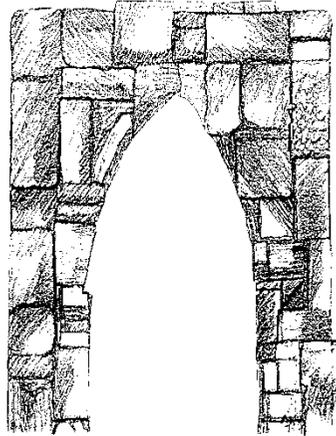


Priory Primary School



Welcome to Reception Class – September 2020

Dear Parents

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you and your family to Priory Primary School. This is the beginning of what we hope will be a rewarding and happy journey for your child. It is our aim to provide exciting learning opportunities, inspiring a love of learning. Whether you are a new parent or one whose links are more established, we hope you will find the information in this handbook useful. We look forward to developing a successful partnership with you so that your child can work with confidence and experience success. If you ever have any concerns about your child, do come and talk with us.

Parents as Partners

We recognise the importance of parents and carers in a child's development; as parents, you are your child's first educator and we greatly value any input, opinions and information you can share with us about your child's learning and progress.

This booklet will give you and your child(ren) a little information about what happens at school.

To support this partnership throughout the year, we use a website called Tapestry to create an online learning journey to document your child's progress during their Reception year.

We provide many opportunities for parents and carers to take an active part in their child's education. These include:-

- Reception reading introduction evening
- Parents' evenings which are held during the Autumn and Spring Terms. In the Summer Term, all parents receive a written report which details their child's achievements during the year.
- Termly celebration assemblies and open mornings.
- Weekly school newsletters.
- Class assemblies led by each class in the Summer Term, sharing the class' success and topic work.
- Termly curriculum letters.

Most importantly, our family ethos is central to our school and, as such, we operate an 'open door policy' where parents are encouraged to meet with staff to discuss any concerns at the earliest opportunity. Class teachers are happy to chat at the beginning or end of the day, or an appointment can be booked if a longer discussion is needed.



Preparing your child for school

It will make starting school much easier and happier for your child if they are independent and can do many things for themselves, including:-

- Recognise their own name in small script letters – if you are helping your child write their name, please encourage capital letter for the first letter and correct letter formation if possible.
- Undress and dress themselves.
- Do up buttons and zips on school clothes.
- Put shoes on correct feet and do them up.
- Carry out simple commands, eg, “put this book back on that shelf”.
- Know when and how to use a tissue to clean their nose.
- Open their PE bag and take things in and out of it.
- Learn to put things away when they have finished using them.
- Use the toilet without help and know when to ask to go to the toilet. Flush the toilet after use and wash hands after using the toilet.
- Change shoes and PE pumps
- Hang up their own coats and PE bags
- Turn clothes so that they are not inside out.

Other useful things you can do:-

- Encourage your child to be as independent as possible, even if it takes far longer for them to get ready.
- Get them used to a routine of reasonably early to bed and up early enough for you and your child to have a stress-free time to get ready for school.



What can I do with my child before they start school?

- Complete the starting school in Essex booklet that we have sent to you.
- Give your child as many varied experiences as possible, drawing, painting, cooking, singing, creating, playing games, jigsaws, etc.
- Get them used to pens, felt tips, pencils, crayons, chalks, paints, play dough, scissors.
- Share stories, books, poems and rhymes together.
- Look for signs and letters in the environment and talk about what they say and what they mean.
- Count everything and share things out.
- Look for numbers on buses, signs and houses.
- Give lots of counting experiences of objects e.g. count out 4 cups for 4 people, pointing as you count.
- Talk to them and answer their questions (where possible). Name familiar things, talk about what they see around them and talk about what things are used for.

General Information

The Reception classroom is located in a separate purpose built classroom in the school grounds and provides the children with rich play based learning experiences.

Timings

School starts at 8:55. The children should be brought to the Reception class from 8:45 onwards and handed over to the school staff. We support children to quickly develop the independence needed to organise themselves each morning and ask parents to support this by leaving their child at the door.

The day ends at 3:10 for the Reception class and the children will be brought to the school gate.

