



Jessie Younghusband School

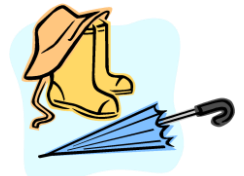
Year R – Curriculum Letter – Autumn Term

I am really pleased with the happy and settled start the children have made in Reception. You must be so proud of how well they are doing! The children are coming in independently, putting away their belongings and already starting to make new friends. I know that they will take new routines in their stride as we start to introduce different elements to the day; and if they don't, we will be here to support them every step of the way. Thank you for your patience with us learning all your faces at pick-up. We will learn the children's names and faces very quickly, but potentially 60 parents plus aunts, uncles, grandparents and childminders can take a little while longer!

Your child's year in Reception lays the foundations for the rest of their school journey. We hope that a close partnership between you and the school will provide your child with the security and confidence they need to ensure that they have a positive learning experience. We hope that you will also enjoy getting to know one another over the coming weeks (please take note of the Parent's Coffee Morning detailed below).

Reminders:

- If you have not already done so, **please activate your child's Tapestry account ASAP** as it will be vital for class-based communications including accident reporting. Please see the separate letter sent via ParentMail with all the details on how to do this.
- Hopefully you have been able to access the **ParentPay** (to select hot meals) and the **MySchoolAtSchool** (for trip payments, school communication etc) apps. It is vital that both of these are activated ASAP. Please do speak to the office if you have had any difficulties with this as they will be best placed to assist you.
- Despite the unpredictable weather we are currently having, this term tends to get cold and wet, so we would like to remind you that your child needs to bring a **warm, waterproof coat to school every day** (even if the weather forecasts beautiful sunshine, as we know how quickly that can change!) During the Reception Year the children are given the opportunity to learn outside whatever the weather! The children can become upset to have to borrow a coat that is not their own so please support us in doing this. A roll up mac in the bottom in the book bag is a great option during the summer months, but something warmer is needed throughout the winter. Any practice at home with putting on coats and zipping them up without adult support would be greatly appreciated.
- Please could you send **one family photo** (where possible, I understand that in some circumstances you will need two) for our families wall to my email address rachel.appleby@jys.org.uk. This helps the children to feel settled and have somewhere to go to talk about their families so it would be helpful to have these sooner rather than later.
- Please ensure that your child always has a full change of school uniform. Quite often the children will soak themselves in the water tray and need everything from the waist down! If you have sent one in already, we will have removed it from the book bag and put it on your child's peg so that you don't have to carry it to and from school every day. Please remember to replace it if your child comes home with wet/dirty clothes meaning they will have had to use their spares.
- Whilst we predicted a bonus week of sunshine, please ensure your child has **suncream put on them before the start of school and that they bring a sun hat**. We will re-apply at lunchtime using our school suncream. Please do let us know if your child has particularly sensitive skin and you would like to 'opt out' and provide your own. If we don't hear from you, we will assume you are happy with this arrangement.
- If you haven't already done so, **please make sure your child has waterproof trousers and wellies in school every day** as we only have a few spares, and we do not want their opportunities to use exciting areas such as The Mud Kitchen to be limited. We will also be venturing out to explore the school grounds within the next couple of weeks, whatever the weather, so protective clothing will be vital. Thank you to those parents that have already done so. These are to stay in school please as part of our uniform list, until the end of the school year.



- All the children in Year R receive a **free fruit (or sometimes a vegetable) snack** each day. We are delivered one option each day so for example one day we may just have tomatoes. If you would like to provide your own snack for your child to have mid-morning, we do ask that it is fresh fruit or dried fruit (in their purest form not in wheels or bars) such as raisins or apricots or a vegetable such as carrots. Biscuits, snack bars, bread sticks, sandwiches etc are not allowed. Thank you for your support with this. Please ensure any snacks brought in from home are clearly labelled with your child's name.

We are impressed with how smart the children are looking in their school uniform.

Just a gentle reminder that hair clips, bands and bows should be blue, black or brown coloured. Due to the active nature of reception, you may find that it is more comfortable for your child to have their hair tied back, if it is longer than shoulder length. Also, hair gel is acceptable so long as it is being used to keep hair tidy – gel used for more fashionable hairstyles will need to be saved for the weekends. Jewellery, other than a simple stud in the ear, are not permitted. Earrings will need to be taped for P.E sessions.

