

We are delighted to welcome you to Dothill!

Introductions:

Jenny Thomas, new Head Teacher in September

Nikki Harvey, Deputy Head Teacher

Amy Wood, EYFS Lead

Ali Melville, Class Teacher and Phonics Leader

Hannah Thackray, Class Teacher

Claire and Rosie from After School Club

Laura Benton, representing the Friends Association.

Other key people you and your child may get to know

Pastoral team

Karen Sturmeay, Learning Mentor

Clare Thornhill, Wellbeing HLTA.

Office team

Julie Thornton, School Business Manager

Lorna Mellish, Admin Assistant

Nicola Hughes, Admin Assistant.

A Typical Day In Reception

Early Years should rightly be prioritised as the bedrock of ALL learning.

There are **Seven areas** of learning in Reception:

- Communication and Language
 - Personal, Social and Emotional Development
 - Physical Development
 - Literacy
 - Mathematics
 - Understanding the World
 - Expressive Arts and Design
- We will always focus on **reading as a priority**. There will be a parent meeting about RWI phonics in early Autumn Term. Mrs Melville is RWI lead across school. More information about phonics, including a parents area on the website, will be developed for September.

School day timings

Gates at the front and back of the school will open at 8:30am and again at 3pm

School day: 8:45am - 3:15pm

In reception our two classes share a large space. Toilets are within the area and therefore in easy reach. An exciting outdoor provision ensures your child is active both in and outside. There are dedicated areas to each area of learning and children are able to access these areas during continuous learning times.

I'll hand over to Miss Wood to explain more about what the day looks like!

School Uniform And Equipment

Uniform can be purchased from Baker and Son (Wellington) – Our uniform is **Royal Blue**: Dothill crew neck sweater, Dothill book bag, Dothill Cardigan, Dothill fleece, Dothill polo shirt pale blue, Dothill sky blue PE t-shirt, Iron on name labels.

You do not need to purchase from B and S but please ensure you stick to the **same colour**, so your child does not stand out – Royal blue jumper/ cardigan, pale/sky blue polo and PE t-shirt.

Please **LABEL EVERYTHING!** Forest school – waterproof outfit to wear over school uniform. Wellies – named and to leave in school. We cannot spend time searching for lost things - if it's named, you have a chance!

Water bottles – in school daily, named and **only filled with plain water**. Encourage your child to drink water – we will not fill bottles with flavoured water or juice so begin to encourage this at home from now please!

No snacks needed as we offer daily fruit in reception.

No jewellery please for health and safety. If studs must be worn, they must be plain only – no hooped earrings at all. Hair decorations / bobbles to be discrete. Please tie back long hair for health and safety reasons. It also helps to prevent head lice.

Starting School Expectations

Is your child **school ready**? Can they be **independent**? Please remember we will have a ratio of 1:15 in the classroom – your child will be expected to use the toilet by themselves, dress themselves, take off and put on their own coats.

Shoes – please teach your child to tie their shoelaces – or ensure they wear Velcro!

Children will love coming into school if you are **excited** with them. Do not tell them how much you will miss them (even if it is true!). Tell them what an exciting day they will have at school and that you cannot wait for them to teach you what they have learned when they get home!

The sooner your child can independently come into school by themselves, the happier they (and you!) will be with less tears and clinging. There will be opportunities to come into school as we know they love to show off and proud of their work/classroom. More details throughout the year.

Attendance And Illness

Being **on time** and in school **every day** is vital, so your child does not miss key learning. Imagine missing the start of a film, or the beginning of a story. It takes time to catch up and this can be hard.

We know children pick up germs and illness – we expect sniffles and feeling under the weather. Please try to administer paracetamol if needed and bring to school. We will always send children home if they are too poorly to be here but often, a child will pick up once in school and busy with their friends.

For sickness and diarrhoea (a vomiting bug rather than being sick after eating too much!) please remain at home for 48 hours. Other childhood illnesses e.g. chicken pox etc. please contact school and we will let you know the advice.

The rules have changed this academic year regarding term time holidays: Under the new national framework, all schools will be required to consider a fine when a child has missed **10 or more sessions (5 days)** for unauthorised reasons. From August 2024, the fine for school absences across the country will be **£80** if paid within 21 days, or **£160** if paid within 28 days.

Communication

Parents as partners

Homework – this will consist of **daily reading**. We will teach this daily in school, but it is quite simple – the more they practise, the better and more confident their reading will be. This will make ALL their learning easier.

Homework – **Numbots** maths for at least 10 minutes each week. Other maths – count everything! Stairs, items of food. Practise adding one more and taking one away to find one less. Learn the days of the week and the months of the year.

We have several ways to communicate: most importantly our **open-door policy** – teachers are on the door each day, and there is a **direct email** to the phase leader, though please bear in mind this won't be answered directly, so urgent information must come through via telephone to the main school reception.

For illness, please ring the office first thing in the morning, each day your child is absent.

You can download **App Schools** which is linked to our website for regular updates / ensure contact details are up to date. The app will send a notification so not to miss important messages both whole school and for their class.

Other Information

Free school meals – **all children** are entitled to these in Reception, Year 1 and 2. School sandwiches can be ordered. We would like to encourage you to take advantage of the free school meals your child is entitled to. It will save you money, help them be less picky, and most importantly ensure they have a balanced and nutritious meal to keep their energy levels high throughout their busy school day. As a school, we receive funding based on school meals, so you are helping us fund more that your child will benefit from by doing this. Please speak to us if you have concerns.

We do not wish to pry into your circumstances, but if your household earnings are less than £16,190 you may be eligible for free school meals / additional funding. We can use this funding to support your child in school beyond ks1, offer cheaper school trips, Telford and Wrekin holiday vouchers etc.

Car parking – we do not have space for this, and it is limited on Severn Way. Please be courteous to our neighbours and walk if at all possible.

Please download *Parent Pay* (activation codes will be handed out in September)

Other Information

Summer Homework

Remember: Practising getting dressed, using the toilets independently.

Practise counting, recognising their name (though we will teach handwriting in Autumn).

Any questions...?