**Foundation Stage Information for Parents**

**September 2019**

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

**Teaching Staff:**

Mrs Patnell

**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 in our classroom. However we do have a flexible approach to planning and frequently change activities around as the week progresses.
* There are two timetabled PE sessions each week on a Thursday 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 for this activity.
* **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. 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 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. Please feel free to add pictures and explanations to Tapestry of any activities that you have been doing, as we like to share these together throughout the week and they often inspire our continuous learning provision in class.
* 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 ask us for a dry wipe pen to write on your child’s star and we will then photocopy it and add it to the class ‘wow’ wall. 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.
* We will shortly be sending out an invitation to join our school app, Marvellous Me. It will explain the simple steps you will need to complete in order to sign up to this service. This is separate to Tapestry, and will usually provide information about what we’ve all been doing in class that day, a request for something, school trip information, or maybe, a special thumbs up for something that your child has achieved that day.
* This year, we are requesting a family photo, or a copy of one, that includes all of the people that are important in your child’s life. We are going to display them in frames on our special ‘Family Board’ so that the children feel close to their loved ones in this first term at school.
* We constantly need your rubbish for our junk modelling area, so please do send your child in with regular bags full of boxes that would usually go in your recycled bin.

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 line up in the playground and either Mrs Garrard or myself will bring them up to the classroom. We will encourage independence by asking the children to put their coat, book bag, water bottle away themselves. In the first few days, if your child is finding it very difficult to leave you in the playground, then by all means join them in the line and bring them up to the classroom. We do try to move away from this as soon as possible though, as we find that children will settle much quicker when they join the line independently and walk up with their peers. Could you also please ensure that your child knows whether they are having a Packed Lunch or Hot Dinner each morning.

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

Best Wishes,

Mrs Patnell and Mrs Garrard

**PLEASE KEEP AN EYE ON THE MARVELLOUS ME APP FOR UPDATES AND OTHER INFORMATION.**