- Please also ensure that your **child's name is clearly visible** in all their clothing, as this will enable them to find their own belongings. There are some beautifully decorated book bags but if you haven't already done so, please can you also name them so that adults can easily put in letters etc. I know some of you are still waiting for book bags to arrive so please don't worry. Water bottles also need to be named please even if your child recognises the design/pattern

so that the adults are aware who it belongs to. This helps us when returning rogue bottles to their owners! **Please can I take the opportunity to remind you that only water is permitted in class water bottles and not squash.**

- Please make sure that your child keeps their **P.E. kit** in their P.E. bag on their peg all of the time. We shall send it home at the end of every half term, so that it can be washed and returned to school after the holidays.
- From **Monday 16th September, our hours will be 8.35/8.45-3.10pm. Please note the 3.10pm pick up as it is 5 minutes earlier than the rest of the school.**

Important Dates and Events

A comprehensive list of diary dates for the whole year is sent out to all parents but just to highlight a few important dates:

- **Year R Parents Coffee Morning - Tuesday 17th September 8.45am-9.30am** (straight after drop-off). An informal opportunity for you to chat to other parents in the class to get to know each other in the school hall. Please come round to the front office to sign in.
- **Whole school open afternoon and Phonics Workshop - Friday 4th October 2.30pm.** Years 1-6 will have their open afternoon where parents come into the classroom to view their child's work. In Reception, we ask the parents to come to the hall for a phonics workshop. It is an opportunity for you to learn about how we deliver phonics across the school and how you can support your children at home.
- **Parent's Evening - Tuesday 15th and Thursday 17th October** (Please note that some of the other class teachers may be doing Wednesday 16th instead of Tuesday 15th so you might like to opt for the Thursday if you have older siblings in the school and want both appointments on the same evening.) An opportunity for you to discuss how your child is settling in on a 1:1 basis. More details to follow.

We will also be taking a whole class photograph for the Chichester Observer in the next couple of weeks, I will let you know the date as soon as I know. When you completed your child's welcome book, you will have informed the school about whether your child's photo can be 'published' which is the category that newspaper photographs fall into. If you are unsure about this, please come to speak to me. **Whole school newsletters are sent out on a regular basis which include the most up-to-date diary dates and further information, so please ensure that you take note of this information.**

The Early Years Foundation Stage information:

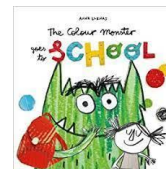
The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum is organised into seven areas of learning. There are opportunities for your child to engage in adult led or adult directed learning experiences, and times when your child initiates activities and learning for themselves which is known by the children as 'Discovery Time'. In Reception, we ensure that your child has opportunities to learn in both our indoor and outdoor classroom, as well as within the school grounds. There is more detail about the seven areas of learning in the Reception Handbook that you received at the parent's meeting before the summer. In the first few weeks you will receive a few 'observations' on Tapestry. Whilst we get to know the children better, we will be documenting lots of their interactions. After this period, we will be 'remarking on the remarkable' meaning that we will only be gathering evidence of something we don't know that your child can do so you may notice that these are fewer and far between. You will, however, receive a weekly update from me about everything we have been learning in class, along with photos, like a newsletter. This means you will have lots of starting points for conversations at home if they tell you they did 'nothing' all day!

This term:

My priority will be settling the children into new routines and expectations and ensuring that they are happy in their new environment. It is vital that I get to know the children and they get to know me and the other Year R staff. We will spend a lot of time focusing on well-being after such a big change.

As well as completing the Reception Baseline Assessment (please see the information on this given out at the parent's meeting.) I will be getting to know the children to understand their starting points to best support their learning moving forward.

The children thoroughly enjoyed "The Colour Monster" story on the Taster Sessions as they've asked to re-read it a couple of times. We will also read "The Colour Monster Goes To School", where we will discuss misconceptions about school and feelings around starting somewhere new. We will continue to talk about feelings, class expectations and being part of the wider school community. Our theme for the rest of this half term will be *Marvellous Me* where we will be thinking all about our families, feelings, similarities and differences and our personal history.



Thank you for your support. We look forward to getting to know you and seeing more of you in the coming weeks.

With very best wishes,

Mrs Appleby and the Year R team.