



# Reception Newsletter

## Autumn 2015

### AUTUMN TERM ISSUE

## Welcome

Welcome to Reception at Woodcroft Primary School. It is early days and the children are beginning to settle into the new school routines and build relationships and make new friendships.

## Introduction

The Early Years Foundation Stage Manager is Mrs Powell. The Reception class teachers are Mrs Brown (RB) and Mrs Patel (RP). We are supported daily by a team of dedicated, hardworking and friendly support staff that help with the day to day running of the setting.

Our Teaching Assistants are Mrs Masters (RB), Mrs Jadav (RP), Miss Thomas (RB), and Mrs Blaha (RP) and Nursery Nurses are Miss

Finnegan (RP) and Mrs Baker (RB). Mrs Baker also works with children needing extra support with communication and language.

Your children will also meet Mrs Smith (RB) and Mrs Seth-Smith (RP). They are former Woodcroft Teachers that run the reading scheme in Reception and support us in teaching reading. We are also lucky enough to have a volunteer gardener Mrs Dorrington who works with the children on Friday morning in the Early Years Garden

## Daily Routine

Reception and Nursery children are dropped off and collected each day by the back entrance to the school. This can be accessed through the main playground or from Wolsey Grove. School opens at 8.45am. Please make sure your child is in school on

time. Collection is from 3.10pm. Please inform us if someone else is going to be collecting your child. Remember to be on time for school. Lateness impacts on learning.

Reception children have 3 carpet sessions a day. They receive phonics and math's lessons daily and a third lesson that covers another area of the curriculum. For example, Music or Physical Education.

Lessons last 20 minutes then children engage in our continuous provision around the learning environment. This can be any activity or resource which interests the child. During these times adults join them and engage in their play supporting and extending learning.

The children go on a weekly trip to the park and this happens on a Tuesday morning when the weather is good. We are always

needing volunteers as we need a ratio of 1 adult to every 5 children. If you feel you are able to support on these trips please inform one of the Reception staff. You will also be able to watch the phonics lesson before we go to the park. Previous parents have commented that this is very beneficial in helping them to see how phonics is taught.

Reception use the children's kitchen once a week. We ask parents for a voluntary contribution of £5 per term to fund these cooking activities. This also goes towards the purchase of sensory ingredients. E.g. play dough, shaving foam, gloop.

### Uniform

School uniform consists of:

- Red jumper- Can be purchased from the school office.
- White polo shirt or shirt.
- Grey trousers, shorts or skirt.
- Red checked summer dress.
- Black shoes.
- Book Bag- Purchase from the school office.

PE Kit consists of:

- Blue shorts
- White T-shirt
- Trainers or Black Plimsols
- PE Bag- Can be purchased from the school office.

Please also provide:

- Wellies for gardening and digging in the mud.

**Please label all of your child's belongings.** As you can imagine it is very difficult trying to find your child's belongings after a PE session when there are clothes strewn across the classroom.

## Parent Meetings

There are 3 parent meetings a year, 1 per term. You will receive a letter informing you that your child is a Focus Child for that week. This means that at this time we will be paying extra attention to how your child is developing and progressing with their education. During the following week we will meet with you and your child straight after school to discuss development and progress. You will get to view your child's work, their Special Books and work on the walls. At this point we will also explain your child's 'Next Steps' for learning and how we can support them to make progress.

We are very much aware that we only see your child during the school day and we encourage you to share with us any developments you notice. Work, photos, certificates and pictures from home can be displayed on the walls or in your child's Special Book.

If you have any concerns we are always available on the door in the morning or at the end of the school day.

## Homework

Reception children receive Brain Builder homework fortnightly. Homework reflects what your child has been learning in school.

Your child will begin to take books home on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. On Mondays a book is sent home to be read by the adult and shared with the child. On Wednesdays and Fridays school reading books go home which your child should read to you.

Initially children take home a picture book (no words). Please explore the pictures in the book and encourage your child to predict what is happening on the page. This is a very useful skill for beginner readers as it helps them to check that what they are reading makes sense.

Please comment in your child's Home Link book each time you hear your child read. This will help us to assess your child's level of reading.

## Dates for your Diary

29/09/15- Unicorn Theatre Trip to see Breaking Ice (RB)

30/09/15- Unicorn Theatre Trip to see Breaking Ice (RP)

Check out the Calendar on the school website for all the latest dates:

[www.woodcroft.barnet.sch.uk](http://www.woodcroft.barnet.sch.uk)

