



'At Amblecote we achieve because in our pupils we believe.'

# **New Reception Starters 2021**

## **Information for Parents and Carers**

# Welcome To Amblecote Primary School

- ▶ **Head Teacher:** Mrs J. Cook
- ▶ **Acting Deputy Head Teacher:** Mrs M. Pickett
- ▶ **Chair of Governors:** Mrs C. Roberts

# Reception Staff

- ▶ **Mrs A. Price** - Foundation Stage Co-ordinator and Class Teacher
- ▶ **Miss A. Judd** - Class teacher
- ▶ **Mrs A. Hazlewood** - Reception Class Teaching Assistant
- ▶ **Mrs V. Brooks** - Reception Class Teaching Assistant



# Transition

- ▶ Parent Transition Meetings:

**Tuesday 29th June 5pm & 6:30pm**

- ▶ Induction Lunches:

**Tuesday 6th July 11:30am – 12:15pm**

**Tuesday 6th July 12:30pm – 1:15pm**

- ▶ Parent/Teacher Meetings:

**Week commencing Monday 12th July**

# Transition

- ▶ Week commencing Monday 6th September
- ▶ **RP** will attend the morning session:  
**8:45am – 11:15am**
- ▶ **RJ** will attend the afternoon session:  
**12:30pm – 3:00pm**
  
- ▶ Week commencing Monday 13th September
- ▶ **All children** to attend full days  
**8:45am – 3:00pm**
- ▶ Your child has been placed in either RP (Mrs Price) or RJ (Miss Judd) but please note that this will be reviewed at the end of September.

# Breakfast/After School Club Parent Teacher Association

- ▶ If you are a working parent and may require the services from our **Breakfast Club or After School Club**, please email our manager, Mrs Tracey Cutler on **tcutler@amblecote.dudley.sch.uk** as soon as possible as places fill up quickly.
- ▶ Amblecote **Parent Teacher Association** organise a whole host of events every year for pupils and their families.

They've raised some pretty impressive amounts of money over the last few years. These have supported a wide range of initiatives including purchasing 30 Google Chromebooks and new reading books and funding theatre trips.

# Early Years Foundation Stage

**7 areas of Learning and Development** are used to plan your child's learning and activities. For each of these areas your child will have an 'Early Learning Goal' to work towards.

## Prime Areas

- ▶ Communication and Language
- ▶ Physical Development
- ▶ Personal, Social and Emotional Development

## Specific Areas

- ▶ Literacy
- ▶ Mathematics
- ▶ Understanding the World
- ▶ Expressive Arts and Design

# Learning Journeys

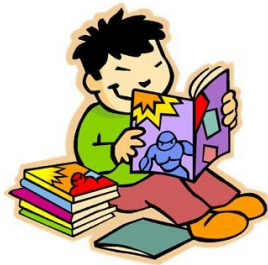
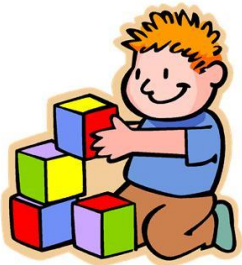
- ▶ We use learning journeys to record your child's achievements, helping us to make judgements on their interests and progress. Your child will have an online learning journey and a paper folder of evidence.
- ▶ We will regularly update your child's learning journey with photographs, comments made by your child and pieces of work they have produced.
- ▶ You will have the opportunity to contribute to your child's learning journey by e-mailing us and via Parent Share.





# Learning Through Play

- ▶ Play is a very important part of growing up and it underpins the delivery of all of the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- ▶ Well-planned play, both indoors and outdoors is key to successful development and learning for your child.



