

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Red Oaks Primary School to both our existing and new families. We are keen to watch the children explore our Reception Area as they begin to settle in and get to know staff, make new relationships and understand new routines. We are looking forward to meeting you all in person.

Daily Routine- At the beginning of each morning and afternoon; the children spend a short settling in time in their registration classes and this includes time to play independently in the morning and a group or class activity. We encourage all our children to be independent and to approach any challenge with an 'I can' attitude. For the rest of the day the children will be encouraged to free flow around the 2 classrooms and the outdoor area (classroom). During the morning they will have a group snack time when they are encouraged to drink their water or milk (if you have ordered it from 'Cool Milk'). A daily fruit snack will be available to all children. Staff will spend time observing and getting to know the children, assessing their needs and then working with the children to address areas they are less confident with and develop their learning. Each day the children will be involved in group, individual and class activities.

Homework and Reading- Later in the term the children will bring a book home to share with you. We encourage you to read with your child at least 4 times a week and to record this in the home school record system. (GoRead app). The child's reading book will be changed once a week on a designated day and staff will read the book once a week with your child, but there will be lots of daily reading opportunities at school for your child to enjoy. We will also send home activities linked to Phonics for your child to practise with you when we feel this is appropriate.

Themes for the Autumn Term- All the Reception staff are looking forward to sharing an exciting term with themes that are guided by the children's interests and needs; so, we look forward to exploring lots of varied themes through stories, role play, talking and first-hand experiences. A friendly alien arrival will start off the term and provide the children with opportunities to decide upon rules to make their time at Red Oaks a happy one. They will be encouraged to help the alien by letting him know about school and how we live on planet Earth. The children will learn to tell the stories and traditional tales. Once the children are settled in their new setting Mrs Wright will be taking the children on a 'Welly Walk' every other week on a Wednesday afternoon using a 'Forest Schools' ethos to learning. They will need to keep a pair of named wellies at school and we will provide them with a waterproof jacket and dungarees which will be cleaned between use following the current Covid-19 guidelines. The 'Welly Walks' are a great way to learn about how to keep safe in the natural environment while they observe the world around them and changes that are happening over time. Welly walks will take place every week whatever the weather unless the weather conditions are considered a danger.

Clothing- The children look wonderful in their new uniforms. Thank you for labelling everything as this really helps us to identify belongings. We recognise that the children are only little and from time to time will accidentally take home someone else's belongings, so we would encourage you to check your child's bag regularly so we can rectify any little mistakes as we recognise this can be costly and upsetting for the children. Please send in your child's wellies as soon as possible. This term we will be having fun indoors and outdoors, so please remember to send your child with a named coat and hat suitable for the weather conditions. The children will need to have their PE kit in school every day with some additional spare clothing in case of accidents. We encourage and support children to take ownership for their possessions from an early stage by placing their things into their lockers.

Dates to Remember-

6th - 9th September- Children will be in until after lunch. (1.00pm Cherry 1.10pm Apple)

9th September- Teddy Bear's Picnic

10th September onwards children will be in full time.

17th September- TD Day School closed to children

14th October- Individual and Sibling Photos

20th October -Parents Evening (1.20pm to 6pm with a booking system)

20th October - Break Up for end of Term 1

1st November - Start of Term 2

7th December- Foundation Christmas Performance. (10.00am or 2.00pm)

Please remember that we have an 'open door' policy, although logistically this is slightly different during the current circumstances, if you have any concerns, no matter how small, do not hesitate to contact school in order to work together to make your family's journey through Reception(F2) as rewarding and happy as possible. We will have the additional Dojo app up and running as soon as all permissions have been returned to school and will use this to provide you with further information.

Many Thanks

Mr Cowell, Mrs Wright and Mrs Prophet