

# Welcome to Reception



Dear Parents and Children,

Welcome to your first term of school at Broadway East. We have really enjoyed meeting all of the children in both Reception Red and Blue Class today. We are excited to learn more about them and are looking forward to the term ahead.

As you know your child will be at school for half a day for the first two weeks. Our focus will be on getting to know the children and establishing routines. Week Three will be exciting, as not only will the children stay for lunch for the first time, but they will stay for the entire day. Staff will stay and have lunch with the children to begin with. All children in Reception are entitled to a free school meal (FSM), but you can provide your own packed lunch if you prefer. We will be providing sandwich lunches which will be made on site by our kitchen team. These will consist of a sandwich and other items such as fruit, cake, crisps and a drink. We will work with the kitchen team and our school cook to begin hot cooked meals as soon as we are able to.

Our topic this half term is Magical Me, which is a lovely way of getting to know the children. Please find attached the topic overview for this half term.

## Reading and Phonics

For the majority of children, the first books sent home will be picture books and will introduce the main characters from our reading scheme. Please encourage your child to “read” the book from the pictures and predict what they think will happen next. Making sense of text is the sole purpose of reading. Talking to your child about the storyline and the characters is just as important as decoding the text.

The main strategy that children are taught how to read is through the use of phonics to decode words by:

- blending sounds for reading.
- segmenting sounds for spelling.

Phonemes (sounds) are introduced in quick succession (around 4 per week) and subsequently revised and reinforced. Children receive 15/20 minutes designated Phonics teaching per day. The sessions will be enjoyable sessions with a great emphasis on games and participation from the children. As new phonemes are

learned, children are encouraged to include them in their blending and segmenting activities. Being able to rhyme is an important skill in early reading, we play lots of rhyming games and include lots of rhyming stories and songs in our Literacy work and throughout the school day.

## Handwriting

Before a child starts to write it is important that they learn to hold the pencil correctly. It is important that children learn to form their letters correctly in the early stages. Children should use lower case letters in their writing. We will be sending a letter formation sheet home with helpful rhymes to support you when helping your child to write.

## Weather/ Uniform

With the weather beginning to turn cold it is important that all children have a warm/waterproof coat, gloves, a hat and wellington boots, as we will endeavour to get outside as much as we can to use the Outdoor area and Reception Garden. Please also ensure that every item of your child’s uniform, including their hats, gloves and coats are clearly named.

## PE

On PE days children should come dressed in PE kits (joggers with or without shorts underneath, t shirts, trainers, hoodies or sweatshirts – these do not have to be uniform but the simpler the better). Our PE days, from Week 3, will be as follows:

**Red Class-Wednesday & Thursday**

**Blue Class- Monday & Thursday**

Unfortunately, parents and carers are not allowed in school at the current time. If you need to speak to your child’s class teacher, please telephone or email the school office and a message will be passed on to teaching staff who will then contact you later. There will be staff presence in the mornings and afternoons so you can also pass messages on when you drop off and pick up. Mrs Lancaster and Mrs Whatnell will be happy to answer questions by telephone or email too.

With your continued support, I am sure that we will have a very successful and exciting half term ahead of us.

Many Thanks,

The Early Years Team