# Outdoor Learning

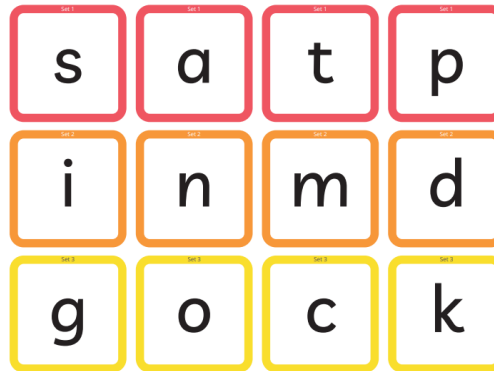
- ▶ The Reception children have access to the outdoor classroom every day.
- ▶ Our outdoor environment offers children freedom to explore, use their senses and be physically active.
- ▶ Please ensure that your child has a waterproof coat and wellington boots in school every day.



# Letters and Sounds

The five basic skills taught through phonics are:

- ▶ Learning the letter sounds.
- ▶ Learning letter formation.
- ▶ Blending sounds to read.
- ▶ Identifying sounds in words in order to spell.
- ▶ Spelling tricky words (those you are unable to sound out).



# Reading



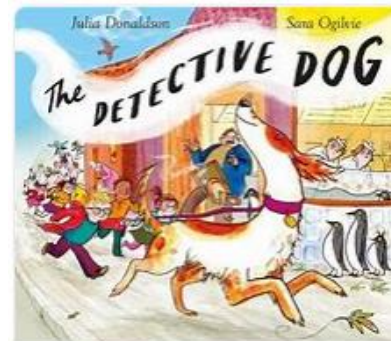
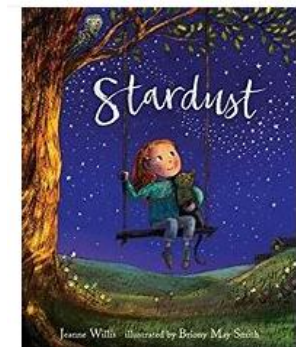
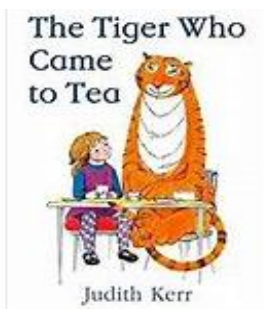
- ▶ We use the Rigby reading scheme and Big Cat Collins within the Foundation Stage as it progresses in line with the phonic sounds taught.
- ▶ Children will be able to select a “free choice book” with you on a weekly basis.
- ▶ They will access the school library after October half term.
- ▶ Communication between school and home will be shared through a reading diary which parents/ carers are asked to sign on a regular basis.
- ▶ It is essential to read with your child for at least 5 minutes each day.

# Reading Champions- Whole School Reading Initiative

- ▶ Over the year we will be promoting a love of reading and authors and encouraging our children to read a wide variety of texts.
- ▶ Please support your child to help them become a Reading Champion. This can be done by: listening to them read, helping them complete activities/challenges and encouraging them to read a wide variety of books.

## SET BOOK LIST for Reception Class:

- ▶ The Tiger Who Came to Tea by Judith Kerr
- ▶ Stardust by Jeanne Willis and
- ▶ The Detective Dog by Julia Donaldson



# Reading Champions- Going for Gold!

- ▶ For **Bronze** –children are asked to read one of the books listed above and complete the accompanying sheet. In addition 9 other books must be shared and any recorded in your child's reading journal. To support the reading of the additional books (ones not on the SET LIST), we have also included a selection of activities that the children can complete. (More details in September.)
- ▶ For **Silver** Children are asked to read a second book from the list above and a further 4 books of your choosing taking the total books read to 15. Again, follow up activities are to be recorded in the reading journal.
- ▶ For **Gold** – Children are asked to read the final book from the list above and a further 4 books taking the total number of books read to 20.

We encourage children to read a range of texts including stories, non-fiction and poetry books. The children will have the opportunity to borrow the books listed above from the school library over the coming months.

