Welcome to Recreation Road Infant School

We know that you'll have lots of questions about your child starting school and have tried to pre-empt them in this short FAQs document.

Will there be settling in time in September?
There is a carefully thought-out transition timetable created which will reflect the fact that children will need time and space to build relationships with other children and adults in school and begin to become familiar with school routines and expectations.

Will they be in the same class as their friends?
When you returned your child's forms to us, you named one or more of their friends. Your child should be with at least one of those named children. We have also taken advice from Nurseries and Pre-Schools about your child's friendships.

Can my child be at school part time?
Children need to start school full-time from the beginning of the term after their fifth birthday. Some of you have already indicated that you would like your child to be part-time initially. If they are part time, they will need to be picked up at 11.45 am from main reception each day, before lunch. We are unable to offer different collection times. If you are unsure about whether a part-time place would be best for your child, please chat to the class teachers about it. We find that most children can cope well with full-time schooling and love being with their friends at school.

Will adults help my child if they need it?
We will. We would <u>never</u> let your child feel uncared for if they were hurt or upset.

Will we be able to meet the adults in my child's class before we start school?
Yes. We will be inviting you to a ten minute meeting, face to face, before the children start school. You can sign up for a meeting, on the open evening in July.

How many adults are in each class?
Ordinarily there will be a Teacher and Teaching Assistant in each class. Sometimes there will be additional adults as well, but this is an exception, rather than the rule. Teachers and Teaching Assistants may work full time or part time, so will be working different days of the week. You will know who is working on which days when your child starts school.

What do the adults do?
Adults in class work to ensure that children feel happy, safe and valued. They chat and play with the children, make observations and spend time thinking about and planning next steps in their learning and skills development. We actively encourage children's ideas and sometimes a whole area of learning can be inspired by something a child brings in or tells us! Adults in each class work together as a team.

What do we do if we want to share an achievement with the class team?
We love to hear about achievements and proud moments which you have at home. We will give you a 'Have you heard' speech bubble to share and celebrate anything your child has done – from helping in the garden, to riding a bike! Bring them into class and we can add it to their Learning Journey for you after we have shared it with the class.

When will my child learn to read?
We believe in reading for pleasure! We encourage you to share books with your children and enjoy the reading experience – this is the most important thing that you can do to help your child to read! We will have some picture books for you to borrow so you can have fun reading them! We will start teaching phonics in September and will give you more reading information at that stage.

What happens if I am not picking up my child?
If someone that we may not know is going to collect your child from school, then please let us know and we will write it in the 'Going Home Book' along with a contact number for that person. We are unable to send children home with adults we do not know, and need to have confirmation from you that your child could go home with that adult – a note in the book is much easier than an urgent phone call! If there are any last minute changes please call the office to let us know and they will get a message to us.

Do I need to label everything?
Yes please! It's *so* important that your child's clothing and belongings are labelled with their name. Children can become really distressed if they can't find their things and tracking items down is much easier if they are named. It's also really helpful in the mornings if your child puts their book bag in their tray, lunchbox on the shelf and water bottle in the box. If these items are left in rucksacks or bags children often don't know that they have them!

What happens if my child is unwell or hurts themselves?
If your child is unwell and is not coming to school, please phone the school office to let us know as soon as possible. If they become unwell or develop a high temperature at school then we will call you or one of your emergency contacts.

Please make sure that we have up to date contact numbers for you in case we ever need to send your child home poorly. We will always inform you of any significant injuries that happen at school, but little bumps and tumbles happen quite often and are taken care of within school.
Please note that if your child has been sick or has diarrhoea, our school policy is to keep them off school for 48 hours after the last incident.

Do they need to wear uniform?
We do not have a uniform but we do have items with the school logo, including t-shirts and sweatshirts that you can purchase from www.myclothing.com. Children spend their time doing all sorts of things at school, from mixing up cakes in the mud kitchen, to making play-dough creatures and splashing in coloured water – they get messy very quickly at school, so *please* don't dress your child in their most special clothes!

Please could you make sure that your child has spare clothes at school for when they do get soaked with water or caked in mud or have the occasional accident. Please also include a spare carrier bag with your child's spare clothes. A parent has suggested waterproof reusable bags which are available from Amazon. Children need to be able to manage getting changed and going to the toilet independently at school, so please bear this in mind when thinking about buckles, laces, belts, tricky zips and buttons. Your child will need to wear suitable clothing and footwear on PE days.

Do the children go outside?

Yes we do. We like to be outside and we go outside daily. Please make sure that your child has wellies in school at all times! We use the outdoor classroom and outdoor areas in around the school in all weathers, so please make sure that your child has suitable clothing for the different points in the year! We also have Forest School once a week and your child will need to wear clothing that is easy to climb in. We won't be starting Forest School straight away though – we'll let you know as soon as we do!

Can we use the Outdoor Classroom & Play Equipment before and after school?

The area outside our classrooms is our 'Outdoor Classroom'; it is a learning area very different from a playground or park. We therefore ask that you do not allow your children or siblings to use the play equipment in the paddock before or after school – thank you!

Can my child bring toys to school?

We actively discourage children bringing toys into school as they can be easily lost or broken, causing a lot of distress. Families find it very useful to be able to say to their child that toys aren't allowed in school, as it avoids those last minute disputes when you're trying to leave the house! We do, however encourage them to bring things in to show the class that will enhance learning or that they are particularly proud of e.g. a certificate, a postcard they've been sent, something interesting that they've found on a walk, a book that they can read.

Do we need to bring in snacks and water bottles?

School provides a healthy snack for each child, either fruit or vegetables. Please bring in a **named** water bottle. Please only fill it with water, NOT juice or squash to save teeth and also our resources when the bottle inevitably gets spilt!

What do they need for lunch?

All children here are entitled to a free school lunch and the Reception children eat together. The majority of families take advantage of this and we recommend giving it a try – even the pickiest eaters will give it a go when their friends are tucking in! However, if your child really doesn't enjoy the school meal, they may bring a packed lunch. We encourage them to manage their food independently, so please practise use of knives and forks/opening of packets over the holidays. If your child has medical dietary needs, you will need to complete a special diet registration form which is available at the school office or www.norsecatering.co.uk and we will also need a letter from your doctor or consultant to support this. Please give this to the office as soon as possible so the lunches can be organised.

How do we know what is happening at school?

We will email weekly, so please make sure we have an email address for you that is checked regularly (and give us multiple addresses if both parents would like to receive it). We will have a show and share event termly, to invite you in to see your child's Learning Journey books.

Do you have other events throughout the year?
We typically have a range of events to which families are invited into school to learn more and share in school life. These include Reading Cafes, Harvest Nibbles, Phonics workshop, Christmas Show, Sports Day.
> Please note that some of these events will not be suitable for younger siblings, but we will endeavour to give you plenty of notice so you can arrange childcare.

What do the Learning Journeys look like?
Learning journeys are an important part of tracking children's progress. At Recreation Road, we feel it is important to document significant pieces of learning, rather than creating a scrap book of all work. The amount of work in each book may vary greatly. You are welcome to look through their books.

What can we do before they start school?
Just have fun and enjoy playing and sharing books and stories. Being able to write their own name supports independence and being able to match their hard work to the owner. Also supporting them to be independent with their toileting would be a great help so we can spend more time supporting their learning rather than in the toilet. We expect some children to have occasional toilet accidents and we will help them with changing.

We hope this has answered some of your questions.

Have a lovely summer and we look forward to seeing you in September!