

## Starting in Reception

Starting school is a big change for children as they get used to learning in a bigger environment with different adults and new expectations. Making sure that children have a successful and confident start to school is very important. We have drawn up a settling-in plan that will provide them with the opportunity to get to know others in their peer group and to establish secure relationships with the adults working with them.

### Current School Times:

School gates open at 8:35am ready for 8.45am start. School finishes at 3:15pm. Lunch is from 11.45am to 1pm.

Children should come to the school gate at St Michael's Close or Back Lane with their bags and belongings where Miss Mearns and the Reception Team will greet the children and parents.

### What to bring

#### School uniform

Details of our uniform are included in this pack. It is worth having a week's supply of uniform at home to avoid weeknight laundry! We also ask that you name everything. Clothes which children can manage by themselves help children develop self. We recommend trainers do not have laces.

Please be aware that jewellery is not allowed to be worn in school and long hair should be tied up, for both girls and boys.

#### Outdoor play

As there are many opportunities for the children to learn and play outside, please can you make sure that they have the following named items, which should be left in school:

- Wellies
- Waterproof trousers or ski dungarees for muddy play
- Sun hat on sunny days
- Trainers for the run (if they are wearing school shoes) – no laces please

Children need a waterproof coat each day, which can either left in school or taken home each day.

#### Bookbag

As the children will be encouraged to take books home daily, please provide them with an embroidered school book bag available from My Clothing (<https://myclothing.com/>). Children will not need to bring in a rucksack.

#### A sound tin will be provided

We will begin to teach the children their sounds in September. Synthetic phonics is the way we teach the children to read and write in school. The sounds we have been learning will be sent home for you to practise at home.

### **PE Kit**

On PE days, children should come into school wearing the following:

- Navy shorts (named)
- Light blue school T-shirt (named)
- Socks
- Their school shoes to then change into trainers on arrival at school
- PE will be inside until the weather is warm enough to be outside. On colder days, children can wear active leggings/jogging bottoms (named) with shorts in their book bag to change into

### **Forest School clothes**

We visit the forest every week in all weathers unless it is very windy or thundery. Each child needs named clothes as follows:

- Warm socks
- Hat (for sun or warmth depending on the season) and gloves
- Long trousers – both in summer and winter
- Long-sleeved top – both in summer and winter
- Layers of clothing appropriate to the temperature and the season – in winter the children will need at least three layers to keep warm
- Waterproof top and trousers or a waterproof all in one suit
- These should be old clothes or clothes that parents/guardians do not mind getting dirty. They will get dirty and muddy
- We find that long johns, trousers and the waterproof dungarees work well for their bottom half, and for the top half, a base layer, fleece, and waterproof jacket is a good mix
- In summer, it is recommended to wear long trousers and long-sleeved tops because it is cooler under the trees and they help to protect from insect bites and scratches

### **House colours**

We have four 'Houses' across the school; Kennet (yellow), Ridgeway (red), Winterbourne (blue) and Four Barrows (green). Events are held throughout the year where children work with their House allowing them to get to know other children across the school. Each week, the House with the most house points, awarded for politeness and kindness, is presented with the House Cup by Mrs Arkwright in Celebration Assembly. You will be informed about your child's house in due course. We will always keep siblings together unless parents specifically request otherwise.

### **Eating and drinking at school**

#### **Water**

Each child should bring their own named water bottle and will have access to water throughout the day. As part of our commitment to being a healthy school, we are a water-only school and we ask that you do not send squash or juice to school.

#### **Snack**

Fruit is available to the children throughout the day.

#### **School Dinners**

School meals are cooked on-site and provided by Lataca. Hot dinners, including a vegetarian option, are available each day as well as jacket potatoes and school packed lunches. Menu choices need to be made in advance, each term, using Lataca's IRIS (ParentMail) app; special diets can be catered for - please contact Lataca directly. To enable you to make orders via the app please complete the

enclosed Lataca permission form and return it to Lataca, if you have any queries, please contact them by email at [info@lataca.co.uk](mailto:info@lataca.co.uk).

Please note that we have children in school with severe allergies to nuts and eggs and we therefore ask that these are not brought into school.

Water is always provided as part of the lunchtime routine, or juice can be ordered through Lataca at an additional charge.

### **Milk**

Any child under 5 years of age is entitled to free school milk. Milk needs to be ordered from [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com) and unfortunately, we will only be able to provide free milk if it has been ordered. Free milk stops when children become 5, but you can pay for milk to continue if you wish.

### **Useful information**

#### **Absence or Late Arrivals**

All children should arrive by 8.45am. Please contact the school office via Weduc to report an absence as soon as possible in the morning if your child is going to be absent or late for school. It is part of the school's policy of care for our families for us to contact you if a message hasn't been received and your child isn't in school. Please also let us know as soon as possible if there is any change to your usual arrangements for picking up.

If you arrive after 8.45am, we ask that you take your child to the school office to sign in, and a member of staff will take your child into the classroom.

#### **Parking**

Children are encouraged to walk or ride their bikes to school but we recognise this is not always possible. Should you need to travel by car at the beginning or end of the school day please do not bring your cars up to school and be mindful of our neighbours. We recommend you park at The Square. Please do not park at the entrance or on St Michael's Close. Emergency vehicles will need access up St Michael's Close and Back Lane in an emergency.

#### **Illness**

In cases of vomiting or diarrhoea, your child should remain at home until 48 hours have elapsed since the last episode. In all cases of contagious diseases, the school should be informed immediately and medical clearance must be obtained before your child returns to school. Please speak to the school office if your child needs medication.

#### **Term-Time Holiday Absence**

In line with government policy, the school is only able to authorise holidays during the school term in exceptional circumstances. If you feel this may apply to you, please discuss it with Mrs Arkwright as soon as possible.

#### **Day-to-Day Worries**

If you are concerned about anything, please speak to Miss Mearns or the Reception Team as these are the adults who will be working with your children daily. Any of the adults in school will be happy to help address your concerns and answer your questions.

#### **Contacting the School**

Although the adults are available at the end of the day, to be available to chat with parents, you may feel you wish to book a time to talk to Miss Mearns. Please contact the teacher via Weduc to book an appointment.

You can also phone or email the school office.

# Useful Skills

Clothes which children can manage by themselves help children develop self-esteem because they can 'do it by myself!' Think carefully about buttons, laces, zips, tight jumpers – if your child needs an adult to help with these please try to avoid them – **this includes trainers for the run**. When your child starts school it would be helpful if he/she could do these things:



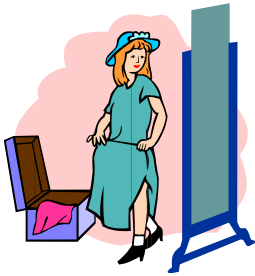
Take off coat  
And hang it up



Put on coat and  
fasten it



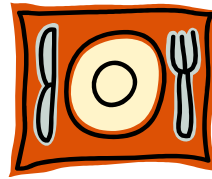
Change shoes



Dress and undress



Use a handkerchief



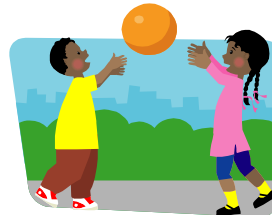
Use a knife and fork



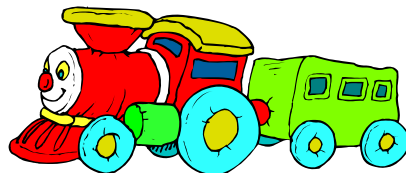
Use the toilet  
properly and flush it



Wash and dry  
hands



Share toys and take turns



Help to tidy toys away