# Support for pupils with additional needs

- ▶ **Mrs Dunckley** – SENDCo for Reception and Key Stage 1  
**(Special Educational Needs and Disability  
Co-ordinator)**
- ▶ My role is to support staff and pupils to make sure that any additional adjustments that are needed are in place and that these are working well.
- ▶ I may have involvement for lots of reasons.
  1. Outside agency already involved
  2. Staff have highlighted areas where extra support may be needed
  3. Some children may need support with social interactions or how they are coping emotionally within their new classroom.

4. Parents have concerns about their child's progress/how they are coping in reception.

5. Support within the home – routines/behaviour

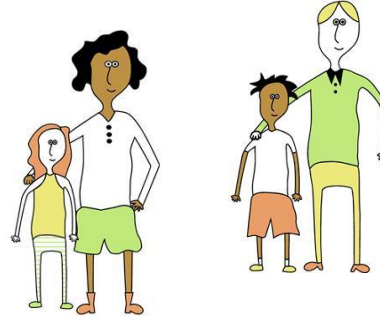
- ▶ Whatever the need, we are here to listen and support you and your child. It is always very much from a **supportive** point of view. Any decisions that need to be made will be made with you as the parent. Nothing will be done without your consent.
- ▶ All staff want to make sure that **all** children make a successful start to their school life.





# School Links with Home

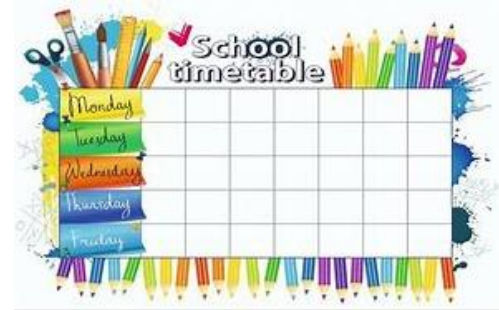
- ▶ Transition books
- ▶ Open door policy
- ▶ Parents evenings/meetings
- ▶ Online themed workshops (EYFS, Phonics/Reading, Kinetic Letters and Maths)
- ▶ Online Learning Journeys
- ▶ Newsletters
- ▶ School website/ Parent Hub/Class Dojo
- ▶ WOW moments
- ▶ Curriculum overviews



*Parents are children's first and most enduring educators. When parents and teachers work together, the results have a positive impact on children's development and learning.*

# An example of the Reception Class Day

- ▶ 8:45 – Bell rings, doors open. Children **MUST** be in by this time.  
All parents to leave school premises promptly.
- ▶ 8.55 - Registration and visual timetable and early morning activities
- ▶ 9:15 – Teaching Session 1 Phonics
- ▶ 9:45 - Daily Mile
- ▶ 10:00 – Teaching Session 2 Kinetic Letters/ Dough Gym
- ▶ 10:30 – Snack & Word Ninja
- ▶ 11:00 – Teaching session 3 Mathematics
- ▶ 11.20- Child Initiated Learning
- ▶ 12.00 - Lunch Time
- ▶ 1.00 - Registration
- ▶ 1.10 - Speech and language activities
- ▶ 1:30 - Child Initiated Learning/ Focus activities
- ▶ 2:50 – Story, rhyme and song time (or RE/ **S**ocial and **E**motional **A**spects of **L**earning activities)
- ▶ 3:00 - Home time for children who do NOT have a sibling in school
- ▶ 3:05 – Home time for children WITH a sibling in school.



# Dropping off and collecting your child

## In the morning

- ▶ A member of staff will always be on the middle playground to take messages and welcome the children into school, another member of staff will be on hand to assist in the cloakroom.
- ▶ We do ask that you please arrive by **8:45am** to enable us to start our activities promptly.

## Home Time

- ▶ Children are only released if we can see a named adult who is on the Reception list.
- ▶ At first, it will take longer to see all children out. Please be patient!
- ▶ Always let us know if somebody different is picking your child up and use the password. If we are unsure your child will remain with us until we can contact you.

