



Reception Welcome Letter

September 2020

Class Teachers: Mrs L Portman Mrs C Harris

Teaching Assistant: Mrs M Freeman

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Reception and St Wulstan's Catholic Primary School. As we come to the end of your child's transition into school we would like to take the opportunity to say what a pleasure it has been to welcome your little ones into our school. It has been lovely seeing the children coming into school with big smiles and looking so smart in their school uniform. They have amazed us with how they have adapted to school life and we know they will continue to amaze us as the year progresses! We are looking forward to helping them grow and develop this year.

We wanted to take this opportunity to highlight some information and to tell you a little about the routines and activities happening in Reception class this year. Working with your child this year will be Mrs Portman (Class teacher – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) Mrs Harris (Class teacher - Wednesday, Thursday, Friday) and Mrs Freeman (Full time Teaching Assistant)

The Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage is split into 7 areas of learning. It is a largely play based curriculum which aims to develop the whole child. Children will learn through play by accessing a range of activities both independently and with adult support. We will have various topics throughout the year which will be largely based on the children's interests. You will be able to find information on the topic we are covering on our school website on the reception class page. Our topic for the first part of the Autumn term is 'Marvellous Me!' The children will be learning all about themselves, their families, where they live and much more!

Uniform

The children have started school looking very smart in their new uniforms. Many of the jumpers and items we have come across have been labelled but we would like to remind any parents that haven't yet labelled their child's clothing and belongings to do so. Please label everything they wear, including their shoes, so we can easily care for your child's belongings. We would also like to ask parents to ensure children's hair is tied back at all times.

Snack and Lunch time

Snack: The fruit scheme is operating in school and your child is entitled to have a piece of fruit during milk and fruit time in the mornings. If you would like your child to have fruit during afternoon break then please provide them with some each day. As we are a healthy eating school we only allow children to eat raw fruit and vegetables at break time and will not allow the children to eat any processed fruit (e.g. Wonders, School Bars, Fruit Cake etc.). You are welcome to send in fruit from home if your child will only eat certain types of fruit. Children receive free milk in school up until their 5th birthday. If you would like them to continue having milk after this time, please speak to Mrs Brown in the school office.

Lunch – From next week, some children will be having the free packed lunches provided by school. If your child is bringing in a packed lunch from home but you would like for them to receive a packed lunch from school please let us know. Mrs Brown has ordered lunches **up until October half term** for those families who stated they would like lunch ordered during the parent meetings. After this time you will need to log in to your **Parent Pay account** to order packed lunches for your child. **You must do this one week in advance.** If you forget to order lunch, you will need to send your child in with a packed lunch from home for that week. You can order lunches for the whole half term so it is best to order them all at the same time and this will save you having to remember each week!

Water Bottles

There is a water bottle station in the classroom at all times that will be accessible to your child whenever they want a drink. The children must take their water bottle home at the end of every day to be washed and refilled. The children are only to have water in their water bottles for during the day but feel free to send them in with a separate fruit juice for them to have

at lunch. Please make sure it is a school water bottle and has a waterproof name label or written in permanent pen, otherwise they are easily forgotten or lost.

PE Kits

The children will be participating in P.E. activities on a Thursday so please ensure they have full PE kit in school on this day. Your child's PE kit can be left in school and taken home to be washed each half-term. **Please ensure your child's name is in all of their clothes and belongings.** You can support your child at home by encouraging them to get dressed and undressed from their school uniform. The children do find the buttons very tricky however we do like to encourage children to be as independent as possible and attempting to get themselves dressed and undressed is an important skill.

Home Activities

As your child becomes more settled in school, on Fridays we will be sending 'home activities' for you to complete with them. This might be practising reading and writing the sounds we have been learning that week, writing their name, recognising any tricky words, or maths activities/games. Please send completed activities back into school in your child's book bag for the following Friday. We understand that children are often very tired when they finish school and so don't expect children to be sitting and working for a long time each night. We recommend doing very short amounts but often helps to keep children engaged.

Reading at Home and in school

Your child will soon be receiving their first reading book. This book will be a picture book without any words. Please enjoy sharing this book with your child, encouraging them to use the pictures to tell the story. Children will have a few weeks of books without words whilst we begin our phonics teaching. Picture books help children to develop their story telling skills, vocabulary and imagination. At first children might find it tricky to 'tell the story' but with support from adults at home they very often become wonderful, imaginative storytellers!

