



# Reception Curriculum Letter



13<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Parents

Welcome to Robin Class. It has been wonderful to begin to get to know you and your children and we look forward to a super year, working together to provide your child/children (for our twins!) with a fantastic Reception year.

We have been so impressed with the independence of the children and how well they come into the classroom and manage their own belongings. Thank you so much for encouraging this.

Throughout your child's year with us, we will follow the 'Development Matters' curriculum, which provides a framework against which we teach, plan and assess. It is split into two areas of development – the Characteristics of Effective learning and the Prime/Specific Areas of learning. We will keep you posted through updates on 'Tapestry' about your child's achievements and experiences.

'Tapestry' is an online learning journal that allows us the opportunity to share your child's individual achievements, set home learning challenges and identify next learning steps. To maximize its potential, we would also like you to contribute to these by letting us know about 'Wow' moments in your child's development which you observe at home. We hope to have your log-in details ready by the end of next week.

As we establish where your child is on their learning journey we will begin to teach phonics and maths on a daily basis. This will often begin with a carpet session and then practical follow up activities throughout the unit. We will also cover other areas of the curriculum through topics.

To truly engage the children in what we are learning we really hope to use your child's interests to lead the topic choices. If there are particular interests, or you happen to be going on an exciting trip etc, please do share it with us, so that we can use the information in our planning.

The world around us is a great stimulus for learning. Please do bring in natural items of interest that you and your child find e.g. feathers, beautiful leaves, conkers etc. The discussion and opportunities these items create are fantastic. Please do not bring in random toys and cuddly animals, these often get lost and other children want to play with them, which can cause upset and anxiety.

Please note that we are very aware that quality learning occurs inside and outside of our school buildings, so children will have "free flow" between the areas. It means that the classroom is sometimes a little chilly so please ensure children always have jumpers/cardigans and coats. The children also participate in lots of messy activities, playing in the mud kitchen, mixing paints and exploring a wide variety of sensory materials. We do our best to provide aprons, waterproof trousers and you have kindly sent in wellingtons, but inevitably clothes will get dirty. It would also be a great help if each child had a spare pair of underwear in their bag in case of accidents.

There will be lots of opportunity for physical development throughout the week within our class. The children also have a formal PE lesson led by our sports coach, Mr Roberts, on a Wednesday morning. Please send your child into school in their PE Kit on Wednesdays.

Please make sure you bring their school uniform in a bag for the children to change into after PE. We will keep plimsolls at school for them to change into later in the morning. Please ensure your child always has appropriate clothing for the weather, for example, tracksuit trousers and a waterproof coat as, where possible, PE will be outside.

We enjoy sharing stories with the children on a daily basis and looking at Non-fiction texts. We do recommend that you spend time sharing books with your child at home, visiting libraries and allowing your child to observe you reading. This will encourage your child to read and most importantly foster a love of books. As and when we feel it is appropriate for your child we will send reading books home for you to share with them.

We run a "rolling snack" as encouraged by OFSTED. The snack is available for around an hour mid morning. The children can choose when to come to the snack area that morning. As a team we encourage the children to have a snack and develop their independence in preparing and cleaning away after themselves.

In addition to our fruit snack, we would like to add crackers/breadsticks to our snack. We also try and provide a range of open-ended resources for your children to use and explore, extending their learning through awe and wonder of the world around them. We love to plant flowers, herbs and vegetables, to cook, make playdough, use sand and mud, corn flour, pasta etc, the list of consumables is endless. To enable us to provide these materials and the additional snack we kindly ask that parents make a voluntary contribution. Please see additional letter in your child's book bag.

We hope that this letter gives you an idea of how we manage the Reception year. We strongly believe that partnership with you is the key to quality education, so please do be involved, feel free to ask questions, share concerns and celebrate success with us.

We would like to invite you to a curriculum meeting on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September** at 9.10am where you can ask any questions you may have.

Looking forward to working with you in the year ahead.

The Early Years Team