



# Welcome to Reception

We would like to welcome you and your child to Reception, and provide you with some useful information about the year ahead.

## Reception Staff

Mrs Christopher – Class teacher for Rabbits and Hedgehogs

Mrs Pullen – Teaching assistant for Rabbits and Hedgehogs

Mrs Day – Class teacher for Moles and Badgers

Mrs Clark – Teaching assistant for Moles and Badgers

PPA Cover Teachers – Mrs McGoldrick and Miss King

## Reception Expectations

Children will come into school in the mornings independently and hang up their coats, put away their snack, water bottle and book bag in the correct trays. Packed lunch bags will be put on the trolley.

## Reception Curriculum

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and teach children the knowledge and skills they need to meet the expectations set out in the Early Learning Goals. Each term we will be having a STAR week – ‘Showing Tolerance and Respect’ which is based on our school values. Whilst we embed these values into everyday school life, we also want to highlight different aspects during a focus week. During this week, the children will complete their RE and PSHE work for the term. The theme for Term 1 and 2 is ‘Personal Achievement’

Details of the curriculum that your child will be studying during the academic year can be found on the school website. To locate this information simply go to the ‘Information for parents’ section and then click on ‘Foundation Stage – Starting School’. In this section you will find details about our daily routine and how you can help at home.

## **Reading**

Reading in the classroom will take place daily through a variety of reading activities. These may take the form of class, group or individual work. We would ask parents to hear their child read regularly (ideally every day) and write a comment when they have listened to their child in their reading record book. We expect the children to have both reading books and reading record books in school every day. We would like children to change their reading book regularly but this will depend on the size of the book they take home. A comment about each child's reading will be written in the contact book by school staff following their reading sessions. This is in addition to the internal on-going assessment and record keeping systems that we use within school. Our aim is to encourage all children to read as often as possible and for the children to develop a life-long love of reading. It is our observation that children who read regularly at home, and therefore read a wider range of texts, tend to demonstrate greater progress in reading, writing and spelling. On the 16<sup>th</sup> October we will be holding an information meeting for parents about Reading and Phonics, details will follow in the following weeks.

## **Homework**

Reception children need to be developing their skills of sounding out words, blending sounds together to develop fluency. Discussing the content of the story with the children is also important. As children become fluent readers, it is still important to read regularly and discuss events in the story, the vocabulary used in the story and consider why an author has used a particular word and the effect it has on the reader. Children also need to develop their inference and deduction skills; considering the mood of a character or his/her personality based on the evidence or clues within a text.

Children will be set one piece of homework most weeks which may be Maths, English or topic based in addition to regular reading.

## **Equipment and Resources**

All children are encouraged to be respectful of school resources. We provide all equipment for all children in the classroom. If you have any unwanted age appropriate toys that you no longer want to keep at home and they are in good condition, we would be happy to have them to share with other children. Just ask a member of the Reception Class staff.

## **P.E**

Being active is an integral part of every day and the children will not have PE lessons as such in the first 5 terms where they need to wear PE kits. In term 6 you will be informed of your child's house colour and we will have PE lessons in preparation for Sports Day. Children

will need a school PE T-shirt in their house colour and a pair of shorts/jogging bottoms for Sports Day.

### **School Trips**

Some years we go on school trips to a local zoo or Farm. Other years we have visitors in school, for example a visiting zoo where the children get to touch and see animals close up. We will give plenty of notice when we are planning a school trip or internal visit and let you know of the costs well in advance. These can range from £4 per child for the visiting zoo, to approximately £15.00 for an external visit.

### **Star Award Assembly and House Points**

This will take place on a Thursday. This is a time when selected children's achievements are awarded each week with special certificates. Also every week a child from each class, who has demonstrated one or more of the key values of our school, will be invited to a tea party with Miss Talbot.

We will be encouraging your child to earn as many house points as they can this year. Reception are joining in with the house point system this year. Children will place a purple sticker on their chart for each house point awarded. After 25 house points earned, a purple badge will be awarded. The next 25 stickers will be bronze, then silver and finally gold. Perhaps they will be one of our gold house point badge winners by the end of the year? The children won't be formally allocated one of our official school houses until they are in term 6.

### **Healthy Snacks and Water**

Children may bring fruit as a snack (as it is or in a pot) for morning break from Monday to Thursday and can bring in a healthy snack (cheese, yoghurt etc) on Friday. Please remember that no nut based products are allowed in school. These snacks **MUST** be labelled with the child's name.

Children are allowed **water** to drink in their classrooms. This should be provided in a 'Godinton Water Bottle' (available to purchase from the school office) or a clear bottle, no larger than 500ml which has their name on. All water bottles must have a sports cap to help reduce spillages. Children are encouraged to access their water bottles throughout the day.

### **Speaking to School Staff**

It is important for us to be available to communicate as much as we can about your children. However, first thing in the morning is not an ideal time for parents to talk to staff as their priority must be supervising the children coming safely into the classroom. It is fine to pass notes to the staff on the door or have a brief word if necessary. Unless we are running an after school club, the afternoon is a good time to catch us to discuss anything. For matters

that may take more time we can arrange a meeting for a different time or an appointment can be made via the school office.

**We hope that you find this information helpful and we look forward to working with you and your child over the coming year.**

**For further information, please see the school website ([www.godinton.kent.sch.uk](http://www.godinton.kent.sch.uk)) where you will also find the latest copy of the Parent Handbook.**