors and outdoors, time and choice with a range of activities. There will be a good variety of planned and prepared activities by the teachers, as well as allowing time for the children to initiate their own learning. Activities will be planned through discussion with the children around their current interests, as well as taking into account their learning styles and stages of development. Our environment will enable children to try things out and make sense of relationships, allowing all children to fulfil their potential.

## Reading:

From the moment your child starts school s/he will be encouraged to develop a love of books. Staff plan for the development of your child's spoken language in many ways - through drama, singing, telling stories and rhymes.

Your child will be bringing reading books home at the end of September. We will have a reading workshop to share how you can support your child in the early stages of becoming a confident reader.

## Writing:

If you are helping your child to learn to write, please only use capital letters at the beginning of names. Once children have learnt capital letters, they can find it difficult to change into lower case. Correct letter formation is very important for the continuation into more formal writing.

## Happiness:

Thank you for choosing Mereside School for your child. We want all of our children to be happy and to do as well as they are able.

If at any time you are concerned about your child, or unsure about how to support your child's learning please speak to your child's class teacher. The sooner problems are shared the better for all concerned.

We look forward to a long and happy partnership with you and your children.