When the children have acquired some skills in recognising letters and sounding out words, they will have a book with short, simple sentences. We recommend reading with your child every day at home in order to build your child's confidence and reading fluency. In addition to reading books, you will receive something called 'Fred Cards' which will have the sounds of the week and words for your child to read that contain these sounds. Please practise reading the sounds and words on the Fred Card each day to ensure children are able to quickly recall the sounds they have learnt. Your child will have a reading record in their book bag which we ask you to sign when you have read with your child. We will aim to change books twice a week, normally this will be on a Monday and Thursday however this can change so it is important that children have their reading book and record in school everyday. In addition to their school reading book we also suggest that a variety of texts and other materials are shared with your child, reading every day has such a huge impact on their development.

Reading in school: As part of their phonics lessons, children will be reading every day. Your child will also read to an adult in class once a week. Children will have the opportunity to read and be read to everyday. Each day in school ends with story time. Children are asked to vote for the story they wish to hear every afternoon - they will do this at our 'Story Voting Station' in class.

The Zone Board:



I have included information about the Zone Board in this letter as it is often spoken about by children at home and parents are unsure as to what it is and how it is used in school.

The Zone Board is a visual tool used for behaviour management in Reception and Key Stage 1 at St Wulstan's. We also use stickers and house points to reward positive behaviour.

All children begin every day on white. They can then move up the zone board to either green or silver. Children are moved up the zone board for making the right choices (some examples include - being kind, having good manners, working hard, sitting/listening well, engaging in class discussions) there are lots of reasons for children to move up the zone board and moving up is where we focus our attention. If children reach the silver section of the zone board they will receive a token. After they have received 6 tokens they can pick a prize from 'The Pink Prize Box!'

The children can also move down the zone board to the yellow, orange or red sections. Before being moved down to these colours, children will be given a warning about their behaviour choices. If a child repeats this behaviour then they will be moved down to yellow and an explanation will be given to the child as to why they have moved down. The yellow and orange sections act as warnings to remind children that they aren't making the right choices and need to think about how to improve their behaviour. If a child reaches the red section of the zone board (this is extremely rare) then they will have to sit out and miss part of their play.

Children can move up and down the zone board all day. If they go into the yellow, orange or red zone in the morning it doesn't mean they can't reach the silver zone by the end of the day. We always try to end the day with children in white, green or silver.

Marvellous Me and Show and Tell Sessions:

Marvellous Me!

Each week a child is chosen to take home the 'Marvellous Me!' box. This is a special box, which the children fill with items from home that are important to them or show how 'marvellous' they are! Every child will have a turn across the year. Please talk to your child about the items they are bringing in and ensure they can explain the item and say why it is special. Further instructions can be found on the lid of the box to remind you when it is your child's turn. Due to current restrictions of Covid-19, the only person to be able to handle items from home in the box will be your child. Items will be kept in the box until 'Marvellous Me' time and then once finished, your child will place these items in a plastic bag to bring home. Nobody else will be handling the items to avoid any cross contamination. The box will then be cleaned thoroughly before being sent home with another child.

Show and Tell

On a Thursday your child will be able to take part in a show and tell session. Show and Tell sessions are so valuable for your child's learning and development – they develop speaking and listening skills, gain confidence and develop their social skills.

Your child will be invited to bring something into school to show to the class and talk about (it can be anything they are interested in but please make sure they are able to say why they have chosen this particular item!) Children will be allocated their week for show and tell to make it manageable in class and to ensure everyone gets a turn. We will send a slip to inform you when it is your child's week for show and tell.

If children have something that they are particularly proud of, for example a piece of work they have done at home or a certificate they have received for something outside of school then we are more than happy to show this at any time and they do not have to wait for their designated show and tell time on a Thursday.

Our main aim is to make sure your child is happy, healthy and achieves their full potential in all areas. We will do everything possible to make sure your child is excited to come to school and that their education is fun and interactive.

If you have any questions please feel free to send us an email:

reception@wulsev.worcs.sch.uk

Yours faithfully,

Mrs L Portman and Mrs C Harris

Reception Class Teachers