

Milton Road Primary School

September 2009

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to your child's first term in Reception.

It was good to see as many of you as we did during home visit week and to meet your child in his/her own environment. I hope that you felt it helped to smooth their start in school this week. It's a very exciting time for everyone. The next few weeks will, I'm sure not be without their ups and downs as you get used to the new routines and the demands of school life. But we've made a terrific start!

I hope the following information will further ease both you and your child into school routines and help their transition into school life.

In the morning our Foundation Stage gated outdoor area is opened around 8.50 am for you to come in and wait in the outdoor area with you child. In the pod (the benched area in front of each classroom) are two boxes. We would ask you to encourage your child to put their water bottles and book bags in these boxes before sitting in the pod. Class starts at 9 o'clock. At this time a member of our Foundation Stage Team will greet your child. In reception we aim to cultivate an 'I can...' culture and in this we ask for your support in helping your child to gradually do as much of the morning routine by themselves i.e. hanging up coats, putting snack away.

To ensure security we will be closing the classroom doors and our gated area at approx 9.10. **After this time late comers are asked to use the school office** where you'll need to sign your child in.

If there are any changes to your childcare arrangements please inform the class teacher and fill in the details on our record sheets, available on a clipboard outside each class.

At the end of the day the gates will be opened as soon as all children are ready in their class pods. In the interests of safety we ask for your patience and cooperation to wait for a team member to dismiss your child from the pod, keeping the pod and patio area clear for them to do so.

Notices and information of interest will be posted on the class doors from time to time. School letters and information will be sent home regularly in your child's blue reading folder, which can be purchased from the office.

Please bring this folder to school on a daily basis, as very soon your child will have regular opportunities to bring home a book of their choice from our classroom collection. This book is not a formal "reading book" but a favourite story or factual book for you to share and enjoy with your child at leisure at home. This book can be changed by your child, when required every Thursday.

Snack time; Snack time is an important social time in Reception. In line with school policy your child is encouraged to bring fruit (apple, carrot, cucumber, red pepper, seedless grapes, berries or a firm pear etc) as a mid morning snack, these will be kept in class in their tidy trays for easy access. There is also a daily fruit snack provided under the government '5a day' initiative, mainly apples, pears, bananas or carrots. One of these choices is made available in our class fruit baskets throughout the day.

Please provide your child with a water bottle, separate from their lunch box, so they can have free access to a drink throughout the day, these can be refilled during the day in class.

P.E; in a few weeks we will start to introduce your child to changing for a P.E. session, which will be on Mondays or Wednesdays in the afternoon.

P.E. kit should be kept in school in a named kit bag.

The kit consists of: navy blue shorts and a royal blue school t-shirt.

Please name all items of kit.

Most importantly in Reception your child will have frequent access to the outdoors and as physical activity is an important part of the curriculum, I would ask that your child's choice of wardrobe allows for full mobility and that changeable weather conditions are catered for. As the Autumn is descending on us, a waterproof coat with a hood or hat for wet playtimes is essential.

The topic this term is '**Ourselves**' and our new school. Our main consideration is helping your child get to know us and to socialise with classmates and feel that they are a part of their new environment. A variety of activities are available for your child to participate in throughout the week. Many are based very closely on your child's own body, life, family and interests. Please see the attached overview.

We will continue to let you know what we are doing and how to support your child at home as the term goes on.

If you have any queries or questions about any aspect of your child's time at school please don't hesitate to ask us.

Finally, with the residential location of our school site, great efforts have been made to cultivate the support of the residents of Ascham and Gilbert Roads. We would like to refer our new parents to the section in the school brochure titled 'Coming to School'. We ask you to be considerate of our local residents, when parking to pick up or drop off at school by car.

Yours sincerely

Janey Morrison
Teacher of Class M

Sarah Green
Teacher of Class R

Areas we will be covering are:

The main emphasis of the Autumn term is to introduce and settle your child and their classmates into school life and routines. The topic 'Ourselves' encompasses stories, rhymes, songs, discussions games and activities based on birthdays, faces and feelings, family and friends. What my body can do and my 5 senses. These range from art activities to scientific investigations as well as sessions spent using various computer programmes.

Literacy Emphasis

We will be focussing on increasing the social listening skills in all our children.

Nursery Rhymes: Listening for rhymes and comparing the initial letter sounds
Handwriting this term will be from our Pen Pals scheme, the activities are based on developing fine motor control through ICT, modelling, craft and art tasks prior to letter formation in the Spring Term.

The children will be given plenty of informal opportunities to scribe and 'write' using a range of implements i.e. white boards/ markers, pencils/paper etc

As always we will maximise your child's access to a wide range of books, poems and stories, beginning to identify some simple key words.

Numeracy Emphasis

Number rhymes, chorusing numbers to 20, 50 and 100,
ordering numerals to 10.

Counting sets of objects accurately to 20.

Moving up and down the number-line to give 1 more and 1 less.

Pattern making with colour, size and shape.

Comparing length of objects, longer, shorter/ taller, shorter.

In PE sessions children will be following a sequence of movement activities to familiarise themselves with the hall space and how to move around each other safely at various paces. They will be introduced to various small pieces of apparatus i.e. beanbags, hoops, quoits, mats.

To add to the children's experiences we often ask them to bring in photos, pictures, artefacts or books to enrich a particular aspect of the topic. A request will be sent out through the class teacher or via the class information boards.

Many thanks.

| 9:00- 9:20 | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|------------------|--|---|--|---|--|
| Registration | Time to say hello and share our news. | | | | |
| 9:20- 10:10 | Adult lead and independent activities On topic with... | Adult lead and independent activities On topic with... | Adult lead and independent activities On topic with... | Group sessions: Children take part in 4 main activities throughout the morning sessions,including..... | Adult lead and independent activities On topic with... |
| | Literacy focus | Literacy focus | Numeracy focus | | Numeracy focus |
| 10:10-10:30 | Snack time and story telling | | | | |
| Play 10:30-10:50 | In main playground and grass and bark area. | | | | |
| 10:50- 11:55 | Continuation of morning activities | | | Colourstrings music and French with Alliance Francais | Physical and pattern making activities. |
| Lunch 12:00-1:15 | Lunch in Canteen followed by Play time in Reception outside area (or main playground for those who choose to go) | | | | |
| | PE Class M | Open Afternoon Multiple play-based creative and exploratory activities across both classrooms and outside space. | PE Class R | Open Afternoon Multiple play-based creative and exploratory activities across both classrooms and outside space. | Continuation of morning activities |
| Play 2:35-2:55 | In main playground with KS1 | | In main playground with KS1 | | In main playground with KS1 |
| 2:55- 3:15 | <i>Class carpet time</i> | | <i>Class carpet time</i> | | <i>Class carpet time</i> |

Autumn Term 2006

This is just an outline, the exact content of which the Foundation Stage team change and amend as appropriate to fit children's interests and changing events inside and outside the school environment.

Our curriculum is varied and follows the National Foundation Stage Curriculum. All aspects of which are carefully planned into the content of our activities over the term/year.