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# St. Anne's C.E. Primary School

Dear Parents/ carers and children,

Thank you for choosing St Anne's Primary School, we are delighted to welcome you and child to our school family. We are very proud of our setting and the journey we are about to begin together. Unfortunately, due to the recent global pandemic we have been unable to offer our usual transition arrangements but hope that you feel confident that you have the information that you need. If you require any additional support, we are available to answer queries this week in the afternoon and following that please either catch myself or Mrs Davidson at the end of the day or call the school office to make an appointment to speak to us.

This term focuses on welcoming your child not only to Reception Class but also to St Anne's as a larger community. Very soon, your child will be invited to eat in the dining hall and attend Collective Worship which will involve spending time with new members of staff and children from other classes. We want your child to feel safe, secure and above all happy to be here and hope that they are as excited as we are to start their first year of school.

First Parent's Evening – Your child's first Parent's Evening will take place in the second Autumn Half term and will involve a 10-minute phone call with your class teacher. The first Parent's meeting is a two-way process and is focussed on how your child has settled into daily school life. If you have any questions, it is a good idea to come prepared as the 10-minute meeting tends to fly by very quickly. If you require a longer meeting or would like to discuss additional educational needs, please telephone the school office to make an appointment.

Introduction to Phonics and reading – Phonics is the system by which children learn to read and write. They learn letters by the sounds they make rather than their names for example 'a' is said 'ah' not 'ay'. The sounds are introduced in a fixed order starting with the ones that are most commonly used. Phonemes (sounds) – there are 44 phonemes in total, some are single letter sounds and some are made up of more than one sound such as 'sh' or 'igh'. Once children have mastered the sounds they learn how they are combined or blended to make words. If you have any questions about Phonics or learning to read please do not hesitate to ask but as the term progresses we will be sending information to help you support your child at home. We like your child to have made a good start with phonics before they are given a reading book so that they have the foundations for learning to read, although we firmly encourage you to read and share books with your child at home.



Maths Mastery – Here at St Anne’s we use the Maths Mastery approach in Reception, it involves specific learning strategies such as using concrete objects (Lego, counters, Numicon etc) and an emphasis on learning key maths facts by heart, such as number bonds and eventually times tables. It can be helpful to support your child’s mathematical journey at home by encouraging counting, sorting and estimating in daily life and routines.

PE – This term we will be using a specialist sports coach to teach the children about staying healthy and keeping fit. This session will take place on a Wednesday and in the interim we would ask that your child comes dressed in school PE kit on this day only and wears full uniform the rest of the week. As the term progresses, we will start to change from uniform to PE Kit in school but will notify you in advance when this change is going to take place. To support your child with their independence please encourage them to dress and undress at home. It is very important that they can dress and undress themselves and take off and put on their own shoes independently. Please label ALL clothing, shoes, trousers, skirts, coats, hats, wellies, bags, water bottles etc. It is very easy for children to lose or mix up their belongings when starting school and it is much easier for staff to return labelled items.

Suitable clothing – We aim to explore the outdoor environment in all weathers and would ask that you provide your child with suitable outerwear according to the weather. Please provide your child with a pair of wellies that can be left in school as we enjoy exploring the outdoor space as much as possible. We will notify you by text and on the school social media about extreme weather e.g., to wear sun cream or clothes suitable for a snowy day.

We hope this will be the beginning of a happy, secure and successful time for you and your child and aim to develop a supportive partnership where we can all work together. We understand that starting school is an important milestone and we want to make this memory as special as possible.

Miss Taylor and Mrs Davidson