



ST. LEO'S AND SOUTHMEAD CATHOLIC NURSERY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL
 SERVING THE COMMUNITY
 LICKERS LANE
 WHISTON
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Friday 15th September 2017

Hello our names are Mrs Smith, Mrs Cawley, Miss Ryan and Mrs Sambor, we are your child's Reception Team. We are really looking forward to working with your child in our fantastic environment, providing lots of fun and exciting activities to support them in their learning and development.

We have reached the end of the first, very busy week. All of the children are settling in to their new classroom and are enjoying finding out about their new environment. They are enjoying using some of the lovely resources and exploring all the different areas.

A little bit about the EYFS Early Years Foundation Stage

All the areas are developed through planned, purposeful play, with a balance of adult led and child initiated activities both inside and outside of the Reception classroom. The children learn through play and exploration, they have time and are supported to be creative and think critically. The activities are pitched at the children's levels of development enabling them to learn and succeed at a rate suitable to each individual.

We approach the curriculum through the children's interests, observing their play, having conversations with them about what they are involved with and the sorts of things they would like to learn about. We will send information home with each new interest so you know what your children are finding out about and if you have any ideas, information, objects or artefacts related to the topic they will be gratefully received. Some interests may include:- Enchanted Forest (E.g. Fairies, Geography, creatures in the woods and forest, trees and plants) Traditional Tales (E.g. Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Three Little Pigs etc...) and Dinosaurs.

Toileting:

Please teach your child to use the toilet independently at home to support their self help skills in school.

Some top tips for starting Reception:

- 1) *Remember to put your child's name in all your child's clothing*
- 2) *Trousers with elasticated waists and shoes with Velcro on will help children be independent.*
- 3) *Children are inside and outside, so remember they will need a coat and wellington boots. If possible to leave in school.*
- 4) *A set of spare clothes are good as they might get a little mucky!!*
- 5) *Encourage your child to help you putting on their own clothing including coats and shoes.*
- 6) *Remember if your child is upset give your child a hug and a kiss just a little before school starts. Don't pick them up for a long cuddle at the last second.*
- 7) *Go home and have a pleasant day. Trust that your child will be having a happy day – they usually do – and give us a ring if you want to double check!*
- 8) *At home time, please be patient as when we exit the children we need to make sure they get to their grown up safely, this may take some time!*

P.E.

The children will be doing P.E. once a week. They need their P.E. kit in school in a bag with their name on. The kit will be sent home every half term. The P.E. kit consists of black shorts, white t-shirt and black pumps. Please make sure their name is on everything.

Parents Meetings:

You are invited to come to a parents meeting in the Autumn and Spring Terms, where we have a discussion about what your child has been learning at School and at home and what we can do together to help them progress further. If you have any worries or questions please feel free to make an appointment to speak to any member of the Reception Team.

Homework:

Your child will receive a red school bag, which they need to bring in with them everyday. It will contain a letter sounds pack enabling you to practise the letter sounds with your child. When we feel your child is ready, they will bring home a reading book each week. Five minutes practise a day makes all the difference.

Home/School Link Book:

Every week your child will bring home a Home/School Link Book. This is an opportunity to share the lovely things you do with your child at home. Every Monday we will take the time to look at your child's book and discuss with them any information and interests. This is an excellent opportunity to develop your child's speaking and listening skills.

My Learning Journey:

Your child will continue with their learning journey from School Nursery to the end of Reception. Throughout their time with us we will add samples of the children's work, photographs and written observations made by the Team. The children or you might like to add a 'WOW Moment' from home, that are special to their time in School– a birthday card, photographs from holiday, copies of certificates, postcards, learning to their bike, learning to swim etc.

At the end of the Foundation Stage, when your child is leaving Reception Class, they will bring their Learning Journey home as a memento of their time here.

Barnaby Bear:

We have Barnaby Bear, who will come home with each child in turn. (Friday) All we say is have lots of fun and feel free to take photographs of his adventures and add them to his diary, so your child can share their experiences when they return to school the following week. (Monday)

Book Shop:

Every Tuesday Mrs Parry holds a book shop where books can be purchased for £1. The children will all have a savings card where you can send money in to be added each week.

Toast Money:

Toast is 10p a slice (Maximum 2 pieces each). If you would like your child to have toast please send the money in, in an envelope with your child's name clearly printed.

Letters and money

Please can we ask that if you are sending any money or notes into school that you put them into an envelope (it can be a recycled one) with your child's name on and what the money is for.

Absences:

It is very important that the children attends School **every day**.

However there are occasions when the children are not well, in which case, please could you ring school as soon as possible to let us know.

Please find attached a copy of the Long Term plan and some important dates for your diary!

And finally....We hope you and your child enjoy your time in Reception. If you have any problems or need to know anything, please don't hesitate to ask.

The Reception Team: Mrs Smith, Mrs Cawley, Miss Ryan and Mrs Sambor

