



Where every child counts

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13th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

A huge warm welcome to Reception at William Barnes School. We are delighted that your family have joined us. The Autumn Term is a long, busy but exciting term and we are looking forward to getting to know your child and their family.

### Morning Routine

The children need to line up, with their belongings, when the bell rings, on the numbered ladder on the playground outside the entrance to the Reception Classroom. Then a member of the Reception Team will collect the children and help the children find their peg and over time will encourage them to independently hang up their belongings and put their things away. If it happens to rain in the morning, the children can come straight into the classroom from 8:30am. Book bags should be brought to school daily, with reading books and journals in and they will be kept on their peg. No other bag is necessary.

A healthy morning fruit or vegetable snack is provided by the school and we encourage all children to eat the snack provided. We also provide milk for children under 5 and encourage the children to drink this too. Once the children are 5 years old, this will need to be paid for if your child would like to continue drinking milk at morning snack.

The children can keep a water bottle in the classroom. **Only Water** is allowed in the classroom, children may bring squash/juice for their packed lunch. We encourage the children to drink water throughout the school day as being well hydrated improves mood, memory and attention in children.

### Reading

As I am sure you are already aware reading is an essential life skill and at William Barnes we are committed to developing all children as readers. In Reception and Key Stage one it is our expectation that **all children will read at least FIVE times a week at home with an adult**. Please make sure the reading you do with your child is recorded and signed in your child's reading journal. Reading books will be changed Monday and Thursday by an adult in school. We encourage children to read the book they have multiple times and they may even get re-issued the same book a few weeks later this is all improved reading enjoyment and fluency.

Later in the term the children will also have the opportunity to go to the school library each week and choose a book of their own choice. This will be a book they'll will not be able to read themselves - they may like to have it read to them or just enjoy looking at the pictures.

### High Frequency Words

Alongside Floppy Phonics, Reception pupils will be taught Helpful Words. Your child will receive a pack which will contain a small set of words with an accompanying sheet explaining ways in which you can help your child to learn these words. The set of words will be added to throughout the year and we do expect children to practise these at home with an adult. The children are expected to be able to read and spell these words by the end of Reception.

### PE

The timetable PE day for Reception in the **Autumn Term** is **Wednesday**. This can change due to the weather and other events happening in school, therefore, children **must have a complete PE kit in school at all times**. PE kit should include - shorts, green t-shirt, plimsolls or trainers and for the colder months a dark coloured tracksuit for outdoors is advisable. It is very important that your child can undress and dress themselves independently for PE. It is always a good idea to practice this at home with your child. **Please ensure every item**

is clearly labelled - if items become lost or mixed up with another child it is very difficult to return them if they do not have a name inside!

### **Special Helper & Show & Tell**

Throughout the Reception School year all the children will get several opportunities to be the 'Special Helper' for the day. Your child will be asked to carry out special jobs around the classroom on their allocated day. On your child's allocated day we would like them to bring in a special object, toy or photograph that they would like to show the class and are able to talk about. This helps to develop the speaking and listening skills we work on in Reception.

### **Rewards**

Children in all classes will be involved this half term in creating their class charter which is learning about acceptable behaviour in our school and classroom environment. In order to support this learning process, we will be using a Rainbow Ladder with different coloured bands. When children make the right behavior choices they will be moved up the Rainbow Ladder - when the children reach the top of the ladder they will receive a certificate which will be brought home on the day. During the following Friday's Celebration Assembly all the children who have reached the top of the ladder will be congratulated by Mrs Wrixon. In Reception we have kindness stickers (sparkly stars) which are awarded for politeness, turn taking and sharing. Finally, we have Marble in the Jar, when the whole class work well together they are awarded a marble - when they get 10 marbles they have a whole class reward.

### **Tapestry**

At the start of the Reception year we will be using the programme Tapestry to communicate your child's learning journey with you and we may also use it to inform you of upcoming events and reminders. If you have an existing Tapestry account you should be able to log in as before. If you are new to Tapestry your child's account will be sent up imminently and you will be sent details very soon.

### **Achievements at Home**

When your child achieves something which you have not seen them do before or that you or your child are proud of, we can then celebrate this in class with the other children, building confidence and self-esteem. Please upload observations or photos on your child's Tapestry Journal.

Finally, if you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to come and see us at the start or end of the day or alternatively send us an email at [Reception@williambarnes.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:Reception@williambarnes.dorset.sch.uk)

Many thanks for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs H Dyke and Mrs N Lewis