

TEMPLEWOOD SCHOOL
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Interim Headteacher: Mrs M Abley
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs R Howes

14th September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Reception, Hawthorn Class. 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 Year R. The Reception team would like to develop a working partnership with you to enable your child to reach their full potential. We are here to help and support you and your child at Templewood School.

Class Teacher – Mr Christopher Westwood
Early Years Practitioner – Mrs Rachel Marshall (Mornings)
Early Years Practitioner – Mrs Dee Debaere (Afternoons Monday – Wednesday)
Early Years Practitioner – Mrs Kim Bates (Afternoons Wednesday – Friday)
Teaching Assistant – Miss Christie Winn

Reading Meeting

I would like to invite you all to a 'Reading Meeting' on Monday 24th September between 2.45 – 3.10pm. During this meeting, I will be able to share with you details about phonics and reading and writing in Year R. I will also do my best to answer any questions you might have during the session.

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 morning 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 as well as getting to know each other. Foundation Stage children (Nursery & Reception) follow a creative curriculum. As well as following the children's interests' we will also focus on celebrations, festivals and seasons. During the Autumn Term, we will be following the theme of 'Ourselves'. As part of our topic we will be encouraging children to talk about their families and how we are all special, albeit different too.

Family Photos

Please could you send in a family photo or a photo of your home that you would be happy for us to put on display in the Home Corner of the classroom?

Library

On Thursdays each class has access to the Library to choose a book they wish to take home. This is a great opportunity for children to access a range of texts of their choosing. Please make sure they bring back any borrowed books they wish to change on a Thursday.

Home Learning

Please take home the Magic Moment Sheets located in the cloakroom. If your child does something special at home, for example got a swimming badge or went on a trip, we would love for you to share it with us. When you have filled the form in please bring them back to school we will talk about them with your child and then add them to your child's Learning Journal. Later in the term we will be introducing you to our online journal system so that you are able to contribute digitally. A separate letter will follow shortly.

Beary Friendly

Beary Friendly (soft toy) will be going home with one child every Friday, starting in a few weeks' time, to spend some time with them at home over the weekend. Beary will be bringing 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 an opportunity to share Beary's news with the other children. 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 will be more than ample.

Handwriting

Children are often keen to learn to write their name and other words. 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. If you would like to see our school handwriting style, please come and see us.

Clothing

Please can **all** children have a spare pair of pants / trousers and clothes in the event of any occasional toileting accidents or if they become dirty from being outside. These need to be kept in a separate bag (e.g. Templewood PE bag) on their pegs. Spare clothes are not to be kept in book-bags please as this makes it difficult for us to find letters.

As the weather can be a bit changeable and we like to get outside as much as possible, please could your child have a **waterproof coat**, a **pair of waterproof trousers** and a **pair of wellies**. The Reception outdoor area has a mud kitchen and a digging space. The waterproof clothing will help protect uniform during the wetter months. Please can you make sure that all belongings are clearly labelled label all belongings

The children need a pair of indoor school shoes (not plimsolls) which will be kept in their shoe boxes at school. Children will then change from their outdoor shoes into their indoor shoes when they arrive at school. If the weather is dry, we will also use these in the outdoor area. If it is wet, we will change into wellies.

PE

Our PE day in Year R will be on a Wednesday afternoon so children will need PE kits after half term. This consists of a plain white t-shirt and black sports shorts. They do not need PE trainers until the summer term.

Show and Tell

Three children per week will be selected to do; you will be informed of this at the beginning of the previous week. If you have any special family celebrations or days out planned, please let us know in advance and we will try to make sure that your child has Show and Tell afterwards. Please can I request that children do not bring toys in for 'Show and Tell' but instead something of interest - something they have made at home, a souvenir from a day out, a photograph or anything else that they would like to show to the class beginning with the initial sound requested each week.

Food and Drink

Children have access to fresh water at all times when they are in the classroom and when they are eating their lunch. If you would like to send in a named bottle of plain water for them to take onto the playground after lunch then you are welcome to do so.

Children will be offered a piece of fruit or vegetable for a morning snack. You therefore do not need to send in a snack daily. Please ensure any packed lunches do not include fizzy drinks, chocolate or other sweets. Please also be aware that a number of children in the school suffer from nut allergies, so please do not send nuts into school.

Birthdays

Birthdays are celebrated in the class and some families like to bring in a treat for the children in the class. As a healthy school, we ask that the treat be something like a special pencil, a box of raisins, or you can donate a 'birthday' book to Templewood (the office will issue a birthday book sticker to show whose birthday the book was purchased for. As a school we do not give out sweets or home-baking due to the number of different allergies.

Book Bags

If you need to pass on absence letters, notes concerning pick-up details or other straightforward matters please put these in your child's book bag which should come and go with them daily. All school letters are sent to you in this way. The children will start to bring home reading books shortly. Book bags can be purchased via the school office or second hand from the TSA.

Reminders

Please make sure that toys from home are not brought to school; they may go missing, get broken or get muddled up with Templewood's own toys.

Educational Visits/Workshops

Each term we look at the appropriateness of planning educational visits and workshops to support our topic areas. 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. I 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.

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

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Christopher Westwood
Year R Class Teacher