

Helping your child in  
Reception at Florendine  
Primary School

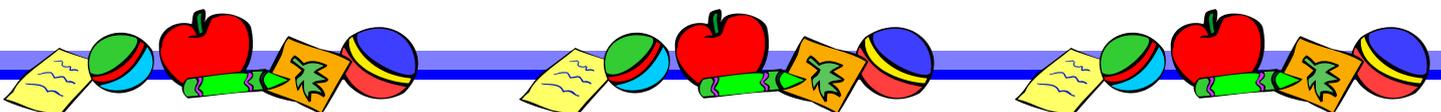


Welcome to Florendine. This leaflet has been put together using ideas from parents and staff about starting school.

You can use it as a checklist to see what your child can do and see if there are things you need to work on with them.

The reason for us giving you this leaflet is to help you help your child settle into their new class and be successful.

If you have any questions about your child starting Reception please speak with a member of staff or phone us.



## Things to remember

- Your first point of contact is your child's teacher. If you have any concerns please talk to her.
- Please phone the school to let us know if your child is unwell on the first day of absence.
- Please let us know if there are any changes to your contact details.
- Let us know who, besides parents, is permitted to collect your child.
- It is important your child comes to school on time each day.
- Please label all your child's clothing and belongings.
- Children should bring their book bags to school each day.
- PE kits can remain in school during each term and be sent home for washing during each holiday. (kits should consist of black shorts, a red t-shirt and pumps)



## Independence

In order to feel happy at school children need to know they can do things for themselves. They have to get used to being one of many and staff are not always able to be with your child all the time.



**In Reception children are expected to;**

- ✓✓ Be able to go to the toilet by themselves, flush the toilet and wash their hands each time.
- ✓✓ Be able to dress themselves. It is a good idea to only dress them in clothing they can deal with by themselves; Velcro shoes, elasticated trousers and skirts, pull on jumpers and sweatshirts are best at this stage. As your child gets older they will be able to cope with different kinds of fastenings and you will be able to teach your child how to do them.
- ✓✓ Be able sit at a table and eat with a knife and fork.
- ✓✓ Tell an adult if they need any kind of help.
- ✓✓ Be able to take turns when talking and speak kindly to each other.
- ✓✓ Be able to recognise their own name.
- ✓✓ Co-operate with school staff and keep the school rules.

## Things you can do at home to help your child make a good start in Reception

- Encourage him/her to drink water- drinking water has been proven to make the brain more active and able to learn. Small sips throughout the day are best.
- Talking- Having lots of conversations extend children's language and thinking skills.
- There is nothing better than reading with and to children. It helps them begin to see what reading is about; you can talk about the story, ask questions and spend quality time with your child. Read quality, real books not books from schemes.
- It is important that children are able to listen so they understand what is going on. They should be able to listen to a story for around ten minutes.
- Playing games that encourage turn taking and waiting are good for helping your child cope with being part of a bigger group.
- Jigsaws and similar puzzles help children to develop concentration skills.
- At school we have to have rules so that everybody is treated fairly. This means children have to get used to doing as they are asked straight away and it is really helpful if this is what they are used to at home.
- Routines and bedtime - children can get really tired at school and getting your child into a good routine at bedtime will help them learn at school.
- Memorising things like nursery rhymes will help develop your child's capacity to learn.
- Encourage your child to be independent. Let them do things for themselves- even if it does take longer.
- Encourage your child to draw, write, count and do cutting and sticking as often as you can.

## Settling in- the first few weeks.

Your child has to cope with a lot of changes in their first term in Reception. We look at the first few weeks as a settling in period. Your child will pick up on how you feel, your feelings and what you do in the first few weeks will affect how they feel.

Give your child lots of praise and encouragement. Please do not compare how well your child is doing with another child. Every child will learn things at their own rate- just like they did when they began to walk and talk. In school they will be treated as an individual and will be praised when they achieve the best they can.

It is very important that your child comes to school on time and regularly so that they have the best chance to do well.

School starts at 8.55am, at the beginning you are welcome to come in with your child and help them settle, after the first week we like to encourage children to come in independently, teachers in class like to focus their time on the children. A member of staff is on the gate who will happily pass messages on and teachers are always available at the end of the day if you need to speak to them.

The staff at Florendine want all our children to do the best they can, feel safe and be happy and confident. We also hope that you will enjoy working in partnership with us and helping your child to achieve well.



## Book Bags

Children will be provided with a book Bag during their first week at school. Staff may put things in your child's book bag for you to do at home- books to read and words to learn. Children must bring their book bag into school everyday.



## Milk and Fruit

Children are offered fruit and milk each afternoon and given the opportunity to buy toast so please let us know of any allergies.

## What does my child need to bring?

### Quick Checklist

- ✓✓ Book Bag - Everyday with books and materials from school kept inside
- ✓✓ PE Kit - Everyday
- ✓✓ Appropriate clothing for weather that day - e.g. Coat, Sunhat

Your child will be able to play outside everyday please make sure that they have the appropriate clothing allow them to do this.

**PLEASE BE SURE ALL BELONGINGS, BOOK BAGS, P.E. KITS, CLOTHING ETC. THAT COME TO SCHOOL ARE CLEARLY LABELED WITH YOU CHILDS NAME**

**Thank you for taking the time to read this information. We are looking forward to seeing you in September!**