School Dinners

For the children's first few weeks of staying for lunch, your child will be assigned a Year 6 buddy who will stay with the children in the hall and take them out onto the playground for their lunchtime play, as well as being a familiar face on the playground throughout the year. Hot school dinners will be available for those who wish to have them and these are free to children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. A dinner menu will be sent out weekly for you to select a dinner with your child at home.

Snack Time

We are part of the 'Schools Fruit & Vegetable Scheme' so your child will not need to bring a morning snack. We are continuing to promote healthy eating throughout the school so a healthy lunch box is also encouraged, please no fizzy drinks, nuts or sweets. Milk is available through 'Cool Milk'. We enjoy tasting and cooking lots of different food as well as sharing a birthday cake celebration and we ask for a baking donation each week of £1.



Playtime

The children will join in at playtimes with the rest of the school, accompanied by their buddies at the beginning of the year.

School Uniform and PE Clothes

Uniform:

- grey skirt or pinafore, trousers or shorts,
- summer blue & white check dress
- blue polo shirt with school logo available from Patricia's in South Woodham Ferrers)
- royal blue sweatshirt/cardigan (with school logo from Patricia's)
- black shoes (trainers or boots may be brought into school to wear outside at break and lunch)

PE:

- black shorts,
- white t-shirt
- trainers and plimsolls
- track suit

Other things that your child will need for school

Coat – we play outside all year round and use the bikes even when it is raining so please make sure your child brings a coat to school every day. A warm showerproof coat for winter time and a lightweight showerproof coat for the summer term.

Wellies – for the outdoor classroom are helpful, please name both boots.



Sun hat– is essential in the summer months as there is little shade on the field; please apply sun cream at home, extra can be sent in but must be applied by the child.

Name tags – everything your child brings into school should be clearly named, especially uniform, PE kit, lunch boxes and water bottles.

PE bag – a named drawstring bag helps keep things tidy and can easily hang on the peg.

Lunch box – most children use a standard lunch box, no glass bottles or jars please.

Water bottles – brought in every day, named with a safety cap.



Money -When it is necessary to bring snack money into school, it is important that it is in an envelope marked with the child's name.

Tell the School...

Always keep the school informed of health and other matters, which may affect your child in school.

If your child is unwell, please notify the school office (01245 225450) by 8:30. If you have made arrangements for somebody different to pick your child up at the end of school, please inform the office staff.

Learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Reception is where the fun and excitement about learning at school begins! Through both child-initiated learning and adult-led learning, their development is observed and recorded and the classroom environment and our teaching sessions are adapted to meet their needs and levels of development. The Reception class is part of the Early Years Foundation Stage, which begins at birth and ends when they finish their Reception year. It is based on four principles:-

1. **The Unique Child** – Every child is a unique child and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.
2. **Positive Relationships** – Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.
3. **Enabling Environments** – Children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and carers.
4. **Learning and Development** – Children develop and learn in different ways. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

The first three sections are woven throughout the learning environment and taught curriculum and are very closely linked. The fourth section, Learning and Development, is the taught curriculum and consists of the following:-

Prime Areas:

- Communication and Language – listening and attention, speaking and understanding
- Physical Development – moving and handling, health and self-care
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development – self-confidence and self-awareness, managing feelings and behaviour and making relationships

Specific Areas:

- Literacy – reading and writing
- Mathematics – number and shape, space and measures
- Understanding the World – people and communities, the world and technology
- Expressive Arts and Design – exploring and using media and materials, being imaginative

Characteristics of Effective Learning

- Playing and exploring
- Active learning
- Creating and thinking critically

What will my child bring home?

As soon as your child starts Reception, they will receive a reading book to share and read with you at home. Please try to read with your child each night – it really does make a difference! Talk about the story, what could happen next, how do you think they feel? Please make comments or sign in the reading log section. At this time we will commence our phonic programme – Read, Write, Inc. We will introduce the sounds quickly through the first half of the year, in a strict order, which enables the children to begin sounding out words very early. The children are asked to bring items into class linked to the daily sound. They will also be given key words to learn. Your child will change their book twice a week.

As well as a reading book, your child will choose their own library book. They will have chosen the book themselves to share with you.

They will also receive a maths game weekly. We hope you will play these games with your child to reinforce their early maths skills in a fun way.