



Brereton C of E (A) Primary School

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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

PE will take place every Thursday. Please try to encourage independence when getting dressed and undressed at home. The children will require both indoor and outdoor PE kits. It is essential all items are labelled as things do go missing! 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 helpful to talk to you about the process of learning to read in more detail and I have scheduled an information session for Monday 14th 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 fruit or an alternative healthy 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



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access water throughout the day. Children will have the opportunity to have some 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 spent a fortune on such items! Putting mittens on 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. 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 forewarn and reassure your child. On a Monday afternoon Mrs Edwards will dismiss the children and Mrs Taylor will dismiss on a Thursday afternoon. This is to cover my Planning time and Management time. If you have an issue that requires my attention during these afternoons please speak to Mrs Gleave, Mrs Taylor or Mrs Edwards and they will contact me.

Behaviour

In these first few weeks we will be discussing our class rules with the class. All children begin the day on the 'sunshine'. If they work hard or are particularly kind or sensible they move up onto the 'rainbow.' If their choices affect the safety of themselves or others we will move them onto the cloud, discuss their behaviour and give them time to reflect. Should behaviour begin 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.

Assessment

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. We welcome your contributions to these assessment documents and more information regarding this can be found in the homework folders in the coming weeks.

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 utmost priority so please remember we are always here to help.

Kind regards

Miss Goff and Mrs Gleave



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