# Lunch time



## School dinners

- ▶ From September 2014 hot dinners are free for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.
- ▶ Mrs Hill prepares hot meals for us every day in our school kitchen. A menu is sent to parents regularly and a copy is displayed on the parent notice board.
- ▶ Jacket potatoes and sandwich options are available from the kitchen.
- ▶ Water, milk and squash are available for children having school dinners.
- ▶ If you have to send a packed lunch from home please include healthy options as too much sugar gives children a rush of energy which fades during the afternoon. It is also extremely important to ensure your child's packed lunch is **nut free** due to allergies some children have within school.

# Snack time



- ▶ The school will provide the children with a piece of fruit as part of the government's Fruit for Schools scheme. Milk is provided free of charge.
- ▶ Please do not send your child with a snack from home.

## Water bottles

All children are required to bring a water bottle to school each day. This should be a clear plastic bottle with a sports type lid and should be clearly labelled with your child's name (no screw tops please). Your child's bottle should only contain water. NO SQUASH OR JUICE PLEASE.



# Pupil Premium

- ▶ For school to receive Pupil Premium funding it is necessary to apply for free school meals. Please apply online at [www.dudley.gov.uk](http://www.dudley.gov.uk).
- ▶ Here you can download the application form and email it directly to [freeschoolmeals.benefits@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals.benefits@dudley.gov.uk).
- ▶ Alternatively, please contact the school office where staff will be happy to help you complete the application form.

# Reception Class Fund

In reception class we aim to provide a wide range of additional activities to enhance our curriculum including gardening, cooking, model making and woodwork.

To provide the extra materials and resources we ask for a voluntary contribution of £1.

We thank you in anticipation for supporting us to provide these valuable learning activities.



# School Uniform:

- ▶ We are a 'uniform' school as we believe that a uniform looks smart, wears well and contributes to a feeling of belonging to the school.
- ▶ Our uniform consists of:
- ▶ Plain white polo shirt, blouse or school polo shirt with the school logo
- ▶ Red school sweatshirt, cardigan or fleece with the school logo, or
- ▶ Plain red or grey cardigan/jumper
- ▶ Plain grey trousers, skirt or pinafore dress (elasticated trousers make it easier for younger children to use the toilet independently)
- ▶ Grey or white socks
- ▶ Grey tights
- ▶ Sensible flat heeled shoes NOT trainers (Velcro shoes are easier for children to fasten.)

As an alternative option in hot weather:

- ▶ Girls summer school dress in red and white
- ▶ Plain grey shorts

**ALL SCHOOL UNIFORM MUST BE CLEARLY LABELLED**





# PE Uniform:

## INDOOR P.E Uniform:

Black pumps (to be kept in school)

Plain white T-shirt or school T -shirt with the school logo

Plain black/navy shorts

## OUTDOOR P.E Uniform:

Black/ Navy tracksuit

Plain white T-shirt or school T -shirt with the school logo

Plain trainers

No earrings or jewellery and long hair must be tied back.

All children need to come to school in their PE kits on their allocated PE days (we will let you know when these are). Please wear shorts underneath tracksuit bottoms.

**ALL PE KIT MUST BE CLEARLY LABELLED**



# Health

If a child is taken ill at school, parents are notified so that they may be collected from school. **Please keep your emergency contact details and mobile phone numbers up to date with the main school office.**

- ▶ Medicines – we can administer these in school only if they are prescribed by the doctor.
- ▶ Allergies – If your child has an inhaler or epi-pen then we must have two in school and a care plan in place.
- ▶ First Aid/ Accident Book



# Absences



## **Good attendance is very important.**

We expect all children to attend school each day and on time unless they have a genuine illness or other legitimate reason for having time off. If you are unsure, send your child to school and if they are ill then we will send them home!

It is essential that school receives an explanation by telephone on the first day of absence.

