



Brereton C of E (A) Primary School

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Headteacher Mrs SJ Riley



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Welcome to Reception!

Dear Parents

We would like to wish you a warm welcome to Brereton School and our Reception Class. We hope you have had an enjoyable summer and the children are excited about starting their school life here at Brereton. This letter is designed to inform you of all necessary information concerning your child's timetable and requirements whilst at school.

PE Kits

Over the course of this half term we will introduce the children to formal PE sessions so please try to encourage independence when getting dressed and undressed at home. The children will require an indoor PE kit. It is essential all items are labelled as things do go missing. At this age the children will not get particularly dirty so we will send PE kits home every half term to be washed. Please ensure they are in school for the start of each half term.

Reading Books

One of the key areas we will focus on in Reception is learning to read. With this in mind I thought it would be helpful to talk to you about the process of learning to read in more detail and I have scheduled an information session for Monday 19th September at 3pm. During this time I will talk about strategies we will be using in school and what you can do at home to support your child. The children will remain in the classroom with additional staff and they can be collected following the end of the session. For those of you that cannot attend I will ensure a hand out is available.

Prior to this meeting we will be sending story books home to share with your child. Please read the story to them, look carefully at the pictures, encourage the children to predict what will happen and discuss the characters thoughts and feelings. Over the next two weeks we will be conducting detailed phonics assessments in order to acquire the children's starting points. We will then begin phonics sessions. Reading books will then be introduced when we will feel the children have the skills and confidence to progress with them. The information session will help to explain this approach in more detail.

Snacks

Children will require a snack for morning break. Here at Brereton we encourage the children to make healthy choices and we ask you to support us with this by providing a piece of fresh or dried fruit as an option as a morning snack. Alternatively, you can choose for your child to have a snack from the kitchen. If you opt for this can you please ensure money is sent into school in a named purse. We will encourage the children to be as independent as possible when making their purchase. All children will also have a named water bottle and we will encourage them to access water throughout the day. Children will have the opportunity to have fruit and milk during the afternoon sessions.

Homework

In Reception reading will be our main focus and you should aim to read as regularly as possible (at least 4 times a week but ideally every day!). At the end of each week we will also send home sound cards and High Frequency Words that have been taught that week. Please practise reading and writing the letters and the words every day.

In addition the children will also have a 'Homework Folder.' Each week there will be a short game, activity or challenge designed to reinforce the work done in class over the course of the week. This work is entirely optional and can be done when time allows. It is designed to support your child but also to help inform you of the work we have done in class and we would greatly appreciate your support. Homework folders will be given out on a Friday and should be returned by the following Wednesday.

Outdoor Clothing

Focussed activities will be planned to take place in our outdoor area whatever the weather. With this in mind please ensure your child has an appropriate, waterproof coat with a hood in school every day. As the weather gets colder hats, mittens and scarfs will be necessary. Please ensure that everything is clearly named and please bear in mind things do get misplaced so please don't spend a fortune on such items. Putting mittens or a piece of wool through the sleeves of the child's coat also really helps to reduce the amount of lost property.

Collecting Children

For the safety of your child we will not release them at the end of the day until we see the nominated adult. Please bear with us whilst we get to know everybody's faces! If it is not the nominated adults collecting please tell staff in advance or phone the office. If your child is going to a friend's for tea please let staff know either verbally or in a written note. If you are running late to collect your child please try to phone the school so we can

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Behaviour

In these first few weeks we will be discussing our class rules with the children. Rewards for good behaviour include team points, stickers, badges, wrist bands and raffle tickets. Sanctions include time out, which allows the child to reflect on their behaviour. If behaviour begins to limit your child's progress we will work together with parents to formulate an action plan to help overcome these barriers. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Communication

The topic letter enclosed is designed to give you an overview of what we will be doing in class between now and Christmas. Each week we will also update our Class Blog on the school website. This should hopefully help you to find out more from your child about their lessons and allow you to develop your child's learning further at home. Key dates are included on our topic web and on the website.

Whilst in Reception your child will have an electronic 'Learning Profile', in which we will record their achievements. These are similar to what your child may have had at their preschool or nursery. Once sent up you will be sent an email link to activate your own account. You will then be notified each time staff add a photo or video. Please ensure the office have your preferred email address. We also welcome your contributions to these assessment documents and you will be able to upload photos of activities the children have done outside of school. More information about this will be enclosed in your child's homework folder in the coming weeks.

Dates for your Diary

Reaseheath Farm and Zoo ~ TBC

Phonics and Early Reading Meeting ~ Monday 19th September 3pm

MacMillan Coffee Event ~ Friday 30th September

Harvest Festival Church service ~ Friday 7th October 2pm

Open Morning for existing and potential new parents ~ Wednesday 19th October

Inset Day ~ Friday 21st October

Parent Consultations ~ Monday 24th October (Morning) and Thursday 27th October (Evening)

Julia Donaldson Activity Day (Fancy Dress) ~ Thursday 27th October

Lowry Theatre to see 'Stick Man' ~ Wednesday 26th October

Remembrance Service ~ Friday 11th November 10am

Christmas Fair ~ Friday 25th November

Snow Queen at the New Vic Theatre ~ 29th November

Reception Nativity ~ 2nd December 9am

Carol Service ~ Wednesday 21st December 2016 2pm

Thank you for taking the time to read this and please, please remember if you have any questions or concerns, however small they may seem, do come and speak to us. We are available at the end of each day and your child's happiness is our upmost priority so please remember we are always here to help.

Kind regards

Miss Goff and Miss Sherliker