



St White's Primary School

Challenge, Commit, Conquer and Celebrate



September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Reception and the start of your child's exciting school journey at St White's Primary School. We are extremely excited to start the year and get your children settled into school life.

First Week

Our focus in the first few weeks will be on getting to know your children and helping them to settle into school. They will have plenty of opportunities to get to know each other and explore their surroundings.

This term our topic is 'This is me'. Throughout the term your children will learn all about themselves, including how they change as they grow and how to share their views and opinions about things they like and things they do not.

During this topic, we are planning to get to know the children even better by looking at the past and gathering some baby photos of themselves. So, if you are able to provide the team with some photos that would be very much appreciated. These will be return to you as soon as they have used them.

Reading at Home

Here at St White's we continue to see how the opportunity to read, or be exposed to reading books, can have a huge impact on the children's overall progress in all areas of the curriculum. Therefore, we want to make sure we are giving every child the opportunity to reach their full potential by immersing them in books at school and giving them the opportunity to read with you through levelled books sent from home.

Over the coming weeks, staff will begin to send home reading books that will be placed in your child's book bag, together with a reading record. This is for you to write your comments each time you share a book together with your child. Your child will love showing us the comments you have written about their progress. This could be a note to say that your child has created a story, read a story or listened to a story.

The first books that will be sent home are picture books that do not contain words. They are designed specifically for you and your child to use to tell a story or sequence of events using the pictures. Picture books are vital to develop good comprehension and language skills. The idea is that you spend time enjoying books together and talking about the pictures. The school is

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"This is a good school."
Ofsted 2019



passionate about developing children's love of reading. Picture books are the most wonderful way of sparking your child's interest in reading.

Reading books will be changed weekly and your child will be given a maximum of three to take home and share and read over the course of a week. Your child will continue to bring picture reading books home and books with words will gradually be introduced as they are exposed to these sounds in school.

By half term, staff will have introduced your child to our 'reading challenge'. This is a system where the children are challenged to read at home on five or more occasions over a week.

Reading Records will be checked weekly; however, it is important that reading books and reading records are in school every day. Children always love a challenge and your support in helping your child achieve is very much appreciated.

Phonics at Home

Phonics is a method of teaching children to read through making connections between sounds and symbols in the alphabetic writing system. Your child will be very busy learning phonic sounds at school. They will be very eager to show you what they can do so they will bring home their phonic cards to practice the sounds that they are learning. You will notice that on your children's sound cards some letters are printed and some written using a type of cursive font. This is deliberate: it is important that your child is exposed to different text types. When learning to write sounds, your child will be learning how to write in a cursive style. Please ensure that you are encouraging your child to practice the sounds on the cards and to look after them. If for any reason, the cards become lost or damaged please contact the reception team to let them know.

In the early stages of your child learning their sounds, you might find it useful to look it up on YouTube. They are extremely helpful for demonstrating the correct sounds. It is really important to remember it only takes five minutes to practice phonics sounds but makes an enormous difference to the progress your child will make in their reading. The school will also, on Thursday 23rd September, be holding a Reading Information Evening, where phonics will be demonstrated and you will have the opportunity to ask any questions. We hope to see you all there.

Healthy School

St White's School is a healthy school. All children drink water in school and bring in named bottles that contain plain unflavored water which they can leave in class and refill every morning. Your child will be provided with a drink of milk or water and a free piece of fruit every day.



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What are they learning?

Throughout their time in reception, your children will record their learning in Mathematics and English books and in Learning Journeys. Over the course of the year, you will be invited into school for Learning Alongside your child's sessions. At these times, you will have the opportunity to have a look at your child's books. In addition to this, photos will be added to the class Padlet, on the class page of the website, showing you the exciting things going on in school.

P.E

This term, P.E sessions will take place on Wednesday and Friday. We advise that P.E bags are brought into school at the beginning of a term and left in school so that children have access to their P.E kits at all times. Please make sure that all the items of clothing are clearly labelled.

Finally, when the weather starts to become more unsettled please make sure that your child has a named coat in school at all times. The children have continuous access to the outdoor areas and so coats are required every day.

The Reception Team are really excited to be welcoming you and your child to St White's Primary School and are looking forward to getting to know you better over the coming weeks. Please remember that the team is always available to answer any questions you may have, either at the school gate or by making an appointment at the school office, so please do not hesitate to ask if you need our help.

King Regards

The Reception Team.

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