

Hyde CE Primary School

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Starting School

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Hyde CE Primary School! Starting school is a very exciting time and we hope the information in this pack will answer any questions that you have.

Please come and talk to us if you have any other questions or comments.

We look forward to working with you throughout your child's time at Hyde Primary School.

Mrs Julie Dalziell, Headteacher

### When will my child start school?

Reception children can come to school full time from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018. However, we recommend that they are introduced to school gradually to give them time to adjust to the change in their environment and routine. We would like to suggest the following pattern for attendance:

Week beginning	
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	All morning and lunch time; children collected from the rear gate at 12.45pm
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	All morning and lunch time; children collected from the rear gate at 12.45pm
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	All morning and three afternoons (Monday, Wednesday and Friday)
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	Full time

We are happy to discuss any changes to the above schedule for your individual child. However, it is a legal requirement for all children to be attending school full time by the term after their fifth birthday.

## Daily Routines

The school is open from 8.40am and your child can arrive at any time between then and 8.55am when the bell rings to start the school day. Children who arrive after 8.55am will be marked in the register as late. Class 1 children enter through the rear entrance and then put their coat onto their pegs. There is a space for their outside shoes and welly boots underneath their pegs. Your child should then put their book bag in the Reception book box. If they are having a school dinner they will need to make their choice and place their name card into the correct dish; if they are having a packed lunch they will need to put it into the box for lunch boxes. Children will then be given a morning activity to complete. You can leave your child as soon as you have seen them into school.

At the end of the day the rear door will be opened at 3.20pm. When you arrive, an adult will fetch your child from the classroom and bring them to you at the door. We will only release children to an adult that we have been told can collect them; therefore, it is **essential** that you tell us of **any change** to their collection arrangements.

Part of coming to school is to learn the skills necessary to be independent. We would therefore ask that you encourage your child to complete as much of the early morning routine as possible on their own.

## Playtimes

There is a morning break of 25 minutes which includes time to eat a fruit snack (provided by the county). Reception children will have their break in the triangle, (their outside space), with their Buddies whilst they are settling in, before being encouraged to play on the common with the other children. Before going onto the common they will be told about the school rules for crossing the road and the boundaries that outline where they are allowed to go when they get there.

## Lunch times

Children have a choice between a packed lunch and a hot meal. The hot meal is provided by Hampshire County Council and there is a choice of a meat (red) meal or a vegetarian (green) meal every day. From September 2014 all children in Reception, Year One and Year Two have been able to have a free school meal. Reception children eat their lunch on a table with their Buddy and other children from their team.

## Illness

We understand that your child may occasionally be too ill to come to school. Please let us know if you need to keep them at home – if they have suffered from sickness or diarrhoea they will need to be off school for 48 hours after the most recent incidence to prevent the spread of illnesses. Any medicine that your child needs to take during the school day, for example if they need to finish a course of antibiotics, will need to be given to Mrs Baker in the school office. You will need to complete a permission slip and to collect the medicine from the office at the end of the school day.

If your child is taken ill during the school day we will ring the contact numbers that you have given us to ask somebody to come and collect them. It is therefore essential that you make sure that your contact details are up to date.

If your child requires basic first aid throughout the school day, for example after they have fallen over, a note will be put into their book bag. Please make sure that you check their book bag **every day** and read the slips. It is important that children who have had accidents at school are monitored closely, particularly if they have bumped their head, and if you are at all concerned you should take them to the doctor.

## The Buddy System

At Hyde Primary School we encourage the older children to help the younger children settle into school life. Your child will be paired with a Buddy from Class 3 who will help them during playtimes, lunchtimes and team activities. This provides them with a friendly face they can talk to about school life and who will help them with school routines. Reception children and Buddies will meet during the induction mornings before starting school.

## Taking your child out of school during the school day

Once school has started the rear door and the school gates are locked. If you need to take your child out of school you should use the security entrance system on the front door. There is a book in the office to enable you to sign your child out.

## School Teams

All of the children at Hyde are put into one of five teams which are named after birds: Buzzards, Eagles, Falcons, Ospreys and Kestrels. Throughout the week children have the opportunity to earn team points which go towards a team cup, announced each week during the Friday assembly. There are also lots of opportunities where children from across the school work together in their teams for a range of activities and outcomes, for example Children in Need and sports day.

### Our School Teams



Buzzards



Eagles



Falcons



Ospreys



Kestrels

## Reading and Writing

Learning to read is one of the most important skills that a child has to master. For the first few weeks, whilst your child is settling in to school, they will be able to choose picture books or books for you to read to them from the book box in the classroom. It is important that you and your child spend time each day looking at books and talking about them as this helps children to enjoy reading and stories. After your child has settled in we will send home a book from the school scheme. The first band of books are books without words, where children will practise telling stories using the pictures. These books are important because they help children to understand story conventions, for example that events and characters are linked together. They can also continue to take picture books home to share with you.

Teaching reading is done through a combination of developing phonic knowledge, (knowledge of letters and sounds), and recognising key words which are words that frequently occur in texts and that might not be able to be sounded out using phonic knowledge. We use Letters and Sounds to teach phonic knowledge and we teach 1-2 sounds each day. When we start to teach phonics we will send home "tag sounds". These are letter sounds for your child to practise with you at home. When they are ready we will also send home key words for you to practise.

