



Blackthorn Primary School

Reception Class Autumn 1 Newsletter



Welcome to Apple Class! We are looking forward to welcoming children to our Reception Class. This Curriculum newsletter aims to give you an insight into what we will be learning this term. Please talk to your child about what he/she is learning at school.

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Apple Class! We hope that you had an enjoyable and relaxing Summer break. We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead full of fantastic learning opportunities. For the first few weeks term we will be concentrating on settling the children into their new environment, establishing rules and routines and meeting their new class and staff members.

If you have any queries that you would like to talk through, please let the school know and we will happily telephone you to discuss these.

ROUTINE

Getting the morning routine right early on is crucial in helping each child to settle into Reception successfully. Please make sure you are arriving at school on time and try to leave your child at school promptly. At this point, the children will be supported by the staff to organise themselves, this will include taking of their own coat, putting their belongings away and washing their hands. It is essential we build these lifelong skills early on and encourage children to be independent.

Please don't worry if your child is upset when saying goodbye initially, they soon get used to this and the staff will ensure every child is settled and happy each day.

Baseline

The baseline assessment is a short, interactive and practical assessment of your child's early literacy, communication and mathematical skills when they begin school. During the baseline, the teacher will be able to spend quality 1-1 time with your child, getting to know them and identify if your child needs any further support in certain areas. When your child reaches Year 6, you will be able to see the progress your child has made throughout their school journey. For further guidance please look at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reception-baseline-assessment-information-for-parents>

REMINDERS

Labels! Please make sure that every item of clothing, water bottles and lunch boxes are clearly named. They all look the same! Unfortunately, the children can find it difficult to make sure they put on the correct jumper and it can be difficult for teachers to keep track of 30 at once! If your child does go home with the wrong jumper please let us know as soon as possible so it finds the correct home.

The children will have PE on a **Friday** each week. Please ensure their PE kit is in school. We will send home their PE kits at the end of each half term unless they are particularly dirty or used as spare clothing.

Please ensure that your child brings their **reading books** and **book bags** to school **EVERYDAY!**



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How you can help at home

We greatly encourage and appreciate your involvement in your child's learning and you are always welcome to ask questions or seek advice on how you can support your child's learning at home. Here are a few ideas.

Personal Social & Emotional Development

- Give your child lots of opportunities to make decisions, give opinions and discuss their feelings e.g. what fruit shall we buy? How does that story make you feel? What did you like best?
- Encourage their attempts at independence and don't worry when they don't always get things right e.g. dressing themselves, doing up fastenings, tidying up.
- Show them how to resolve conflicts peacefully. For example, if they are upset because they don't want to do something, offer them some simple choices with the same outcome e.g. would you like this or that story before you go to bed?
- Value and praise their efforts, especially when trying something new.
- Take them to parks and places where they can spend time with other children.
- Play simple turn taking games.
- Talk to them about healthy food choices and why they are important.

Communication and language

- Make time for conversations with your child daily.
- Share and talk about stories and information in books.
- Play with them, commenting on what you are doing.
- Echo back what they say with new words added.
- Be aware of too much background noise e.g. tv, radio etc.
- Sing nursery rhymes.

Please speak to us if you have any concerns about your child's language development.

Physical Development

- Provide opportunities, such as visits to the park, to encourage your child to be physically active. Encourage and show them how to move in different ways, e.g. hopping, jumping, skipping.
- Sing action songs and rhymes and encourage them to dance along to music.
- Encourage mark making in lots of different ways e.g. using paints, pens, chalks on a pavement, sticks in mud etc.
- Play puzzle and threading activities to help develop hand-eye coordination.
- Show your child how to hold a pencil correctly between thumb and forefinger.
- Help your child to form letters correctly using the resources sent from school.
- Help them to practise learning to write their name, with a capital letter at the beginning and lower case letters after.