



St White's Primary School

Challenge, Commit, Conquer and Celebrate



September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Reception and the start of your child's exciting school journey at St White's Primary School!

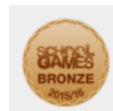
Our focus for the first few weeks will be on getting to know your children and helping them to settle in to school. They will have plenty of opportunities to get to know each other and explore their surroundings.

This term your children will learn all about themselves, including how they change as they grow and also how to share their views and opinions about things that they like and things that they do not. In addition, they will be exploring their own family trees and gaining an idea of their own family history.

Each term there will be a new theme for our learning and this term is especially exciting as the whole school will be focusing upon aspects of social history during the Edwardian Period, including The Great War. In Reception, your child will be finding out what life was like for children a hundred years ago and generating questions such as 'What did they play with?' and 'What did they eat?'

Over the coming days, staff will begin to send home reading books that will be placed in your child's book bag together with a home and school communication record. This is for you to write your comments each time you share a book with your child. Your child will love showing us the comments you have written about their progress. 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 by using the pictures. Picture books are vital to develop good comprehension and language skills. The idea is that you spend time enjoying the books together and talking about the pictures. The school is 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 three books to take home to share and read over the course of a week. Your child will continue to bring home picture reading books and books with words will gradually be introduced. By half term staff will have introduced your child to our 'Reading Challenge'. This is a system where they are rewarded for reading at home on five or more occasions over a week. Children always love a challenge and your support in helping your child achieve is very much appreciated.

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"This is a
good school."
Ofsted 2015



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Phonics are a method of teaching children to read by making connections between sounds and symbols in the alphabetic writing system. Your child will be very busy learning phonics sounds at school. Your child will be very eager to show you what they can do so they will bring home their phonics book to practise the sounds that they are learning. You'll notice that in your child's phonics book each letter is written using a cursive font; this is deliberate because your child will be learning how to write in a cursive style. This book must be returned to school **every single day** because it is used daily in school. Please ensure that you are encouraging your child to practise the sounds in the book and look after it. If for any reason, the book does become lost or damaged it will need to be replaced. You will be able to purchase a new one and it will be important for you to let the class teacher know that you need it.

In the early stages of your child learning their sounds, you might find it useful to look up on Youtube Jolly Phonics videos. They are extremely helpful demonstrating the correct sounds of phonics. The school will also later this month be holding a Reading Information Evening where Reception staff and our children will be demonstrating the teaching of phonics. It's hoped that you will be able to attend this session. It's important to remember that it only takes 5 minutes to practise phonics sounds but makes an enormous difference to the progress your child will make with their reading.

St White's School is a healthy school. All children drink water in school and bring in named bottles that contain plain unflavoured water. Your child will be provided a drink of milk or water and a free piece of fruit every morning at snack time.

Reception staff will be using an online learning journal called 'Tapestry' which will be updated constantly with information about your children's learning and their experiences at school. Please refer to the separate Tapestry information letter that you have already received.

Finally, when the weather starts to become more unsettled, please make sure your child has a named coat in school at all times. The children have continuous access to our outdoor area 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 discuss any concerns or answer any questions so please do not hesitate to ask if you need our help.

Kind regards.

The Reception Team

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