



Head Teacher: Mrs D Reynolds - BSc Hons QTS NPQH

Aim High

Never Give Up

Follow Your Dream

Lead By Example

September 2014

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Reception! We are very much looking forward to getting to know you and your child throughout this year. We really enjoyed meeting and visiting you back in July; this was a great chance for us to get to know the children personally and have an understanding of their likes and dislikes. A big thank you to all of you who supported your children's first steps into Norwood! This letter will detail some information regarding the learning that your child will be involved with during this half term.

MAIN LEARNING THEME

The first learning in this half term is 'All About Me'. This involves looking at ourselves and our lives as individuals and how we differ from the people around us. We will be looking at:

- My body
- Our families
- Senses
- Our emotions
- Kind friendship

We aim 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!

LITERACY – 'READ, WRITE, INC.'

At Norwood we have adopted Read, Write, Inc. as our phonics program to teach children early reading and writing skills. You are invited to a Read, Write Inc. information session to learn more about the program and how it is delivered to your child. If you wish to attend, please join us on **Tuesday 23rd September 2014 at 5:00pm.**

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 support your child's reading and writing of the sounds at home. 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.

MATHEMATICS AND BUSY TIME

Mathematics is delivered as a taught lesson every day for an hour. This half term we will be focusing on numbers up to 10 to enhance your child's counting skills and understanding the value of individual numbers. We will also explore 2D shapes that are in our environment and we encourage this to be continued at home. You can do this by going on shape walks and pointing out different 2D shapes in your home, e.g. square for window and circle for wheel. Further math learning will be continued throughout our free flow time which is called 'Busy Time'. During this time, your child will have access to all resources that the classroom provides and will learn through independent play. The Reception classroom is designed to provide learning across different areas, for example; an area for maths, creativity, reading and writing.

PE

Our PE time will be Wednesday 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 on Monday morning and ready to take home on a Friday.



The kit can be kept in a bag on your child's peg. The PE kit uniform includes:

- A PE kit bag
- Plain white t-shirt
- Black/Grey shorts
- Plimsoll/trainers

Please ensure that all items of clothing that are in school are **clearly named** to avoid any confusion when changing. We ask that all long hair is tied back on a PE day. Jewellery is not permitted in school however if any earrings are unable to be removed, these should be covered by plasters provided from home.

HOME LEARNING

Home Learning at Norwood is completed through 'Half Termly Learning Projects'. These projects are not compulsory, however will have a great benefit on your child's school learning if completed. In July, your child was given an 'All About Me' book. This is an ongoing book that will be used throughout the year and provides you with an opportunity to share some of the exciting and interesting things that your child does out of school. The project is to begin using these books so we are able to share your child's out of school activities with the rest of their class. You may wish to include photos, drawings, paintings and even encourage some writing! Once completed, please put the book on top of the children's tray in the classroom and feel free to take it once again if there is something you wish to add. If you do not have an All About Me book, please inform a member of the Reception team.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

A reminder that all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children are entitled to free school meals. The school meal providers, M&B Caterers, provide either a hot school meal or a 'Funky Five' cold meal option. If you wish for your child to have a school meal, this must be booked in advance. All menus can be found at www.norwood-school.co.uk

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.

ORBIT

As you may have been informed through the New to Norwood sessions, the Reception team use a program called 'Orbit' to collect high quality observations of your child's learning and development. These observations can be instantly shared with you if you have opted to sign up to your child's account. If you returned the reply slip with a correct email address, then you should find an invitation waiting for you in your inbox (please check your 'spam' folder if unsure). Once an observation has been uploaded, you will receive email notifications to invite you to read. If you have any issues regarding any part of using, signing up or accessing Orbit, please speak to a member of the Reception team. If you do not have access to Orbit, your child's observations will be stored in their 'Learning Journal' and 'Work Portfolio', which you can access in the child's classroom when you wish.

We thank you once again for a fantastic initial meet!

Yours sincerely,

The Reception Team

Mr Alletson
Class Teacher

Miss Greenwood
Teaching Assistant

Mrs Reynolds
Head Teacher