## **Family Holiday in School Time**

From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013 the Department for Education introduced significant changes to the regulations in regard to attendance. The new arrangements make clear that head teachers may not grant any leave of absence (which includes holidays) during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. **If you choose to take a leave of absence during term time, this absence will be referred and may result in a fine of £60 per child per parent.**

# WHAT IS YOUR ATTENDANCE?

Right to education (Article 28)



**Platinum  
100%**



**97%**  
UP TO 6 DAYS  
ABSENCE FROM  
SCHOOL



**Well Done!**

High attendance leads to improved and high achievement which means greater success.

**96.9% - 93%**  
UP TO 14 DAYS  
ABSENCE FROM  
SCHOOL



**Worrying!**

Too many missed school days.  
Less chance of success.

**92.9% - 90%**  
UP TO 20 DAYS  
ABSENCE FROM  
SCHOOL



**Concern!**

Reduced chance of success.  
Possible court action.

**Below 90%**  
CONSIDERABLE  
ABSENCE FROM  
SCHOOL



**Serious!**

Lowest chance of success.  
Possible court action.

There are 175 non school days a year.  
That's plenty of time to go on visits, holidays, shopping and other appointments.

# Parking



- ▶ There is a limited amount of street parking when bringing children to school. Additional short term parking is available on the open space, just on the left hand side before you get to the school entrance. Please do not drop children off on the wavy lines outside the school entrance, or drive up the school driveway.

# Safeguarding Children

If you are concerned about a child then please contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who is Mrs Cook or one of our deputy safeguarding leads- Mrs Price, Mrs Pickett, Miss Careless, Miss Skirving, Miss German, Mrs Dunckley or Mrs Sparrow. Safeguarding is the responsibility of us all. If we are concerned about a child we have a duty of care to contact children's services. If you are concerned about a child outside school call **0300 555 0050** with your concerns and seek advice. Our Safeguarding policy can be found on the school website.

## ► Mobile phones

For safeguarding reasons, we ask parents/ carers not to use mobile phones whilst on school premises.



# Things your child needs everyday

We provide all of the equipment your child needs for their day to day learning. These are the things your child will need to bring with them each day.

- ▶ Book bag (NO RUCKSACKS PLEASE)
- ▶ Library book/ Reading book
- ▶ Reading Diary
- ▶ Water bottle - labelled
- ▶ Packed lunch (if your child is not having a school dinner)
- ▶ Wellington boots & black pumps (to be kept on peg)
- ▶ Waterproof coat
- ▶ An early night!
- ▶ A good breakfast!



# Getting Ready for School

## Checklist:

- ▶ Toilet train so they can use the toilet independently and wash and dry their hands.
- ▶ Teach them how to put their shoes on – velcro is best!
- ▶ Label everything with your child's name, including shoes
- ▶ Give them opportunities to practise taking turns and also to play independently
- ▶ Practice counting from 1 – 5, recognising and ordering each number
- ▶ Show them how to hold a pencil correctly. Teach them how to recognise their own name. Begin to write it using the Kinetic Letters Guide





# Getting Ready for School Checklist:

- ▶ Say please and thank you and wait their turn to talk
- ▶ Make sure they can open their lunchbox
- ▶ Help them use a knife and fork and taste different foods
- ▶ Encourage them to tidy away their own toys
- ▶ Read to them – create a love of books
- ▶ Teach them to put on and take off their own coat and fasten the zip to the top
- ▶ Get them excited for school!



# How can I help my child prepare for school?

- ▶ Encourage your child to be as independent as possible even if it takes far longer for them to get ready.
- ▶ Get them used to a routine in which they go to bed reasonably early and get up early enough for you and your child to have a stress free morning getting ready for school.
- ▶ Be positive. Talk about school as an enjoyable, fun experience.
- ▶ Share the transition book with your child.

**Thank you for listening! Any questions?**