**Foundation Stage Information for Parents**

**September 2018**

Welcome to school and to our Foundation Stage (Reception) class.

**Teaching Staff:**

Mrs Patnell – Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

Mrs Berry – Thursday and Friday

**Teaching Assistant:**

Mrs Garrard

* For your information, because we know that children say they haven’t done anything at school a copy of our timetable is displayed on our classroom window as well as on our website. However we do have a flexible approach to planning and frequently change activities around as the week progresses.
* Your children will participate in daily physical activities developing many skills. There are however two timetabled PE sessions each week on a Wednesday afternoon and Friday morning. Please ensure that all PE kit is named and always in school. ( By kit we mean a plain white t/shirt, shorts, plimsolls and possibly a tracksuit top and jogging bottoms as the weather gets colder). You are welcome to take it home at the weekend to freshen it up but please remember to return it promptly. Your child will also participate in our school’s ‘Daily Mile’ keep fit routine encouraging fresh air and exercise, walking or gradually perhaps jogging along an adult supervised track in the local estate park. They will need a pair of trainers in school daily.
* **Please name all uniform**, including coats, hats, scarves and gloves when the weather gets colder. If your child loses something and it is named it is much easier to track down and return.
* We plan to be able to be learning outside all the year round, unless the weather is dangerous. To this end, please make sure that your child has appropriate clothing everyday kept at school e.g wellies, jogging tracksuit trousers or a pair of leggings, an old jumper, spare socks, a hat and gloves. This will enable the children to remain warm and dry when the weather gets colder. We have a timetabled ‘Forest School’ session on a Thursday morning.
* We appreciate that sometimes ‘little toilet accidents’ happen especially during the early days of starting school when everything is new. We have a limited supply of spare clothes at school but again it would help us if you could supply a spare pair of pants, leggings/trousers and socks/tights in your child’s PE bag, just in case.
* The children are encouraged to bring a water bottle into school for use during the day. This will be sent home daily to be washed and refilled. This must contain water, no squash or flavoured water as we are encouraging the children to eat and drink healthily.
* We will soon be starting our daily focussed Phonics sessions. The children will learn a new letter sound every day and we will send home a sheet with the corresponding letter on it each day too. Your child can use this sheet to practise the letter formation that we have learned at school. You are welcome to keep these sheets at home.
* When we feel that your child is ready, we will start to send high frequency words (keywords) for your child to learn to read. If your child has any problems learning their keywords or you have concerns please don’t hesitate to speak to one of us. Please ensure these keywords are in book bags every day as we will aim to read with your child as frequently as possible.
* We will be launching our ‘Tapestry’ online learning journal during the next few weeks. We have found it to be a highly effective tool for documenting the children’s development at the same time as promoting a strong partnership with you as parents. Your child will also have a special ‘Learning Story’ book for all ‘hard copies’ of examples of learning, pictures etc which they are especially proud of. We would like to invite you as parents to contribute to these books too.
* You will find a **‘Wow’** star in your child’s book bag. This is for you to let us know about any of your child’s special moments or achievements that you may want to include in their ‘Learning Story’. Examples might include swimming without armbands, riding a bike without stabilisers, sleeping through the night in their own bed!...in fact anything that you are all pleased and proud of! Please use a dry wipe pen to write on your child’s star, alert us to their achievement and then we will then photocopy it and add it to the book. Similarly, if your child is awarded a certificate for something outside of school, we would love to share in their success and will photocopy the certificate before returning it to you.

Finally...we would like you to help your child to become as independent as possible. Over the next few weeks please encourage your child to come into the classroom and put their coat, book bag, water bottle away themselves. Could you also please ensure that your child knows whether they are having a Packed Lunch or Hot Dinner and that they put their own ‘lunch star’ into the correct container ( don’t worry , we will check that they have a packed lunch box if they have selected the Packed Lunch option!)

**\*\*\*\*Watch out for our Reception early years notice board too that will be hung up daily on the fence in the main playground. This will have up to date information on and it will be located near to where you drop your child off to line up. We will have to place it there daily and store it inside overnight otherwise it will get ruined with the weather \*\*\*\***

Please don’t hesitate to speak to us if there is ever anything you are concerned about.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Patnell, Mrs Berry and Mrs Garrard