



Bessemer Grange Primary School

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Monday 11th September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, welcome to Reception and we hope you and your children are settling in well. We would like to keep you up to date with a few routines and policies for Reception.

Reading diaries

We aim to read with each child twice a week. Please can you ensure your child has their reading diary and reading book in their bags every day. We will read with your child and comment on their progress and next steps. Please aim to read with your child each day for five minutes and sign/comment when you have done this. If you feel your child is ready for a new book for the weekend, please inform either the teacher or teaching assistant. We will also be sending home words each week for your child to learn. You could write them out as flashcards to encourage word recognition.

Reading books and diaries will be sent out to all children this week.

Choosing Books

Each child is also encouraged to select a book from the reading corner as often as possible to take home and share with you or read on their own. However, they are only able to do this if they have a book bag to keep it safe in, therefore, please ensure they have a book bag with them each day. Please return a book before selecting a new one.

P.E

Children will not be required to change for PE; they will be barefoot for the sessions which take place in our sports hall.

This Week

Due to the lack of space in the cloakrooms, we ask that you say goodbye to your child at the classroom door. We will be promoting independence by asking for your children to hang up their coat and put their book bag in the book bag box. They will then sit on the carpet to write their names while the register is being taken. Then, for the next two weeks we will be observing the children and their learning styles in play and taking notes of their interests to support our planning for future topics.

Packed Lunches

If your child is eating a packed lunch, please ensure it is a healthy one that includes foods such as fruit, brown bread, vegetable fillings, rice dishes, raisins, yoghurts, cheese etc. It is not appropriate for children to eat crisps, biscuits, sugary drinks, sweets or chocolate as we are a healthy eating school. If you would like your child to try a healthy hot school dinner, enquire in the school office.

We are a nut free and grape free school, so please ensure packed lunches also comply.

Uniform

Please can you make sure you have written your child's name on each piece of uniform. We know most of you have but if it still goes missing this gives you the best chance of having it returned.

Jewellery

We would prefer to operate a no jewellery policy due to the nature of Early Years being a physical learning environment. However, if children must wear jewellery then only stud earrings are permitted. Please do not send children to school with dangly earrings or necklaces as they may get lost or broken. More importantly, they can be a serious health and safety risk to your child.

Lost Property

Please check in the cloakroom if items are missing. There is also a whole school lost property box by the main office.

Before and After School

The Black Gate opens at 8.50am with the classroom doors opening at 9.00am. At the end of day, the Black Gate opens at 3:30pm and closes at 3.55pm each day.

Please can we ask that children do not play with activities that have been set up in the playground when coming in in the morning, as practitioners have spent time setting up activities with specific learning in mind. If activities are disrupted, it takes a long time to gather new resources which delays children's learning.

Please can you also ensure that you are leaving the playground by 3.55pm prompt to allow practitioners to return to the class to prepare for the next day.

Accidents

Early Years is a physical learning environment and therefore accidents in the playground are a daily occurrence. The Early Years Practitioners make a judgement call as to whether these accidents are to be reported to parents or not. Please be assured that your children's accidents and needs are taken seriously and children are nurtured through them.

Our policy is to report all head injuries and serious cuts or falls to parents by phone as soon as the accident occurs. However, we cannot report every minor trip and fall in the playground.

Workshops

Over the course of the term Laura Dunphy (Early Years Leader) will be running workshops for parents focusing on how parents can become involved in your child's learning journey and how we teach Maths, phonics and reading. All Reception parents are invited and you will receive a reminder nearer the time. The sessions are usually held during the morning and we provide you with a selection of materials to use at home.

Reading and Phonics 22nd September 9.15-10.45am

Maths Wednesday 4th October 9.15-10.15am

Home-School Diaries

Home School Diaries will be sent home in October. This is an opportunity for your child to share any trips, special events or achievements with the rest of their class. A letter explaining this in more detail and an example will accompany the Home-School Diary.

Rewards

Positive behaviour is rewarded greatly in Early Years. We reward children for following the school rules, making good choices and for special achievements by writing your child's name under the 'Sun'. If a child has not made good choices, then they will be given an initial warning as a chance to making a better choice. If they still continue to make the wrong choices, then their name will be written under the 'Cloud' and they will miss 3 minutes of choosing time. Each class is also awarded with treasure chests when they work together to follow the Golden Rules. The class with the most treasure chests at the end of the week will win the opportunity to have Bessemer Bessie Bear stay in their class. Additionally, we award one child per class a certificate in assembly for being a 'Star of the Week', 'Mathematician of the Week' or a 'Star Writer'.

Music and Spanish

Starting this week, your child will have the opportunity to take part in music sessions. This will be an amazing opportunity for your child to develop their imagination and creativity. During the Spring term, weekly Spanish lessons will take place.

Volunteers

We love having adult volunteers in Reception! If you can spare an hour or so to help with creative activities, reading or maybe you have an interesting job or hobby that the children may like to hear about, just let your child's class teacher know and we will arrange a suitable time for you to come in.

Junk Modelling

Finally, if you have any recycling or junk modelling resources, please feel free to donate to Reception as we always enjoy making and creating with it. We also welcome old pots and pans and kitchen equipment, or large scale plastic / blankets / sheets / materials / wooden junk modelling equipment for open ended play in the playground.

Many thanks,

The Early Years Team.