

2nd September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We look forward to welcoming you and your child/ren to Firle Church of England Primary School on Monday 6th September.

We value our partnership with you and feel that communication is a key factor in the happiness and development of your child; please always let us know of any concerns you have and share your child's achievements with us. You can do this by passing on a message at the beginning of the day, having a longer chat at the end of the day or phoning or e-mailing either Mrs Fitzpatrick, Mrs Brown or myself via the school office.

Your child's education profile in Reception will be informed by all three parties - your child, you, and us.

There will be a staggered start to school in September to help with the transition into school this will be as follows;

- Monday 6th September Reception children will arrive at school at 9.30am and will be collected at 12.15pm
- Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th the children will arrive at school by 9am and will be collected after lunch at 1.15pm
- Thursday 9th and Friday 10th and thereafter the children will arrive at school at 8:55am and will be collected at 3.15pm.

Please aim for your child to be in school by 9am at the latest as after this time, they will be recorded as late which will affect their attendance figure.

You may remember Mrs Fitzpatrick mentioning about a CHATTER BOX in the parent/ carer initial meeting. This will be a helpful way for us to get to know your child, and to prompt your child to chatter more confidently to adults and their peers. Between now and Monday 13th September please help your child to fill a named shoebox with items that are of interest to them. This could be photos of family members or pets, shells from the beach, a holiday souvenir, a small favourite toy etc. Please make sure nothing is too precious, and help your child to understand that the box will stay at school for the first few weeks of term so it should not contain important bedtime toys etc.

As part of the transition process some children may find it comforting to bring in a toy from home. This needs to be small enough to fit in their drawer. As the year progresses, expectations will change, and children will be asked to bring toys in on Friday's only, for Golden Time.

Below are some of the other points that were in your parent pack that may help answer some of your questions in them starting school.

- Lunches are free for all children in Reception and Years 1 and 2. The children will order their lunch each morning, in the classroom.

- Milk is free for all under 5s. Please complete the form in your parent pack to apply for milk once your child turns 5
- All children will also have their own named water bottle
- A fruit snack is free for all through the government scheme however if your child requires their own snack then please ensure it is only fresh fruit or vegetables in a named bag/tub
- Long hair (e.g shoulder length) should be tied back at all times
- Please ensure your child has a book bag with them every day. It is helpful if this is personalised with a key ring or something similar
- Home learning - your child will bring home a reading book to share with you. When it is returned it can be changed. Later in the academic year, children will begin to bring early reading books home (for them to read to you), as well as prompts for early number practise and spellings
- PE kit - this should include a coloured t shirt of their house colour; dark, plain shorts (preferably navy or black); dark, plain tracksuit trousers or leggings; plimsolls or trainers. According to school policy, if your child does not have a full PE kit they will not be able to participate in the PE lesson. All clothing should be named and kept in a drawstring bag (clearly named). School PE bags are also available at the office
- Wellies - please send in a pair of named wellies, to be kept in school at all times, for Forest School and outdoor learning in all weathers
- Toileting - please provide spare clothes if wetting is still a possibility. We have spare clothes for occasional accidents

I know this may seem a bit overwhelming to start with but we are here to help and recognise that it is a big leap when your child/ren start school. Please just ask if there is anything you are not sure of and we will make sure that we get back to you. There will be a time in the first 2 weeks of term for you to meet Mrs Fitzpatrick to go through further information about the class.

We are really looking forward to sharing your child's journey and hope that they are feeling happy about starting school.

Kind regards,

Rachel West
Executive Headteacher