

# MARY EXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs Angharad Paterson  
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Lianne Taylor

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5<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Parent & Carers

Welcome to Reception. I hope you have enjoyed a restful summer and your child is ready for the busy, but exciting year ahead. The information in this letter is intended to advise you of the expectations in Reception. We would like to develop a working partnership with you to enable your child to reach their full potential. The Reception team are here to help and support you and your child at Mary Exton School.

Class Teachers – Mrs Lianne Taylor (Mon-Wed) and Miss Hannah Isher (Thur-Fri)

Early Years Practitioner – Mrs Sandra Duell

Teaching Assistant – Mrs Rachel Wallace

## Dates for the Diary

I am inviting you all to a **Reading and Phonics Information Evening** on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, further information to follow. During this meeting we will be able to share with you details about how phonics, reading and rainbow words are taught at Mary Exton and how you can support your child at home. We will be able to answer any questions you might have during the session.

We would also very much like to invite you to join us for an afternoon of **Autumn Crafts** on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm. It will be a fun afternoon where you can get creative with your child and take home their creations.

## Parent Surgery

Please encourage your child to share concerns with us during the school day, as we would try to resolve them immediately, rather than going home with worries. If you have any problems please book an appointment for our Tuesday afternoon parent surgery. However small the problem, it is always better to deal with any concerns immediately.

## Autumn Term

During the first few weeks the children will be learning the routine of the day, how to use the resources available in the classroom and getting to know each other. As well as following the children's interests we will also focus on celebrations, festivals and seasons. To start the Autumn Term, we will be following the theme of 'superheroes'. If your child has any books that are related to this topic that they would be happy to share at school they are welcome to bring them in. Please ensure they are clearly named in case they get muddled with our own books. Please do not bring in any action figures or dressing up clothes as we will provide these.

Please find attached a copy of the Reception Curriculum Map that provides an overview of the skills that will be covered in each area of learning.

### WOW Moments

In Reception we collate the children's work into a Learning Journal. We welcome any home learning that the children may do, as well as 'WOW Moments'. These are an opportunity for the children to share something they have achieved or done outside of school that has impressed you for example, learning to ride a bike or swim a length or even helping for example, being really polite or helpful at home. WOW moment sheets will be sent home at the start of each term in the children's book bags.

### Celebration from Home

At Mary Exton we are keen to share celebrations that are important to the children and their families. Your child will be sent home at the start of term with a Celebration from Home sheet. If you take a photo of your child enjoying a celebration such as a family birthday, wedding, christening or religious festival please stick it to the sheet with a brief explanation and return it to school. Your child can share these with the other children and they may be displayed and then added to their Learning Journal.

### Class Teddy

In Reception we have a monkey soft toy who will be sent home with a child each week on a Friday. The children will be voting on a name for the monkey next week. Each child will get a turn to take the monkey home for the week. The monkey brings home a diary for you to write, stick photos or draw pictures of some of the things he has done. Your child will then have the opportunity to share their adventures with the other children. The children really enjoy this and if you do not have time to print out photographs then please do not worry a few notes jotted down and a picture drawn by your child is fine.

### Other important Year R information

- It is important that the children have access to water throughout the day. Please ensure that your child brings a named, sports top bottle of plain water each day. Take care if putting bottles into book bags in the morning, as leaks can spoil other items in the bag.
- Please label all their belongings: shoes, coats, bags, spare clothes, hats and bottles.
- As part of a government initiative on healthy eating, children will be offered a choice of fruit for a morning snack. You therefore do not need to send in a snack.
- Reporter of the Week is on Fridays. Every child will have two opportunities to be the Reporter of the week during the year. They are selected by the children each week and your child will bring home a card explaining what they need to do and bring in at that time.
- Please can named wellies be sent in as soon as possible as they do get used a great deal when the weather starts to change.
- Children are often keen to learn to write their name and if they are interested this should be encouraged. Please remember to teach them to write their name in lower case except for the initial letter.
- Please remember toys from home are not allowed in school. They may go missing or get muddled up with our own toys.

### Educational Visits/Workshops

Each term we look at the appropriateness of planning educational visits and workshops to support our topic areas. During the Autumn Term we plan to take an Autumn walk to Purwell Park where the children will enjoy a scavenger hunt whilst searching for signs of the season. Further information will follow shortly. We will also carry out trips during the Spring and Summer terms and the approximate cost will be no more than £20 for each trip. Further details will be sent to you when I have confirmed the bookings. We are only able to run the visits and workshops with the support of your voluntary contributions. We hope this allows you to plan in advance.

If you have any queries or worries please do not hesitate to contact the office and arrange an appointment.

We look forward to working in partnership with you and your child.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Lianne Taylor and Miss Hannah Isher

Class Teachers