Children will learn to write by being taught letter formation at the same time as their letter sounds. We use the Nelson Handwriting Scheme to teach letter formation and there is a copy in this pack so that you can see the handwriting style. However, children all go through a phase of emergent writing where their writing might not make sense and may consist of a collection of letter shapes or lines and circles. This is an important phase for children and they should be encouraged to practise their developing skills.

There will be meetings in the Autumn Term where you will be able to find out more about how reading, writing and maths are taught.

## Maths

Maths will be taught in a variety of practical contexts by sorting, classifying, comparing and ordering numbers and shapes. Your children will sing a variety of number songs and chant rhymes and be given opportunities to experiment with their developing knowledge. We will also use situations in the school day to show children how maths applies to their lives. Children will be encouraged to record their work in a variety of ways, including writing numerals down. However, there is very little formal recording in the Foundation Stage Curriculum as the focus is on understanding and using appropriate mathematical language and concepts.

## What does my child need in school?

We aim to use the outside area and the common as much as possible, regardless of the weather. Children will need a waterproof coat and outdoor shoes or welly boots in school at all times as it can be cold and muddy, even on spring days.

Children will also need a PE kit containing shorts, a T-shirt, plimsolls and a track suit top and bottom. We use the village hall for PE on Wednesday mornings; however it is useful to have their PE kit in school at all times so that we can take advantage of any good weather for outside PE lessons. We will have one outdoor PE lesson each week.

Your child will need to bring their book bag every day with their key words, letter sounds, reading book and reading record book. Key words, letter sounds and reading books will be given out after the children have settled into school.

We understand that your child might be nervous about coming to school and might need the reassurance of a familiar object or toy from home. They are welcome to bring these into the classroom for the first half term as they are settling in, although they will need to be put onto the shelf to watch the children after the bell has rung. Please do not let them bring anything too expensive or precious.

## How can I help my child settle in to school?

There are lots of things you can do to help your child settle in:

- Encourage your child to be as independent as possible so that they can cope with their own toilet needs and can dress and undress themselves, including changing their own shoes
- Help your child to recognise their name
- Talk about what will happen during the school day and reassure them that you will pick them up on time
- Use the pictures in the children's pack to help your child recognise areas of the school
- Share story and information books with your child to help them see reading as an enjoyable activity
- Make sure your child has the things they need for the day (for example, their book bag and lunch box) so that they don't worry about forgetting things

Most children settle into school very quickly. However it can take some children a little bit longer to get used to the change in routine. It is important that you stay positive and upbeat about school and that you stick to your routines so that children do not focus on any anxieties you have. We will always tell you honestly how your child is settling in and discuss any concerns with you.

## Sharing Success from Outside School

At Hyde we recognise that learning happens both at home and at school. We also know that you have important knowledge about your child's achievements. We would like you to share those achievements and the moments that make you go "wow!" by using the online learning journal, Tapestry, (see information on the next page). Any comments on individual observations will only be visible to staff and parents of the child concerned; however, if other children are "linked" to the observation all parents of children involved will be able to see any comments made.



## Learning Journals

The majority of evidence for learning in the Foundation Stage is collected from observations of the children engaging in different activities. The adults in Class One all have times where they focus on different aspects of learning and record what the children are doing to allow us to develop a broad picture of what each child can do. We are now using Tapestry, an online learning journal, to record these observations. This means that you can access your child's learning journal at any time via a computer. If your child used Tapestry at their nursery or preschool their learning journey will continue into their time at Hyde. At the start of the year you will be given a log in and a password to enable you to access their learning journal at home. If you need help to access a computer please come and see us.

## How will I know what my child is doing at school?

Every half term, or more regularly if the topic has changed, you will receive a curriculum newsletter. This will give an outline of the learning that we will be focussing on at school. We also have regular Open Classroom events and class assemblies where we invite you into the classroom so that you can share your child's learning with them. In the Autumn Term there will be some information sessions where we will tell you more details about how we teach reading, writing and maths and how we make our assessments of their learning. In addition to these informal events there is also one Parent's Evening a term where you will be able to have an appointment to talk to the class teacher. However, if you have any comments or concerns please do come and talk to us at any time.

## Forest School

Forest School is a fantastic opportunity for your child to develop their personal skills as well as their curriculum knowledge. We are hoping that Mrs Stride will be able to run Forest School sessions for us again next year. However, we use the outside environment as much as possible for our learning and the children work towards their Trailblazer award as recognition of their outside learning. We will keep you up to date with both the Trailblazer award and any Forest School sessions through our curriculum newsletters. If you would like more information before your child starts at Hyde School please come and speak to us.

## Staffing in Class One

For the academic year 2018-19, Class One will be taught by Mrs Gemma Sims, Mrs Sarah Close and Mrs Helen Kuroпка. Mrs Sims will be teaching all day from Monday to Thursday, Mrs Close will teach P.E. on Friday mornings and Mrs Kuroпка will teach on Friday afternoons. Music will be taught on Friday mornings by Mr Dalziell.

All the teachers are experienced at teaching Key Stage One and the Early Years Foundation stage. It will be necessary at some points during the year for Class One to be covered by other teachers, for example, when Mrs Sims needs to go on a course. We use the same supply teachers wherever possible in order to provide continuity for the children.