



Head Teacher : Mrs D Reynolds - BSc Hons QTS NPQH

*Aim High*

*Never Give Up*

*Follow Your Dream*

*Lead By Example*

September 2013

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Reception! We are very much looking forward to getting to know you and your children throughout this year. We really enjoyed meeting and visiting you back in July; a big thank you to all of you who supported your children's first steps into their new primary school! Below is some information regarding the learning that your child will be involved with during this half term.

### **INTERGRATED CURRICULUM**

The first learning in this half term is 'Ourselves'. We will be looking at:

- My body
- Keeping Healthy
- Senses
- My feelings
- Being a good friend

We will continue to incorporate your child's interests in to our planning so please let us know if your child has a new hobby or interest that we can all learn about! We are looking forward to reading all the exciting facts you have written in your 'All About Me' books.

### **HOME LEARNING**

Your child will receive a weekly activity in their Learning Logs, this will be given out on a Wednesday and should be returned on a Tuesday. Every Tuesday, one Learning Log per class is chosen to be shared in the whole school assembly on Thursday. Your child will also be awarded House Points for the work produced in their Learning Logs. The way in which the work is presented is entirely up to the child.

In addition to this, your child can choose to undertake a half-term home learning project, which could be the focus of their homework for the beginning of the term. This project is not compulsory, but is a fantastic way to involve family and friends in their learning. This can involve the whole family and should be linked to our topic theme; the more creative the better!

### **READ, WRITE, INC**

At Norwood we have adopted Read, Write, Inc as our phonics program to teach children early reading and writing skills. The children will learn a new sound each day, revising those taught at the end of every five days. We will soon be sending out a booklet to help you to support your child's writing with the sounds we have learned so far highlighted. We ask that you work through the sounds that we have covered so far in class and wait until we have completed other new sounds before completing those pages of the booklet. Working through these booklets is completely voluntary but when work is completed in them please send the books back into school so that we can share the children's work with the class and enjoy their success.

When writing the letters you may wish to vary your approach. You might choose to help your child to write the letters using a paintbrush, in sand or simply by making the movement with your child's finger in the air. Please support your child to learn and revise the sounds.



This home learning does not have a due date but will be reviewed regularly. Ideally, children should practise the sounds for 5-10 minutes per day. To support your child with this you could go on a sound walk, hunting for objects that start with the same sound, practice writing sounds with your child using a variety of materials, make sound pictures, spot sounds on everyday objects (car registration plates, cereal boxes) or blend familiar sounds together to make words.

### **CORE LEARNING SKILLS**

During this half term our learning skills will focus on 'Learning with Others'. Reception will focus on these 'I can' statements:

- I can look at those people around me speaking and listen quietly as they speak
- I can wait to take turns to speak
- I can put objects and materials away when I finish an activity / when I am asked
- I can identify a place to put my belongings in / away

To support your child's learning you may wish to follow some of these learning skills at home.

### **PE**

Our PE time will be Monday mornings; however we may choose other opportunities throughout the week for Physical Development. Depending upon the weather we will be using indoor and outdoor facilities and so it would be ideal for your child to have their full PE kit in school at all times. Jewellery is not permitted in school however stud earrings are acceptable if they are covered with plasters provided from home for PE lessons.

### **LOST PROPERTY**

It is vital that all items of your child's clothing are named, including shoes. As personal items are difficult to recognise, it will enable members of the team to identify your child's clothing immediately. If unnamed items of clothing are found, they will be placed in the Lost Property box in the children's cloakroom.

### **SCHOOL COMMUNICATION**

Please check that the office has your correct e-mail address if you have chosen to receive newsletters electronically. Also check with your e-mail account that school emails are enabled and not being filtered into the spam folder. If you prefer to receive a paper copy of the letters please arrange this with the office. Parent information is also placed on the notice board outside our classroom. Please ensure that you check this regularly. We will happily give copies of this information to parents who are unable to pick up or drop off their child at school. Whenever letters are sent out with reply slips, we will endeavour to add spare paper copies to the notice board. We aim to reduce the amount of paper used by sending letters through email, however we understand that printers are not always reliable and therefore you may also use email to reply to those messages to school. If you wish to speak to members of the Reception Team, we are available from 8:45-8:55 am and 3:15-3:25 pm. For longer discussions please make an appointment at the office.

We thank you once again for a fantastic initial meet!

Yours sincerely

The Reception Team

Mr Alletson

Miss Greenwood

Miss Odain

Mrs Reynolds

