

Mandeville Primary School

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Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year! We hope you have had a lovely summer and have enjoyed the break!

The children have only been in school for a week and have settled in really well. It has been lovely to see how independent the children are coming in in the mornings. The children have taken on board the new classroom routines and have impressed us with how well they tidy up! Children are doing really well at lunchtimes too! Please remember children will be very tired in the coming weeks so lots of rest time is needed!

Staff

We are extremely lucky in Reception to have the support of both Mrs Kerrie Nunn, Miss Sheree Eaves (Ruby class) and Mrs Sheryl Cherry (Coral class). Mrs Pyne will be teaching Reception Coral class on a Tuesday morning and every other Tuesday afternoon and Ruby class on a Thursday to cover PPA/ management time/ ECT time. During lunchtimes Reception will be eating their lunch in the Quad and will have their own dinner ladies. After they have had their lunch they will be free to play in the EYFS outdoor area.

Curriculum

All children in Reception follow the New Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. In both Nursery and Reception every term we will follow a theme but this can change depending on the children's own interests. This half term our topic is 'Who am I?' and 'Pets', so many of the children's activities will be based around this theme. We will be reading story books, information books and poems about ourselves. If the children want to bring in anything relating to our topic we have a topic table to display 'all about me' for example photos and books. If they are required to bring in anything special I will let you know a week in advance. We will also be finding out about Harvest and Autumn. Next half term our theme will be 'Our changing world'.

Daily Routine

When children come into school in the morning they will be expected to self-register and choose their lunch option for that day. It would be helpful if you could discuss which option they would like for lunch before they come to school. Children will then settle at a 'Funky Fingers' activity aimed to develop fine and gross motor skills. We will then have a whole class session at 9.00 on the carpet. Children will then take part in either an adult led (where children work in small groups with a member of staff on a particular focus area e.g. maths or literacy), adult initiated (where children are directed to a particular area in the classroom and engage in an activity, sometimes independently, set up by an adult) or child initiated activity. Children will then have snack. After this the children will have an extended session of child initiated play where staff will join in with children's play and also use this opportunity to observe children. After child initiated play children will have another whole group session followed by small group activities. During the morning children will have a phonics and maths session. Then children will have lunch.

In the afternoon children will have a whole group session then undertake small group activities before another child initiated play session. The day ends with story time and singing.

Children will have PE session on a Friday morning so please can you ensure PE kits are in school at all times and pierced ears are covered with tape.

Expectations

The children are expected to be in school by 8.40am when the registers are taken. If for any reason you are later than 8.45am please go to the front entrance of the school to sign in. Doors are open from 8.40am and the children are welcome to come in from that time. We use this time to settle the children and it may also be used for small group work. Please can children line up at the Reception gate when the bell goes.

Please ensure that all children wear the correct uniform and that everything is clearly labelled. Children's shoes should be black and closed toed. It is helpful for the children to have spare clothes in their bags in case of an accident.

For safety reasons we have a no jewellery policy. If children have their ears pierced only small plain studs are acceptable. Long hair must have it tied back at all times with appropriate hairbands. Children should remove any nail varnish before coming into school.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage we will be going outside in all weathers so please can you ensure that your child brings a coat to school where appropriate. They may also bring wellies into school if they wish for wet weather.

We now follow the non-statutory DFE nutritional guidance for the EYFS. This includes snack times and lunch times. More information will be sent out soon regarding our expectations for packed lunches and the types of food we will provide for snack and how you can support with this. Please remember we are a nut free school, this includes chocolate spread and Nutella.

Visit/ Visitors

We are in the process of planning a trip for next half term. A letter will come out about this trip in due course. We will also be visiting the park to look for signs of Autumn this half term. We have a Foundation Stage coffee morning/ phonics session booked in the diary- a letter will be sent out about this very soon.

Class Soft Toys

Each week two children are selected to take home one of our soft toys for the weekend. Each soft toy has a diary which you and your child can complete and let us know what you have been up to. We aim to promote a love of reading so each bear has its own book for you to share with your child and a toothbrush! We have added a book review sheet too so please talk to your child about the book, fill in a book review and stick it in the diary. Please make sure they are returned on the following Monday so your child can share the diary with the rest of the class.

How You Can Support At Home

Every week we will send out a weekly overview. This is an excellent way for you to find out what activities the children will be doing during the week and ways you can support your child at home. To support your child at home this term you can talk to them about themselves- what they look like, how they have changed since they were a baby, where they live and their family.

You can also continue to add to your child's learning journal at any time. Magic moment sheets and wow vouchers are available for you to take on the classroom door or you can share them on SEESAW.

Can I take this opportunity to remind all parents/carers that we ask for a voluntary contribution of £1 per week to spend on snack and consumables to enrich classroom activities. Please can this money be paid via school gateway. This contribution will be £14 for the term.

If anyone would like to help in class please see us. All parents need to have a DBS check. Please see Mrs McPartland in the office to collect the relevant paper work. If you need to see either teacher at any time to answer any questions or talk about any concerns you may have please arrange an appointment with Mrs McPartland at the school office. We will endeavour to see you as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully

Sarah Whisker (Ruby class) & Miss Alice Peacock (Coral class) Class Teachers

