

Absences – If your child is absent from school, please contact the school before 9:20 to inform us. If we have not been contacted, the school administrator is required to phone home to find out where your child is. I am sure you can appreciate the safety issue involved here.

Adventure Island – Please provide a change of clothes, in a bag, for your child to wear to Adventure Island. We can get very dirty! It is best that trousers/leggings and a long sleeved top are worn. Wellies will be needed if the ground is wet underfoot. Our session at A I will normally be on a Wednesday afternoon. If you can, please leave a spare pair of wellies on the outside pegs as we use wellies a lot!

Beginning of the day – Please come in the main gate and go down the path to the right of the school building. The path will take you to the lower playground. The children will come on into the classroom on their own and self register. We will be busy settling children into school at the beginning of the day, so if you wish to talk to us at length, please see us after school. Messages can also be written in the Home/School Book.

Breakfast and Twilight Club – Breakfast club is run from Monday to Friday from 8.10am in the school hall. Toast, cereals, fruit and milk are available. Twilight club runs from Monday to Friday from 3.15pm to 4.45pm, in the school hall. Toast, fruit and a drink are made available. Breakfast and Twilight places are booked and paid for using our online parent payment system called School Gateway. Full instructions on how the system works are included in your new starters pack and are also available on the school website.

Buddy – We are hoping that your child will have a Big Buddy from Year 6 who will help them settle into school.

End of the day – The children will be sent out to meet you from the classroom at 3:10pm. Please wait for them in the area outside our classroom. If someone else is picking your child up, please let the school office know or put a note in the home school book.

Illness – Please let us know when your child is ill and if the illness is an infectious one. If a child has had sickness or diarrhoea they are required to remain off school for 48 hours from the last occurrence.

Medicines – An ‘Administration of Medicines in School’ form is available from the school office and will need to be completed for any medicines we give.

Packed lunches – We recommend that you do not include chocolate spread/jam sandwiches, sweets, chocolate and fizzy drinks. **Please do not send any food containing nuts as we are a nut-free school.** Please name your child’s lunch box somewhere on the outside of the box.

Parents’ meetings – Individual meetings with Mrs Raffell, will be arranged at the end of the first half of the term. It will be an opportunity to talk about how your child is settling into school.

Parent Support Co-ordinator and Early Help – For confidential advice, support and information, Cara Shepherd is at the end of a phone. Please feel free to call Cara who is based at Sidmouth College on 01395 514823 ext 230 or 07495 540415.

Parent Teacher Friends’ Association – All parents are members of the PTFA and are welcome to take an active role in it by attending meetings and helping with the events that are organised.

PE kit – To start with, in the Autumn Term, in line with our PE policy the children just need trainers as they are much better than plimsolls and give much more support for their feet. If you can get trainers with Velcro even better!!

Reading Diary – Your child will come home with this blue book each day. The book is a way to record what books they have read and how they have got on with their reading. Once your child starts to bring home a book we aim to hear them read weekly and will put a comment in too.

Rewards As a school we give out certificates for Responsibility, Readiness, Resourcefulness, Reflectiveness and Resilience, together with others that are awarded. Your child will also be placed in one of our four school teams, Red, Blue, Green or Yellow. Children can earn points for their team in a variety of ways. Our Behaviour Policy can be found on the school’s website.

School dinners – A menu for the term will be sent to you and is available on our website. Currently your child will receive a free school meal (this is known as the universal infant free school meal) and this is available to children in reception, year 1 & year 2. At the beginning of a week please let us know if your child is having the vegetarian option, a jacket potato or a packed lunch, via Tapestry online Journal. If we don’t hear from you we will assume they are having the main option.

Some children are entitled to a free school meal based upon certain eligibility criteria. There is a leaflet in your new starter pack explaining this. If you think you may be eligible please do apply as the school will receive additional 'pupil premium' funding to support your child.

Snack – The children in Reception and Key Stage 1 are provided with a break time snack of fruit or vegetables. There is no charge for the snack.

Sun hats and sun cream – Please provide these for your child as soon as the weather warrants it. We can help your child to top up their sun-cream, but please could you apply some thoroughly before he/she comes to school.

Take-home bags and PE bags – These are available to buy at the school office but are not essential as we give each child a plastic reading bag to keep their reading book and reading diary in. NO BIG rucksacks please as our peg space is very limited. A small draw-string bag labelled with your child's name on the outside for their PE trainers would be great.

Tapestry- this is our online journal and a way of communicating with you about how your child is progressing in reception. It is a great way to send messages about lunch options or if someone else is picking up your child. Photos of your child will be posted on your account and you can also put photos of your child when they do something at home to share with us. A form is in your welcome pack to complete.

Uniform – Please refer to our separate letter regarding the purchasing of uniform. A waterproof coat is a necessity, even in the summer! **Please name all clothing.** Shoes should provide good support for your child's feet. More details relating to our uniform are contained in the School Information Pack.

Water bottles – We want water to be available for the children at all times. The Parent Teacher Association is kindly providing water bottles for each new child. In our class the bottles will be filled, emptied and cleaned for the children.

Website – You can keep up to date with news and dates to remember on our school website and class webpage. Please browse this regularly. You will also receive our online newsletter 'School Matters' and ESchools letters with updates.

Information for Reception Barn Owls

