



Welcome to Reception Class

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to Pope Paul Catholic Primary School.

My name is Ms Pemberton (formally Mrs Theo) and I will be your child's teacher for the coming year. Working alongside me in Reception is Mrs Gymer.

Our aim is to work closely with you, in order to fully support and guide your child throughout this important first stage of their school life. The majority of children settle happily into the Reception class, as they are already familiar with the Early Years Foundation Stage setting and routines, having already experienced nursery or playgroup. However, some children may be tearful in the mornings on arrival to school. This can be a normal reaction to experiencing a new environment unknown to them, but please rest assured that most children settle within minutes of their parents leaving the school.

If your child's last early years setting provided you with their learning journey and assessments, please send them into school with your child as soon as possible. The information will be extremely useful to us and will be returned to you as soon as possible. Thank you.

Things to note

- *Each child will have a home reading record book. This will be sent home during the week beginning 27th September. Each child will be allocated a weekly reading day and will take home two reading books to support their learning, together with a weekly activity wallet and a class library book. The reading record book may be used to communicate messages to you and also allow you to provide us with information or ask any questions. We do want to emphasise that you can come and talk to us at any time after school, but the reading record book can be used for less urgent things. It will also provide us with the chance to communicate with any parents that we do not see every day. Please note that communication in this format will only be read on the child's reading day. If you want to relay information to the team but don't want to talk at the classroom door then you are welcome to communicate in note or letter form.*
- *As mentioned in the 'Meet the Teacher' meeting, once we have started the phonics programme, we will be sending home a phonics book. This book will be updated with the new sound daily. Please practise the new sound with your child and revise all other taught sounds as often as possible.*
- *We document your child's learning journey using the online program 'Tapestry'. Once the children are settled, this will be made available for you to view at home and add your own observations and experiences. This will help us to obtain an overall picture of your child's development and is especially useful when we are assessing your child.*
- *If your child is going home with someone other than yourself, we ask that you let us know who will be collecting them, either on the day or in*

advance. If it is an emergency situation then a telephone call will be sufficient. We are unable to let children go home with anyone who has not been named to us in advance.

- *Celebration assembly takes place every Friday at 9.15am. All parents are welcome to attend. If your child is to receive a Gold or Headteacher's award, their name will be in the school newsletter the week before.*
- *We sometimes take part in cooking activities, so please ensure that we are aware of any allergies that your child has.*
- *Please inform the school office of any medical conditions. If your child is asthmatic then please ensure that your child's inhaler is named before it comes into school.*
- ***Please name** all of your children's school clothes (including fruit boxes, water bottles, packed lunch boxes). It would be useful if you could also name their shoes as many of the children will have the same ones.*
- *As we will soon be entering the season of coughs and colds, boxes of tissues will be **very** welcome!*
- *Show and Tell – This will take place on a daily basis according to your child's reading day. Children are welcome to bring in small objects or special items to talk about. (**No toys please**) This can be items that relate to our current topic, letter sounds, visiting places of interest, photographs and own learning they have completed at home.*
- *Morning snack – We have a choice of fruit available at school and the children are encouraged to join in with snack time. However, if you wish to send in a small snack with your child please make sure it is fruit only and put it in a labelled box. These need to be carried into the*

classroom in the morning and not left in school bags. Water is available throughout the day but you are very welcome to send in a named water bottle.

- *Please hand any letters directly to a member of staff as we do not get the chance to go through book bags individually.*
- *We are always in need of boxes and bottles to make models but please note that we can only accept nut free boxes.*
- *Birthdays- Rather than bringing in sweets or cakes to celebrate birthdays, we ask families to buy a book for our school library instead. Your child's name will be entered inside the book and they will get a special mention in the weekly school newsletter.*
- *Please encourage your child to walk into the classroom independently in the morning and organise their own belongings*
- *We like to go outside even though it is sometimes wet & muddy. It would be really useful to have named wellies to put on our welly wall for the whole school year. On hot days, sun cream (applied in the morning at home) and a hat are needed.*

Keep up to date with the fabulous learning that is taking place in our class by looking at our weekly blog on the school's website. Please take the time to comment if possible!

We hope you have found the information useful and look forward to working in partnership with you.

Many Thanks

The Early Years Team

