

## Words of advice from a previous new parent (things she wished she had known before starting)

All the information in this booklet has been compiled from a typical year in reception up to half term before the summer holidays. No doubt there will be things I miss but hopefully this will act as a guide to a mysterious and exciting new chapter in yours and your child's life

### **INTRODUCTION**

I just want to say at this point that your children are in very good hands. They will be supported and nurtured as will you. My child took several weeks to settle in but this was not seen as a problem as a new environment can take time to adapt to. I received encouragement and support from all the staff.

### **BEFORE THE FIRST DAY**

#### **UNIFORM**

As your child will be starting in September, the weather can be quite warm. But it's not essential to have too many sets of summer uniform as they will be in it for such a short time and it won't fit them next summer!

Grey skirt for girls with short sleeved polo shirt and the school jumper can serve for this short period if you don't want buy a summer dress. Boys wear either grey shorts or trousers with their polo shirt. School logo polo shirts can be bought using the link on the webpage.

#### **SHOES**

Plain, black school shoes are needed. Velcro fastenings help the children to be change independently. Plain, closed-toe sandals are permitted for summer.

#### **WELLIE BOOTS**

These are a must for outside from the start of school term. They are left at school on the wellie rack in the cloakroom. This means you never have to remember to bring them and they are always there when they need them. The wellies only come home at the end of term or half term when the school gets a thorough clean and all excess is taken home and brought back at the start of the term.

#### **SCHOOL BAG, BOOK BAG, LUNCH BAG, DRINK BOTTLE**

A small back pack can fit everything in it, making it easier at pick up and drop off because they come running out at the end of the day and dump it at your feet!

**BOOK BAG** is a must. It can contain anything that needs to be brought home. Reading book, worksheets for home learning, notices and letters for parents. Chosen library books to read at home, invitations to parties etc make a habit of looking in everyday - it's easy to miss what's going on otherwise.

**LUNCH BAG** - (unless your child is having school dinners). The school promotes health eating, so any cakes, biscuits, crisps, chocolate and sweets are only allowed on Fridays. All the children know this and are most active in enforcing it with each other. They will have a snack of fruit mid-morning provided by the school, so it's only what they would eat at lunch time that you need to provide and a drink.

#### **WATER BOTTLE**

Your child needs a water bottle each day at school. They have access to it throughout the day and are encouraged to use it. Water bottle gets taken home every day. If your child is having a packed lunch then they may have a separate bottle with juice/squash for lunch only.

## PE KIT

PE kit. Green T-shirt with school logo order through school and green shorts.

Plimsolls are the cheapest option but trainers with Velcro can be sturdier. PE kit usually stays in school for half a term and then goes home for washing. T-shirt, shorts and shoes with an extra pair of socks. Outdoor PE kit is long sleeved top or school hoody, joggers (dark plain colour) and socks.

## START THE DAY 8.40AM

Mrs Harvey is on the gate from 8.30am

Reception children come straight into the classroom for the first few weeks. After that time, they line up outside and go in when the whistle blows.

Self-registration - the children find their name inside the door under the **OUT** sign and move it to the other side of the door under the **IN** sign.

Each child has a named drawer for their bookbag. Children are responsible for collecting it at the end of the day and bringing it home. Children are encouraged to be independent with their belongings. It's far too crowded in the cloakroom for parents too and children soon get used to this.

For the first couple of weeks I held my child's hand into the classroom, then for the next couple said goodbye at the door, then said goodbye in line. There were a couple of mornings where I made eye contact with the teacher and she immediately knew I needed help and came over to assist. There were sometimes tears but, as with most cases, the performance was just for me and as soon as I was out of sight it was over!

This took most of the first term. Then one day I was not required anymore. However, every child is different. You will be supported and assured by the teachers the whole time.

**PLAYTIME** Some playtimes will be taken in the Reception garden but as soon as children feel confident, they will join the other children on the playground. The older children are encouraged to help the younger ones and do this naturally. There is a rota for riding the bikes in the playground and there is a supply of helmets in the school. Children can bring their own if they prefer.

**LUNCHTIME** - this is held in the hall in two sittings. The older children help the younger children and lunch is well supervised.

The Easy lunch company provide our school lunches. They will send a flyer home in the book bag with details for menus Website is [www.theeasylunchcompany.co.uk](http://www.theeasylunchcompany.co.uk) if you want to take a look at it beforehand. This year you will be able to go through the menu and select a choice for your child.

Milk or water is provided at lunchtime for all children.

**Mid-morning milk** - fill in the form, it is free for under 5s but you need to start paying as soon as your child is 5. The school cannot do anything about this rule, so fill in the form to get the milk. If your child will not drink milk then they will be able drink water from their water bottle.

## HOMETIME 3.05

At pick up time the teachers will be looking for you to hand your child over at the end of the day. When you ask them what they did, they will probably say, 'Nothing.' Don't believe them! They are probably just tired. Ask them later when they have had a chance to process the day's events.



## **FOREST SCHOOL**

Forest School is an afternoon of outdoor activities. They often end by sitting on the logs around a fire with a cup of hot chocolate (even if it is raining). Jogging bottoms, but remember to also send waterproofs and extra jumpers in case it is cold.

Wet weather kit is essential. Dungarees with adjustable shoulder straps and a coat are the best way to keep them dry. I got ours from Waterproof World or Mountain Warehouse. Wellie boots are already at school and wellie boot socks can be useful if really cold Hat, gloves and warm socks are useful too.

## **AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS**

Usually Reception children don't start any clubs until the Jan term.

There are various clubs after school. Some are for certain year groups - it will say on the form when it comes home - it will be in the book bag.

Clubs usually last up to 4pm but may vary. They are run by professionals, teachers and volunteers so if your child is attending a club please be prompt to pick up as it's only fair to the people who volunteer their time.

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

There are a several days during the year which notices will come home for in the book bag that will probably require something to be done by you!

Whenever there is anything going on outside normal school day, there is usually a contact form sent home in the book bag which you need to fill out and send back.

## **FOSS - FRIENDS OF SHIPLEY SCHOOL**

This is a group of parents supported by the head and teachers who fundraise for the school. The work they do subsidises the cost of many school activities and helps to buy new equipment for the children. It's a community school and we all have the same goal. Your support throughout the year would be greatly appreciated by all. They are a vibrant organisation and have raised an extra-ordinary amount of money in the last three years which has all been spent on the children.

Hope this helps

