September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Reception.  It has been lovely to see the children this past few days coming into school looking so grown up in their uniforms and with big smiles.  We have learnt where to put all of our belongings and where to find our lunch! The best part has been investigating all the different areas in the setting and we are super at tidying up after ourselves. From next week (week commencing the 16th September) children are encouraged to say goodbye to you at the door and come into school by themselves so that they can continue to develop their independence.

In Reception we operate a broad and balanced, experiential curriculum which focuses upon the importance of learning through play.  The curriculum is delivered through topics and theme days which will change each half term and, after initially getting to know each other, will reflect the children’s interests.  Our first topic is Magical Me and allows everyone to get to know each other, our likes and dislikes and interests whilst we settle into the daily school routine. During these first few weeks we will focus on getting to know your child, finding out what they can do well and working out their next learning objectives.  We will then use this information to split the children into smaller groups for daily phonic sessions.

During the year we will endeavour to keep you fully informed about themes and special days through the website, text messages and the white communication folders, which will come home on Fridays. You will also be kept up to date with meetings, workshops and other information. Please return the emptied white communication folder every Monday. You can encourage your child to bring this into class or it can go in our red box outside the door. Outside reception entrance you will notice a wall mounted grey postbox, any communication to be returned from home needs to be placed in here. Please note we are unable to go through individual bags to retrieve any correspondence. Parentmail is our school communication system for emails and texts. You can download the app and sign up to it. If you have any difficulties with this please contact our school office.

Home learning is a vital part of your child’s education and in EYFS we encourage you to read with your child regularly, at least three times a week. A reading letter will be sent home shortly.  During the coming weeks your child will receive their first home reading book and planner. The first stage in learning to read is by looking at the pictures and memorising the story, please give your child lots of praise for this.  This 1:1 reading with your child at home is really beneficial, providing your child a chance to practise what they have learned, build up their reading knowledge and learn about how books work. When they have finished reading the book twice with you please write a comment in their planner, return them to school and we will change it for a new one.  Please continue reading other books to your child as it helps them build up vocabulary and story patterns. We also encourage, as part of home learning, that you enjoy spending time as a family, playing games, going on walks etc, providing wonderful opportunities to develop the important skills such as listening, turn taking and sharing; as well as building lovely memories! From time to time we will invite you into school to share in your child’s learning and to have some family fun time. Please look out for these events on the website or via ParentMail.

In addition to this we are sending home a cloud template for you to complete with something amazing your child has done. It might be sleeping in own their bed at night, being a bridesmaid or page boy or riding a bike. It can be anything that is a celebration for your child and a moment to be proud of. These will then be shared and displayed in our class on our ‘proud cloud’ display. You can send in as many clouds as you wish over the year to go alongside ones that staff and children will complete in school.

You may have already heard about golden tickets! We give golden tickets for good behaviour, kind friends, helpers, nice manners and generally being wonderful children. These special tickets go into a box and at the end of every half term they are mixed up and Miss Salisbury picks out a golden ticket at random and that child wins a prize. After half term we will also give out house points for amazing work that has been produced.

In school we have cool school rules which are:

* Following instructions,
* Keeping hand, feet and objects to yourself and
* Using positive language and actions.

We also have four listening rules:

* Look at the person who is talking
* Staying quiet
* Sitting still
* Listen to all of the word

Finally some general reminders…

* Please ensure that **all children requiring medication** bring the relevant prescribed medicines into school as a matter of urgency. This will need to be signed in and a relevant care plan completed.
* As you will be aware we have a password system in place to ensure the safe collection of all our children. Any collecting adult must have the password in order for us to dismiss your child, no child will be dismissed without the correct password. Thank you for your patience as we are becoming more aware of all the new adults collecting the children.
* Please ensure you have returned any outstanding forms to us from your induction packs and the £10 voluntary creative fund, if you wish to contribute – this fund really does help us to make the year extra special for all of the children with cooking, food tasting and creative activities. Please ensure that cookery fund is given in money, rather than cheque, in a clearly labelled envelope.
* All children need to have a coat with them in school every day.  Even if the weather is lovely in the morning, by lunchtime it could be raining and we will be walking to the main building for lunch and PE.  The children will also continue to choose outdoor learning and play whatever the weather!
* If you haven’t already labelled all belongings and clothing with your child’s name please do so to help us return items to the right owner.
* The children will be provided with a daily snack of milk and fruit. You may send in your own piece of fruit should you prefer in your child’s book bag. We ask that all children bring in a clearly labelled, filled water bottle from home each day so that can have a drink of water when they need one. Please remember it is only water. The children are encouraged to drink throughout the day, with the short exception of carpet times.

Thank you for support and patience through the few first weeks.  We want your child to have a wonderful, happy year in Reception in preparation for the rest of their school life.  We are always willing to discuss any queries, concerns or worries, please arrange to come in and talk to us through our school email address (office@lickeyhills.worcs.sch.uk).

Kind regards

Miss Bate and Mrs Reading