



*'A good school with outstanding features' (OFSTED 2009)*

15<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, Congratulations to all the children! They have all now started their first school year in Reception and have made lots of new friends. Whilst we're sure the children will feel tired towards the end of this week, they have begun to settle in very well to the school and the routines that come with it.

The children enjoyed sharing their *Magical Me* bags with the class and talking about their families. Thank you for sending in the photographs as this has sparked lots of discussion and sharing of experiences and interests which has been lovely to hear. We have also been busy learning where things are around the classroom as well as trying to remember to keep it tidy! We've explored the school with the Year 6 buddies to find out where all the other classes are and have enjoyed eating lunch in the hall and going on the playground with the rest of the school.

As all the children have now started, we thought we would write to let you know about the routines and some general information so we would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to read through this letter and discuss any relevant points with your child. In doing this, it will help them become more aware and comfortable with the routines. Also attached is a list of 'dates for your diary' for this term as we know it may be useful to have these dates highlighted to give you notice for what things are coming up. If you would like to discuss anything we have written here in more detail please let us know.

**Morning routine** - as you know the school day begins at 8:45am and we will continue to meet the children by the small wooden gate next to the outdoor area each morning when the bell goes. It is great to see the children becoming independent, walking through by themselves, finding their peg and remembering all the jobs they have to do; they will soon pick up the routine. It would be helpful if you could wave goodbye at the gate as second or prolonged goodbyes through the windows can be upsetting for your child or others who find it hard to settle. It also means the children will all be concentrating more on their morning jobs/tasks. Your support of this will be greatly appreciated.

Every morning when the children get into school they will need to take out their water bottle and coloured plastic folder and pop it into the correct coloured box. The children must have a clear, plastic, named water bottle everyday at school; these can be bought from the office if needed. If there are any notes that you would like us to read or that need to go to the office, please can you tell your child on that particular morning so that they can put their notes in the white tub in the corridor.

**Lunch routine** - your child has the option of choosing to have hot school dinners or bringing a packed lunch with them. During our morning registration they will inform us of this choice, and if they are having a school dinner, they will select a red or green wristband, which they will wear into the hall at lunchtime. [The menus can be found on our school website](#) so you can discuss the choices with your child in advance if needed. We will also help them each day to ensure they choose the meal they are most likely to enjoy.

**Home time routine** - at 3:15pm we will see the children out of the main classroom doors to meet you, or alternatively if they are getting the bus or going to Out Of School Club, they will walk through the school

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with Mrs Robiquet. You will need to inform us if your child will be going home with a friend or with someone other than yourself after school and can simply tell us in the morning or it can be a written note and put in the white tub so that we are aware. Please also let the office know if your child will be catching the bus in the near future; they will explain the routines for this.

**Uniform** - as we have mentioned before, please do ensure all items of clothing worn or brought into school are clearly labelled, as things can be easily lost. One idea that is proving really helpful for the children with their coats is to have a piece of ribbon or small key ring attached to the zip; this means they are able to spot theirs amongst other green coats rather than having to look for their name on the inside of other coats first (saving lots of time!). The PE kits can be left in school on the children's pegs and we will then send them home every half term. Please can everyone have a PE kit in school by the end of week 3 (if possible, please could you add a spare pair of socks to their PE bags for those occasions when socks get wet from winter puddles outside, thank you).

**Snack time** - the snacks provided will always be fresh fruit which will vary day to day meaning there could be times when your child might not like that particular snack, so the children are allowed to bring a piece of fruit only from home to have during the morning. Each child is entitled to free milk until they turn five.

**Coloured plastic folders** - each child now has their own plastic folder, which they will need to bring to school every day. This folder is for keeping together their reading book, reading record and activity book.

**Reading books** - your child has now received their first reading book which is part of the 'Oxford Reading Tree' (ORT) scheme of reading. We will also be following another scheme called 'Songbirds', and your child will be given a new reading book each week from either one of these schemes. Please could we ask the children to bring their reading book and reading record to school every day inside their coloured plastic folder, so that if it is your child's turn to read to an adult they can collect their book from their folder. **The books will be changed every Monday**; unfortunately we are unable to change the books unless we have the old ones back. The reading records are for recording any reading activity at both home and school. Please do jot down when your child reads/shares stories with you at home as this is an important part of their development and enables us to see the types of books they are enjoying at home.

