



Ditton Primary School



Reception Parents/Carers **Information Leaflet 2023/24**



We understand that starting school full time is an important, exciting and sometimes overwhelming time for your child (and you!). We will endeavor to keep you updated of news and events via text messages, newsletters and school website (www.dittonprimary.co.uk). Please feel free to speak to us about any worries or questions you may have. As well as attending the parent meetings arranged throughout the year, please do not hesitate to contact us in person or by telephone at school (0151 424 5861) whenever you feel it is necessary.

Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) continues until the end of the Reception year. The EYFS curriculum is based on the prime areas of learning: Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language, Physical Development; together with the specific areas of learning: Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World, Expressive Arts and Design.

Early Years Foundation Stage – NFER & Teacher Assessment Baseline and EYFS Profile Assessment



During the Reception year, as part of the learning and teaching process, we assess each child's development in relation to the age-related expectations and early learning goals in each of the prime and specific areas of learning. These statutory assessments are scored and recorded in each child's individual EYFS profiles.

Assessments are made through observations of the children engaged in child-initiated and adult-directed tasks, as well as a shared dialogue between teachers and parents/carers. By the end of the Reception year, each child will leave the Early Years Foundation Stage and enter Key Stage 1 with their strengths celebrated and their future learning needs clearly identified.

Organisation of Reception

There are two Reception classes of up to 30. Children are organised into activity groups which are developmentally appropriate to their needs. During each day, they will visit a range of planned activities which focus on each of the areas of learning. The children work within an open plan Reception classroom and the outdoor area. This ensures that the children receive the appropriate breadth and balance of activities and can access a range of resources every day.

Phonics & Reading



A daily Little Wandle 'Phonics' session teaches children the sounds in English, the letters that represent them, and how to form the letters when writing. Oral blending skills are taught through Phonics, Group Reading and Continuous Provision.

Boom Reader is an online reading diary that we use to share information between home and school about your child's progress with reading. Please log any reading that your child completes at home onto their online reading diary account. You will receive a log in from your child's class teacher in September.



Reading is taught through the Little Wandle phonics programme. In this scheme, the children will read decodable books written using only the letters they have learnt at each level (and a small number of separately taught tricky words). The reading materials are fully decodable and closely matched to the children's phonic ability.

Homework



Homework consists of an online Big Cat Collins reading book alongside a 'reading for pleasure' book which children select themselves from our library. After sharing these books together with you, children are encouraged to complete a simple book review in their reading records.

In addition to this, you can extend your child's learning practically at home through helping them to complete their 'Learning Journal' on the Tapestry app. Each week, the children will be given one or more tasks to complete at home with you. This will be based on the work they have been doing at school during the course of the previous week – it should not be anything new to them.

Parent/Carer Partnerships



Parent/Carers have a unique knowledge of their child's development, which is central to the learning process. An essential part of parental involvement is an ongoing dialogue between home and school. This helps to provide your child with security and confidence. Together we can achieve this in the following ways:

- Talking about and recording information about your child's progress and achievement
- Carrying out activities at home to reinforce learning at school
- Letting each other know of any changes, events, worries or concerns which may affect your child's learning experience.

Morning/Hometime Arrangements



Morning – Children enter the main door to the Reception classroom which can be accessed via our Reception Outdoor Area. The door will open at 8.35 a.m. Staff will greet the children on the door, and help them to develop their confidence by encouraging them to take off their own coat, hang it up themselves and put away their own lunch bags and water bottles.

Afternoon – The Reception day finishes at 3.20 p.m. Each class will exit Reception through their own classroom door. One class opens onto the playground and one class opens on the path which runs alongside the school car park. Please wait outside your child's classroom door and a member of staff will call out each child's name one at a time. This ensures that your child is safely 'handed over'.

It is of paramount importance that carers do not crowd the Reception doorway.

Please be patient in order to ensure a safe transition from school to home.

We have a significant number of children in our care and it takes time to familiarise ourselves with the variety of carers coming to collect their children each day.

Educational Visits/Visitors

Educational visits and visitors to school take place half-termly. The children will have opportunities to extend their understanding of a topic by visiting relevant places of interest. In the past, we have visited Knowsley Safari Park, Chester Zoo, Tatton Park, The Brindley Theatre and the World Museum. We have visits from Rock Kidz, Presto Music, West End in Schools, local Faith leaders from a range of religions to discuss special celebrations, Police and Firefighters to discuss their role in community and the Library. We also have regular visits to our school's own Forest School site.

Behaviour



Good behaviour is encouraged using the restorative thinking approach. We also use 'Ditton Dots' to help children to visualise their behaviour. Star of the Week certificates are awarded on a weekly basis to individual children, and their achievement is read out in the weekly celebration assembly. These awards link to our whole school values; children first, pioneering and resilience.

Uniform

Winter

White shirt
Tie
Grey trousers, skirt or pinafore
Grey or white socks or plain grey tights
Navy cardigan or pullover with logo
Black flat school shoes

Summer

White shirt
Tie
Grey trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore
Grey or white socks
Navy cardigan or pullover with logo
Light blue checked summer dress
Black flat school shoes

School uniform is available for purchase from Boydell's. Please, please ensure that ALL possessions are clearly labelled.

P.E. Kit

The school PE kit with the Ditton badge may be purchased from Boydell's. On PE days, children will wear:

Plain white t-shirt

black shorts

plimsolls or trainers

A plain grey tracksuit without logos for outdoor PE

Free School Meals

Whilst all children in Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to receive a free school meal under the Universal Free School Meal entitlement, parents/carers are strongly encouraged to also complete a free school meal application form as each child eligible for a Free School Meal based upon parent/carer income attracts a "Pupil Premium" for the School which is provided by Central Government and equates to a cash amount for your child's School. This is then used to support children's education through the provision of additional teachers, Teaching Assistant support and resources at the School.

Snack

The children receive a healthy snack and piece of fruit and a drink of milk or water every day. Snack is £1.50 per week and should be paid each Monday on the Parent Gateway App.

Milk is free to the under 5s. Children are encouraged to drink the milk but may have water as an alternative.

We strongly believe in the benefits of regular water breaks. Every child is encouraged to bring a bottle of water (labelled) with a sports cap each day. This is for water only, not juice or flavoured water. These will be returned home at the end of each day for refilling/replacing.



Please notify us if your child has any food allergies/intolerances during your induction meeting/home visit in September and at any point throughout the year.



Hot Dinners

All children in the Reception classes and in Years 1 and 2, are entitled to the Government offer of a free hot dinner; there is no cost for this. Your child will also have the option of bringing a packed lunch to school. You know your child's preferences – please let the office know in advance if dinner arrangements are to change.

