



RECEPTION CLASS **INFORMATION LETTER**

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new school year at Romiley. We hope you all had a relaxing summer holiday and managed to enjoy the sunshine if only for a few days! We hope this letter offers a little advice to help both you and your child to settle quickly into Reception, however, please feel free to see us if you have any concerns or issues. After school is preferable as we are often tied up in the mornings settling the children.

Drop off and Pick Up

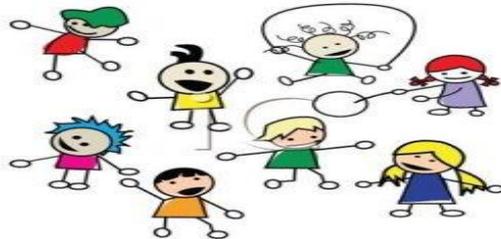
In the mornings we will open the gate to the Reception area at 8.45am, so that the children can come in as they arrive. The only exception to this will be Monday mornings due to staff meetings. The gate on this day will be open at 8.50am. There will always be an adult stationed at the gate until 9.00am, after this the gate is then locked. Children should be in school for 8.55am. However, we do appreciate that this can be difficult if you have other children to get into school. As we have limited space in the cloakroom we would ask that parents say goodbye at the gate to allow the children to come into the classroom independently. There will always be adults in the cloakroom to help the children with their coats and bags and any messages can be passed on to the member of staff on the gate. This will help with any overcrowding and also allow the children to become more independent.

At the end of the school day the gate will be opened at 3.05pm and we ask for you to wait in the Reception playground where we will call the children as we see you. If for any reason you are running late, please let the school know as soon as possible and a message will be sent to us. The gate will be locked again at 3.30pm.

General Housekeeping

Our PE day is Monday. Your child will need a PE bag in school with a named t-shirt, shorts and pumps. We will also be starting Forest School activities in the autumn term. More information will follow about this but you will need to provide your child with suitable outdoor clothing – e.g. waterproof coat, trousers and wellingtons. These will come into school at the beginning of the

term and go home at the half-term to be washed. Please could you ensure that any clothing is clearly labelled, it makes finding the owners much easier if we can see a name. It would also be very useful if you could provide a spare set of named underwear which can be used just in case of accidents.



It is also helpful if you can send a water bottle that can be left in school. These are filled at the beginning of the day and then emptied at the end. This gives your child opportunity to drink as and when they wish to throughout the day.

On Fridays, we will be sending home a homework folder. This may contain the sounds and words we have been learning that week, number or topic work. We ask that you work with your child a few minutes a day completing this. Please make sure this folder is returned to school each week so that the next homework can be placed in.

Punctuality is important at the beginning and the end of the day. It can upset your child to arrive into school late both at the start and the end.

Phonics and Reading

We use Letters and Sounds to teach phonics. This is a resource published by the DfE. It sets out a detailed and systematic programme for teaching phonic skills for children starting by the age of five, with the aim of them becoming fluent readers by age seven.

There are 6 different Phases of increasing difficulty. In Reception we begin with Phase 2 and typically work through to Phase 4. The sounds are taught in a specific order beginning with single letter sounds and then moving onto digraphs such as ai.

We are frequently asked how phonemes are pronounced. Some useful websites to visit would be: -

[Mr Thorne does phonics](#) How to learn the letters and sounds of the Alphabet – all on youtube.

[Alphablocks](#) and a number of apps that can be downloaded.

When children are recognising some single letter sounds and can blend the sounds together to make words we will then be looking to send them home with an individual reading book. Please do not be concerned if your child does not come home with a book immediately, every child is unique and learns at different rates. We will also be introducing them to reading in 'Guided Reading' sessions in class.

We aim to hear children read at least twice a week and will change the books then. We send home a booklet where we and you record what, when and how your child read.

Curriculum

In Reception we follow The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. This consists of 7 areas of learning - 3 prime areas: communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development and 4 specific areas: literacy, maths, understanding the world and expressive arts and design.

This term we will be talking about our friends and family; people in the community who help us; learning about our senses; settling into school, the routines and expectations; changes in the weather and harvest as part of our topics 'Ourselves,' 'People who help us' and 'Autumn'. This will then lead us into Christmas.

We hope you find this information useful.

Thank you for your support

The Reception Team