



Welcome Letter Pre-Kindergarten

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to the Foundation class. These notes are intended to answer some of your questions, but are only a general guide. Please do not hesitate to ask us any other questions that you may have.

Aims:

- To develop confidence and self esteem.
- To develop independence in selecting activities.
- To develop fine and gross motor skills; to enable them to hold writing implements correctly, to cut and stick.
- To sequence activities, so correct steps are followed.
- To develop socially and emotionally, i.e. to know right from wrong, treat themselves and others with respect.
- Learn to recognise letters and words in both English and Hebrew.

Learning in the foundation stage

There are seven areas and aspects of learning in the foundation stage; these are:

1. Mathematical Development
2. Communication and Language
3. Literacy
4. Personal, Social and Emotional
5. Knowledge and Understanding
6. Expressive Arts
7. Physical Development

Our class will reflect this by having designated area, which your child will be taught how to utilise.

Personal, Social and Emotional

At Nancy Reuben Primary School, your child's safety is our first priority. Our aim is to teach the children that they can confide in their teachers when something or someone upsets them. We teach them the importance of expressing your feelings, and aim to find the most suitable way for each child to express themselves. Each week we closely observe a different child, and we will inform you when it is your child. Parents are welcome to arrange a short meeting to discuss the focused observations from throughout the week.

To ensure smooth running of the unit and the safety and well being of your children we ask you to follow these procedures:

- Please do not approach staff during class time, as we must focus all of our attention on the children. If there is anything you would like to discuss with the teacher, please make an appointment.
- If you wish to discuss your child's progress or any problems, please make an appointment with the teacher in charge of your child's class.

All children need a routine and boundaries both in school and at home. They will respect parents, teachers and peers if they operate within these boundaries. We would appreciate your support in promoting respectful behaviour.

Daily Routine

- Before your child enters the class could you please ensure they use the toilet.
- You must ensure your child is in the class at **8:45am**. We cannot take responsibility of your child before 8:45am.
- Children **MUST** be collected promptly at the end of the day. **Half days finish at 12:30pm and full days at 3:30pm**. We must be informed if different arrangements for collecting have been made.
- Please do not allow them to bring personal belongings.
- The children are allowed nosh only on Rosh Chodesh (pretzels, crisps, chocolate, NO SWEETS).
- Snacks am/pm; please send a piece of fruit or vegetable where possible. We are trying to promote healthy eating and our policy is not to allow any form of nosh. If you have to cut the fruit, please send it in a labelled tupperware container, as plastic bags can be dangerous for the children. Children staying all day need two snacks each packed in a different container, one for the morning and one for the afternoon. Food must have a hechsher (an authorised Kashrut stamp on the item).
- Notification will be given of early Friday closing times in the winter.
- All boys over 3 should wear kippot and tzitzit.
- Please empty your child's tray at the end of each day.
- Please check the parent's notice board daily, as this is where we will leave important information.
- We are keen to take a positive approach with the children and reward good deeds and Mitzvot. Could you please therefore send in a mitzvah note for your child when he/she does something nice at home; we share all of these notes during circle time and have found this to be very encouraging for the children.
- Please let us know if your child has any allergies or medical conditions. We are not allowed to administer any medication without written permission from you. **This is a NUT FREE school.**

- All medication must be labelled and dated with instructions on how to administer. We are only allowed to administer medicines once a day – children who need to take medication more than once a day, should stay at home.
- Please do not send your children into school with streaming colds, bad coughs, eye infections, vomiting/diarrhoea, head lice or any other illnesses. Please inform us if your child is ill with infectious illness.
- To enable us to give your child the best possible attention, please always let us know if there are any changes in your circumstances at home, which may affect your child, enabling us to understand any changes in behaviour or attitude. All information will be treated with the strictest of confidence.
- Could you please send in a box of tissues, baby wipes and nappies/pull-ups (if necessary) each term.
- Children staying full day will need a cot sheet and blanket for rest time. We ask that you take them home over every half term to wash.

Settling In

At the beginning of term, parents are encouraged to stay with their children until they settle. On the first day new parents should come in for half an hour to an hour only. We will work with you and your child to stay a little longer each day until your child is ready to remain without you. This may last a week for children who have not attended a nursery before.

Shabbat Parties

Each week, Shabbat Abba and Imma are chosen to host our Shabbat party. We are happy for you to join your child's Shabbat party in the second half of the year. This will make your child very happy and proud. We will notify you in advance of this.

Boys should bring in grape juice and Challah.

Girls should bring in small cups and biscuits.

Birthdays

We will send you a birthday form before your child's birthday asking when you would like to have a party as well as giving you details of what to send in. Parents are invited to donate a present to the class; the teacher will let you know what the class would like to receive.

Please send in a plain cake from a Kosher bakery. Home-made cakes are not permitted.

Clothes

Please keep a bag with multiple spare clothes on your child's peg (non plastic bag, as these are dangerous and not permitted by Barnet Council). We are very often doing outdoor activities so it is important your child has appropriate clothes.

During **winter**, please send them in with a warm coat, hat, scarf etc. Please send in suitable (warm) spare clothes, and wellington boots.

During **summer**, please send them in with appropriate summer clothes, hats, and sun cream. We often have water play activities outside and it is sometimes necessary to change children when they get too wet, so please make sure any spare clothes are suitable for the hot weather.

Labelling

Please ensure the following are clearly labelled, as this helps us immensely and enables us to locate and return lost property to its rightful owner:

- Lunch box
- Coats and jackets
- Spare sets of clothes
- Sheets and blankets
- Painting aprons

Your child will be well cared for, and we look forward to working with you in this formative part of your child's education. Your child is our priority and we are always available to work together
with the parents of our school