



'Every Child Counts, Every Moment Matters'

Headteacher - Mrs Lisa Montandon

## Welcome to Millfields

We hope the following information will help to prepare you for September.

In September your child will be in one of our two Reception classes called 'Acorns'. These classes work together across our Reception base. Each child has an allocated teacher who delivers their learning input. Activities are then spaced across the reception areas and the outside learning area. The reception base is being fully refurbished and resourced ready for September 2021- we are very excited about the opportunities that these changes to the space will bring.

Each reception class has a class teacher and a teaching assistant. You will be notified of your child's class teacher in due course and hopefully will have the opportunity to meet them in a group situation, should restrictions allow. In September you will be able to meet them via Teams or in person, depending on restrictions, to talk about your child, during their first week at school.

For the first week or so your child will not be in school full time. Further details of this will be sent out in the next few weeks.

### Daily Routine (after induction days)

Every morning and afternoon we have staggered drop off and collections so that we can limit the number of people on site at any one time to allow social distancing. Each year group is let up to the playground by a member of staff on duty at the entrance of the school. Once on the playground a member of the Senior Leadership Team will be on the door to greet you and your child at 9am, which is the official start to reception class' school day. The gates will be locked after this time and you will have to ring the bell to be let onto the playground for your child to be collected by a member of staff. Any child arriving to school after 9am will be registered as late.

Your child will enter school as independently as possible. Teachers and teaching assistants will be available to support your child organising their belongings and settling them into class before the register is taken. Each day there will be a class assembly, with a whole school assembly twice a week. At the moment these whole school assemblies are held virtually via Teams, but children still are able to participate, answering questions, showing their certificates etc.

In the morning, your child will be taught a daily Maths lesson and Phonics lesson to support the development of basic skills in these areas of learning. In between the discrete taught sessions, children will have 'play and explore' time, where they have access to a range of resources in classrooms and the outdoor area. During this time, teaching staff will complete focus activities in small groups, daily reading and ongoing assessments, as well as observing the children in their play. You will receive more information about the curriculum during our curriculum evening in September.

The children will eat their lunch in the hall before going out to play. We encourage all children to have a hot lunch provided by school. You will be able to choose this in advance. All meals are cooked on site by our own catering team- we do not outsource the catering so that we can ensure that all food is of top quality. There is no charge to you for these meals whilst your children are in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2.

The end of Acorns children's school day is 3.00pm. As in the morning, parents are let onto the playground a few minutes before collection. Please ensure you are on the playground on time to collect your child; if you are running late, please call the school office. We will only allow children to be collected by a known adult as authorised by yourself (as per the emergency contact details which you will need to complete on the 'Data Collection Sheet'). Please ensure we are aware of who is collecting at the end of the school day. If somebody turns up to collect your child who has not been pre-authorised by you, please expect them to have to wait whilst you are contacted.

## **Forest School**

Each week all classes are taught a session at our onsite Forest School. This is a fantastic curriculum enhancement, which we are very proud of. Our Forest School staff are enthusiastic and passionate about outdoor learning.

Forest School provides the children with practical, hands-on experiences such as going in mini beast hunts, learning about fire safety, observing seasonal changes and wildlife, building large scale constructions with real building equipment, plus many more opportunities.

## **Things to do at home**

To help prepare your child for school life please encourage the following:

- To dress themselves independently - shoes on right feet, take jumper on and off.
- To use a knife and fork when eating a hot dinner
- To go to the toilet independently - wipe themselves, flush the chain, wash hands
- To begin to recognise and attempt to write their own name



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## **Communication**

We pride ourselves on our regular communications with our parents. The main way in which we send out important messages and letters, including our Newsletter, is through our Parent App. It is important that you sign up to this before your child starts school. More details about this will follow later.

In Pre-School and Reception, the staff use an app called 'Tapestry' to send you pictures and information about what your child has been learning. You can also share with the teacher the things your child has been doing at home through this app. You will receive details of how to sign up for this over the coming weeks.

Each class also has their own email address, through which you can contact the class teacher. This will be given to you when your child has been allocated to a class.

Please be assured you will receive finer details and more information in the near future. If in the meantime you have any questions, please contact us either by phone or email [newstarters@millfields.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:newstarters@millfields.worcs.sch.uk)

We very much look forward to seeing you soon.