**Activity books** - After half term we will be sending home an activity book and these will need to be kept in the coloured folders. There will be an activity to complete at home, which will be linked to our learning at school. We will send a letter out with these books to explain in more detail at half term.

**Wellies** - the children will need to bring a pair of wellies to school and it would be great if they could leave them on our welly racks as it will also give the them the opportunity to go into our garden area as well as using the digging area and water pipes, whatever the weather throughout the week, keeping school shoes free of mud and water! We do have a few spare pairs available for the children to borrow if needed.

**House Points** - our school awards children with house points for good work, behaviour, kindness etc. When the children receive a certain number of house points they will be presented with a certificate in assembly. When they reach 40 house points they can collect a *free* coloured pin badge from the office by showing the office staff their certificate. When they reach 60 (bronze pin badge), 80 (silver pin badge) or 100 (gold pin badge) they have the option to buy the badges for £1 or trade in their previous badge. We will remind the children each time they receive a certificate however this note is just to inform you, should they come home

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asking for £1 for a badge! Their house colour will be the colour they put their folders into (house colours are for things such as sports day, value beads and house point certificates). We also award *Value Beads* when children demonstrate our school values, and again these are based on house colours and will lead to a reward for the winning house colour such as a non-school uniform day (you will be notified by text message as and when). You can find more information about how we always try to 'catch children being good' in [our school behaviour leaflet](#).

**Birthdays** - your child's birthday will be celebrated in a whole school assembly on the Friday of their birthday week. The school all sing happy birthday and they will receive a box of raisins from Mr Brettell. We are happy to give out any invitations for parties (if these could be in alphabetical order by first name that would be ever so helpful) however for data protection reasons we are unable to provide you with a whole class name list.

**Golden time** - each week every year group across the school has a period of 'Golden time' awarded for following the class rules over the week. We will plan with the children reward activities to take place within class during this time however if a child breaks either class or school rules, they may miss their Golden time for that week.

**Parent helpers in class** - In the second half of the Autumn term it would be great if anyone could spare some time to volunteer to share books with the children and listen to them read. If you do think you will be able to help out at any time then please let us know and we can provide you with the relevant information needed for volunteers in schools.

We hope we have ticked off some of your questions and given you a feel for our class routines (apologies for the long letter!!). If you have any other questions or queries about anything please feel free to pop in and ask us. Don't forget to check the *Parent notice* window of the classroom for messages as well as to [visit the class page on the school website](#). This page will be updated over the weeks with different links to games as well as information about what we are learning about in class.

Thank you for your support.

Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to a very exciting term ahead.

Sarah Humphrey and Jenna Davies

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## Dates for your diary

### Autumn half term 1

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October** - Reception phonics workshop (6:00p.m-7:00p.m). Parents and carers are invited to a session to hear about how we teach reading and writing in Reception.

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October** - Stay & Play mornings (8:45a.m - 10:00a.m). Parents are invited to stay and play for the morning with their child. More information closer to the time.

If you would like to volunteer in Autumn term 2, please let us know as soon as you can so that we can get all the forms completed in time.

### Autumn half term 2

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November** - parents' evening (3:40p.m - 7:00p.m)

**Every Friday** in this half term - **Reception CAPER Club** ("*Children and Parents Enjoy Reading*"). We will ask for a maximum of 6 parents/carers per morning to volunteer to read a story to a small group for just 15 minutes from 8:45a.m - 9:00a.m. Sign-up sheets will go up on the home time door at the start of each week.

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** - Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance, 2:30pm

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December** - Reception's showing & sharing assembly, 10:00a.m-10:30a.m.

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December** - Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance, 6:00p.m.

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December** - Stay & Play mornings (8:45a.m-10:00a.m). Parents are invited to stay and play for the morning with their child and take part in some Christmas crafts. More information closer to the time.

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