



Thorn Grove Primary School

Welcome to Reception

Autumn 2018

Topic - ALL ABOUT ME!

Dear Parents,

We would like to welcome you to our Reception Class at Thorn Grove Primary School and hope that you and your child feel welcome at school and part of our school family. We hope you all had an enjoyable summer holiday and both you and your child are looking forward to their first full time year at school.

The children will slowly be introduced to a new environment and new people, as well as new rules and routines. We aim to make this transition as easy as possible. The first few weeks of school are very relaxed and allow the children to get to know each other and also enable the adults to get to know the children and carry out observations and assessments, which you are encouraged to participate in. You can do this by writing any achievements/feelings/new learning/photos or pictures and words of praise your child has done at home, and writing them on **WOW cards** (attached), placing them in their book bags or giving them to ourselves. We take regular opportunities to share these together and put them in their learning journey books.

The Reception year is all about cross-curricular learning, and this term is based around the theme of 'All About Me'. In order to gain further insight into your child's interests, preferences, talents and hobbies we would like each child to produce their own **Mood board** to be displayed on our class working wall. The mood board can contain photographs, magazine cuttings, drawings and captions which tell us a little more about your child. A piece of card and possible mood board ideas have been attached. Please support your child in creating their special board to share and display in Reception. The boards will help to develop our EYFS curriculum based on child led interests. In addition to this, please feel free to bring in any resources (books, toys, games, photos etc) that may fit in with our topic to share with the class.

We would be most grateful for any parental involvement/support in our Nursery and Reception classes. So, if you have any spare time and would like to help (it could be a little time each week), please let us know. An extra pair of hands to listen to readers, do craft activities, help the children on the computer... the list is endless and any help is always appreciated in our busy classes.

The children have been given a name card to put in their book bags - please practise reading and writing their name.

Please encourage your child to come into school by themselves, so they develop their independence. Please make sure all items of your child's clothing (uniform, PE kits, coats, shoes, lunch boxes, book bags, etc are named clearly (as all jumpers look the same, it is very hard for us to work out who they belong to after a PE lesson)! Please also provide your child with Wellington boots and a waterproof coat so that they can explore the outdoor area all year round (please ensure it is all named and in a named bag).

Your child will not require any snacks from home as fresh fruit or vegetables are provided in our snack area, free of charge. They will also have continued access to their own labelled water bottle throughout the day.

Unfortunately, school does not provide tissues for our classroom. We try to make sure we have a supply in the classroom throughout the year and we go through them fast! It would be a great help if each family could provide one box of tissues for the class.

We would also like to do activities with the children throughout the year (**please inform me if your child is allergic to anything or if there is anything you do not wish them to eat**) and also supplement snack time with other healthy foods. Please could I ask you to make a small donation of £6 per half term in a named envelope to help towards providing these activities for the children.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

On Tuesday 25th **September** from **9am-10am** we will be holding a **coffee morning** for Reception and Nursery parents. This will be an opportunity to meet other parents and gain further information about your child's learning in a relaxed and informal gathering.

Finally, remember we are always here for you to come and ask questions, find out more about your child's learning and help in any way we can. We are available after school if you need to discuss anything with us. We would also love to hear about your child's development and achievements outside school - it's lovely to share these exciting moments with us.

Kind regards

Mrs Shepherd
Miss Bradbury

Attached:

IDEAS ON HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD AT HOME

WOW card information and cards

Parent involvement/support slip

Mood board and ideas

IDEAS ON HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD AT HOME

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Play turn taking & sharing games with your child, & explain that they may not always win, and that this is ok.
 - Encourage your child to dress & undress independently.
- Encourage your child to help tidy away their toys, help set the table, & share things out equally.
- Talk to your child about how to care for themselves & others, how to help & how to stay safe.
 - Talk to your child about appropriate behaviour & the need for rules & to stick to them!

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- Encourage your child to play with bats, balls, climbing equipment, bikes etc - once they have mastered gross motor control, they can refine their fine motor skills (pencils, clothes fastenings etc)!
 - Talk about exercise and its effect on the body as well as healthy eating.
 - Encourage your child to get dressed independently and do their own fastenings.
- Let your child practise and become more confident with tools and equipment such as scissors, pencils, blocks, Lego, jigsaws etc.

COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE

- Share nursery rhymes and discuss / make up words that rhyme.
 - Encourage your child to communicate their own needs openly and freely.
- Encourage your child to be involved in communication as a two-way process using voice, facial expression, body language.
 - Explain what it is to be listened to and listen to others.
- Encourage your child to talk about stories and relate them to their own experiences.
 - Encourage your child to talk about what is happening in pretend play.

LITERACY

- Help your child read the key words that they bring home. Put the words in sentences so they make sense. Look at words, signs, labels and notices in the environment.
- Encourage your child to 'write' whenever they can - help write a shopping list, and make sure they see you writing for a purpose.
- Share story books, non-fiction books and comics together, talk about the author, illustrator, title page, index etc. Follow the print with your finger. Can they answer any questions on the book? Can they retell the story in sequence? Can they make up their own story?
- Practise name writing with your child- concentrating on the correct letter formation and position on the line and only using a capital letter at the beginning.

MATHEMATICS

- Sing number songs / rhymes together. Sort and count objects. Talk about more / less.
- Find / look at numbers in the environment - front doors, street signs, prices at shops, telephones, computers, clocks, page numbers, number plates etc.
 - Play games involving numbers - Snakes and Ladders, Connect 4, Bingo etc.
- Look at o'clock times on clocks - play What's the time Mr Wolf? Discuss the daily routine and what they do on certain days of the week. Talk about day / night, today, tomorrow, yesterday, morning, afternoon, night etc.
- Talk about the shapes of objects, and sort them (2D and 3D). Find shapes around the home / garden / way home from school.
 - Look at coins in your wallet, sort them, discuss their value and think about what they could buy with their pocket money.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

- Help your child develop an understanding of how people grow and change. Look at photos. What can they do now that they couldn't do before? Compare sizes - height, hands, feet etc.
 - Provide opportunities for your child to explore and use their senses.
 - Explore the local environment - different buildings, look at trees in the park, roadways etc.
- Think about being healthy - encourage your child to select healthy food for their lunch and snacks and the importance of exercise.
 - Explore materials and find objects made from wood, plastic, glass etc.

EXPRESSIVE ART AND DESIGN

- Explore colours, colour mixing and different shades.
 - Draw pictures and talk about them.
- Share songs and rhymes - singing tapes, CDs, internet etc.
- Discuss, retell and act out stories and make up your own

Parent involvement/support slip

I would like to help out/support in the Nursery or Reception Class.

Name:

Child's Name:

Days and times suitable:

Mood Board ideas

Here are just a few examples of questions you could ask to get your child started in creating their own 'Mood board'. Don't feel you have to use these questions, your child may have other preferences they wish to include. Mood boards will be shared and displayed with the class as soon as they are returned to school. Thank you in advance for your support.

- What is your favourite colour?
- Who is in your family?
- What do you like to play?
- What is your favourite toy?
- Who are your best friends?
- What is your favourite/ least favourite food?
- What makes you smile/ unhappy?
- What is your favourite TV programme?
- What are you really good at?

Please encourage your child to be as creative as they wish! Paint, collage, cuttings, photos, captions and drawings will all make a fantastic mood board! Have fun!