



Palermo Avenue  
Coventry CV3 5EH  
Tel: 024 7641 1711  
Fax: 024 7669 3392  
Headteacher: Miss S Cooke  
admin@howes.coventry.sch.uk  
www.howesprimary.co.uk

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Dear Reception Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of the new school term. We are very much looking forward to the exciting time ahead for all of the children in Reception. We hope that the following information proves useful to you, but please feel free to come and discuss any other questions you may have.

### **Curriculum:**

Topic – Traditional stories and people who help us.

English- Sequencing and writing stories. Writing simple sentences and reading them to a friend, lists of adjectives to describe characters and writing instructions. Learning to segment and blend words together (sounding out) and to write some irregular common words such as the, and, said, like etc.

Maths- Number, doubling, halving and sharing, addition and subtraction/ one more/one less to 20, problem solving, 3D shapes, measures including time, money and capacity.

Reading- To read and understand simple sentences. To use phonic knowledge to decode regular words and read them aloud accurately. To demonstrate understanding when talking with others about what they have read.

### **Homework:**

Children in Reception will be given a phonics and Maths based piece of homework related to work we have been doing during the week. Homework will be sent home on Fridays in the children's homework books and is to be **completed and handed in by the following Thursday**.

**Reading** - Children are also expected to read for at least 5 to 10 minutes daily, as part of their homework. We suggest you encourage your child to read regularly and to bring the book to school every day, which needs to be left in their book bags. Guided reading usually takes place on a Tuesday and Friday. Please ensure that your child has their book in school on these days as unless it is in school we won't be able to change it.

**Please ensure that you sign your child's Home School Journal each time they read, either to an adult or independently and kindly leave a note in the journal to state that the book has been read.**

### **P.E.**

We are very lucky this term to have two P.E. lessons a week, which are both being jointly taught by myself and a specialist coach. On a Tuesday we have tennis and on a Friday we have gymnastics. These sessions will be based around developing balance, coordination, gross motor skills, ball skills, teamwork and cooperation, positive attitudes towards learning, promoting aspirations and many other areas and skills. Therefore it is important that children take part in sessions and come prepared. Sessions will take place both indoor and outdoor therefore children will need shorts, t-shirts, pumps, a warm tracksuit, outdoor trainers and a waterproof coat.

**PE Kits:**

The children have PE on **a Tuesday and Friday**. Please ensure that your child has a named PE kit which should consist of a plain white T-shirt, black shorts and pumps; they can bring plain black/navy jogging trousers and jumper if it is colder outside and trainers for outdoor lessons only. PE kits should be brought into school in a named, drawstring bag please. If for any reason your child is unable to take part in PE lessons we require a note of explanation.

Please can you remind your children that earrings should be removed before PE lessons.

Please check that your child's pumps/trainers still fit, as the children's feet tend to grow a great deal through out the year.

**Uniform**

At the beginning of our school term in September 2017, Miss Cooke spoke to the children about taking great pride in their appearance and wearing the correct school uniform. Staff will be reminding children about the uniform expectations at school regularly. Please support us in ensuring that your child wears the correct uniform, thank you.

**Recommended Clothing**

- Royal blue sweatshirts/cardigan
- White polo shirt
- Grey trousers/skirt/pinafore dress
- Blue checked dress in summer if preferred
- Plain shoes (not trainers)
- Reversible waterproof fleece jacket.

Children with long hair should come to school with their hair tied back please.

**Jewellery**

For safety reasons children should not wear jewellery to school. We ask that children with pierced ears should only wear stud earrings.

Please can we remind you that nail varnish should not be worn at school, thank you.

Your child should come to school every day with a bag as they often have art work and letters to take home.

**Indoor/Outdoor Shoes:**

In the Early Years and KS1 many of the children keep a pair of wellington boots at school that they can wear outside whatever the weather. Please could we ask you to encourage your child to bring a pair of named wellies to keep at school, and in the warmer weather to also provide a sunhat and send your child to school wearing sun cream. Thank you.

**Playtime Fruit and Snacks:**

Fruit at playtime is provided for children in Early Years and Key Stage 1. Children may bring in a labelled **water** bottle each day, which can be kept in the classroom. Please can we remind you that the children should only bring water in their water bottles, thank you.

Please can we remind you that children should not bring any nuts to school either as a snack or as part of a packed lunch thank you.

### **Behaviour Expectations**

Howes is a friendly and caring community and we are keen for our children to take on these and other values. Our house point system is proving effective at encouraging children to follow our golden rules and values. We would still very much like parents and carers to help us in reinforcing these rules and values with the children.

Please can children be reminded that they should not bring toys into school, unless they have been given permission to do so.

### **Celebration Assemblies**

Our 'Celebration Assembly' takes place on a Friday morning at 9am. This is an opportunity for teachers to nominate two children from each class per week, to receive an award for an aspect of outstanding work, achievement or behaviour. Parents will be invited to come into school for the assembly when their child is awarded their certificate. You will receive a letter on a Wednesday to inform you that your child has been nominated.

### **Absences and Medical Needs:**

We would like to remind you that if your child is going to be absent please telephone the school office at the number above as soon as possible. Any medication that your child requires during the day should be given to the Office, for a First Aider, in the original container and a medical administration consent form needs to be completed. Inhalers must be labelled and be handed in to your child's class teacher to be stored safely in the classroom.

### **Timings of the day:**

The start of a school day in Reception begins at 8:55am. It is very important that all pupils arrive promptly to enable them to settle and begin learning straight away.

The end of the school day for pupils is Key Stage 1 is at 3.15pm. Please note that this is 5 minutes earlier than Key Stage 2 pupils. Children become very distressed if parents are late in picking them up, especially if they are the only child left in the classroom. If unforeseen circumstances arise and you are going to be late or another person is picking up your child then please phone the office in advance so that we can inform and prepare your child for this.

### **Preparation for Year 1**

After half term we ask that in the mornings you please say goodbye to your children at the door, and allow them to come into the cloakroom on their own, and learn to organise themselves. This is in preparation for year one. We have an open door policy and if you need to speak to a member of staff then please still feel free to do so.

**Important Events for Reception.**

24 <sup>th</sup> April	Class photos
7 <sup>th</sup> May	Closed for bank holiday
28 <sup>th</sup> May- 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Half Term
4 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> June	School closed for Inset week
15 <sup>th</sup> June	Non uniform day bring a bottle.
15 <sup>th</sup> June	FOH discos after school
6 <sup>th</sup> July	Non uniform day 50p donation
6 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer fair
13 <sup>th</sup> July	Reports go home
13 <sup>th</sup> July	Reception Class Assembly
16 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports morning & family picnic
18 <sup>th</sup> July	Open evening.
26 <sup>th</sup> July	Start of summer holiday.

We are looking forward to working with you and your children this term.

Yours sincerely

Miss Price, Mrs Devall and Mrs Wildsmith.

