

Dear Parent/s, carers

It has been great to meet you and the children again during consultations and we are looking forward to getting to know you all further over the coming weeks. We hope that the induction process is making the transition process as painless as possible and are confident that the children will soon be feeling settled and happy.

Reception is an important year in your child's development, not only socially but in terms of equipping them with key skills, knowledge and understanding to send them successfully on their learning journey. To make the experience as rich and enjoyable as possible, we will be using a wide range of themes throughout the year to support our learning beginning this term with 'All About Me'. Here, we will spend a couple of weeks introducing ourselves and sharing a bit about our families as well as positively acknowledging our similarities and differences. We will then follow this by focusing on how we can help ourselves to stay healthy, specifically looking at eating properly and keeping our hands and teeth clean. In addition, we will start our focus on phonics and number. Each week, I will send home an overview of learning via the Parent Share facility of Evidence Me so that you are aware of our topic each week and can discuss further or supplement the children's learning if you wish.

As mentioned in consultations, during the first half of the term, we will be performing baseline assessments, looking at each child's current skills and stage of development. This will help us to tailor our provision to provide the best learning experience for each child individually. These assessments will follow the seven areas of learning outlined in The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework <https://www.gov.uk/early-years-foundation-stage>. We will feed back our findings and outline the next steps in their learning at the first parent consultation meeting which will be held in November.

Within the first six weeks, I will also be performing the statutory Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA) with each child. This information will form the basis of a future performance measure for the school and will assess Communication & Language, Literacy and Maths only. Further information about how this assessment will be conducted and used can be found at the following web address https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1074327/2022_Information_for_parents_reception_baseline_assessment.pdf (A paper copy was provided at consultations).

Reading books will be sent home next week (wb 14th September), the first week when the children attend full time. Books will be changed twice a week on Mondays and Fridays but please ensure that they are returned to school every day in their book bag as we will listen to the children read regularly in class. Further information will accompany the books.

P.E. lessons will take place on a Wednesday but it is useful to have a named kit in school all week in case we need to reschedule. Just a reminder, we will not expect the children to have trainers as part of their P.E. kit until the summer term but a pair of black plimsolls to be kept in school is very useful during the winter months for P.E. indoors. Please can you also ensure girls have a pair of socks in their P.E. bags for when they are wearing tights during the colder weather.

Show and Tell will take place on Friday afternoons on a rota system which will shortly be on the noticeboard outside the Reception classroom. This will start on Friday 18th September. When it is their turn, your child can bring in one item from home (nothing valuable or too noisy please!) which they will then show and talk about with the rest of the class. Ideas for Show & Tell might include a photograph, a programme of a recent event, something they have made or a favourite toy.

Some additional information:

- Mrs Anne Lupin (our SENDCo) and Mrs Marina Cocarca will take the class on Wednesday afternoons while myself and Mrs Carmichael have our non-contact time for planning, preparation and assessment.
- I will be holding a parent information evening in school on Tuesday 22nd September at 6.30pm about our phonics scheme *Read, Write Inc.*
- You should now have received an invitation to sign up to the Parent Share feature of Evidence Me. Hopefully, the information for set up provided at consultations is quite straightforward but if you need further help, do get in touch.
- We would very much welcome any parent helpers into school. If anyone has a couple of hours to spare on Friday afternoons and would be willing to help us with filing or cutting, sticking and laminating resources, please talk to one of us - it would be very much appreciated!
- After half-term and once the children have had a chance to settle, we will also be looking for parent helpers to listen to children read in the afternoons. Again, if you can spare an hour, this support would be invaluable.
- Just a reminder! As we will be discussing our families in the near future, please could you send in a photo of your immediate family by Monday 14th September. Thank you!
- Finally, Skyswood tries to promote healthy eating wherever possible. We therefore ask that children do not bring food items such as sweets or cakes into school on their birthday for the rest of the class. We are also a nut free school, and as we have nut allergies within the class we ask that you take extra care if your child is bringing a packed lunch to school.

Our usual method of communication is via Arbor but I can also be contacted on my school email address seymoura@skyswood.aetust.uk. Please do bear in mind that I am with the children during the day so will not have the opportunity to read or respond until either side of school hours.

We are very much looking forward to a fun and productive year and to getting to know you and your child/children. If at any time you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Amelia Seymour

