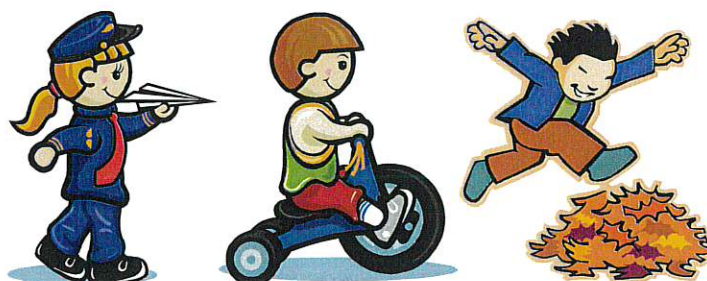


Welcome to Reception at Rainow

Caring, Learning, Achieving.



This leaflet is intended to give you information that you need to know when your child starts Rainow School, if you have any questions please ring the school at any time on 01625572021 or email admin@rainowpri.cheshire.sch.uk.

The Early Years Foundation Stage.

The period from birth to the end of reception is described as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Learning is based around play activities and we believe that children should be given the resources, space and time to play. This is balanced with more structured teaching where appropriate. We believe that children learn when they are happy and cared for and we provide a caring, exciting environment in which children can fulfill their potential.

There are different types of play including:

- Adult-led play – play opportunities and activities which are organised and led by an adult.
- Adult-initiated play – play opportunities set up by adults for children to discover.
- Child-initiated play – play in which children choose what and how to play and who to play with.

"Play is something done for its own sake," says psychiatrist Stuart Brown, author of "Play".

He writes: "It's voluntary, it's pleasurable, it offers a sense of engagement, it takes you out of time. And the act itself is more important than the outcome."

With this definition in mind, it's easy to recognise play's potential benefits. Play nurtures relationships with oneself and others. It relieves stress and increases happiness. It builds feelings of empathy, creativity, and collaboration. It supports the growth of sturdiness and grit. When children are deprived of opportunities for play, their development can be significantly impaired.

The Curriculum

There are seven strands of learning in the Foundation Stage:

- Communication and Language
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development.
- Physical Development ~ fine / gross motor skills and health.
- Literacy~ reading and writing
- Mathematics ~ number, shape, space and measure.
- Expressive Art and Design ~ art, design technology, music, drama, imaginative play and dance.
- The World ~ science, geography, history, technology and RE.

There will be an information evening for parents to explain the curriculum further. At this evening we also go through how we teach the children to read as well as how we carry out assessments in Reception. (Date to be given on the induction zoom meeting). (This may be effected by COVID guidelines.)

Reading

We begin by teaching the letter sounds with a Structured Synthetic Phonic Programme. When the children are confident with the letter sounds we begin to blend the sounds together. Children also begin to identify the sounds in the words and learn how to spell tricky words. These are important skills for children to use when reading and therefore we don't begin to send reading books home until children are confident in using these skills.

Partnership and Working Together.

- We have an "open door" policy where parents are welcome to discuss their children, either by appointment or informally after school.
- For the first term you can bring your child into the reception room every morning and encourage them to put their belongings away. This is a chance for you to give any messages about the child such as who is picking them up or to let us know if they've had a bad morning etc. (This may be effected by COVID 19 guidelines meaning you may not be able to come inside the building but you will say goodbye to your child outside the Reception classroom.)
- If you need more information please ask – you are given lots of information when your child starts school, and may need to be reminded about certain things.
- Any letters sent out by school will either be put in your child's book bag (please check your child's book bag every day) or will be emailed if you.

How can I help my child prepare for school?

Please practise these skills with your child as they will help them when they start school:

- Help them to dress themselves.
- Teach them to use the toilet independently including wiping their own bottom.
- Help them to recognise their name. If they are ready to write their name, show them how to use a capital letter followed by lower case letters.
- Teach them to sing some nursery rhymes and read lots of stories to them..
- Give them plenty of opportunities to use pencils, crayons and paintbrushes.
- Encourage them to share and join in activities with other children.
- Count everything! Say counting rhymes, play bigger and smaller than games, handle coins, play heavier or lighter games, guess shapes and make shape patterns.
- Give them plenty of time to enjoy the outdoors and be physically active.

Daily Routines

- Toilet routines - children are taken to the toilet at regular intervals for the first few weeks. When they are ready to go on their own they let us know they want the toilet and go themselves.
- Break times – our break times are with the infant children and are at 10.35am and 2.05pm. (This may be effected by COVID guidelines.)
- Lunchtime routines – children start having lunch in the second week of term. They all have free school dinners. Details of this are in your pack. Lunchtime is from 12.00pm till 1.15pm; they have their lunch and then have playtime in the playground with the other infants. (This may be effected by COVID guidelines.)
- Morning routine – please enter the reception room with your child after 8.50am. The children then put away their coat, book bag and snack and choose an activity to go to. (This may be effected by COVID guidelines.)
- Afternoon pick up – please wait for your child in the play ground by the gate to the reception garden at 3.15pm. (This may be effected by COVID guidelines.) The teacher will release the children one by one, when she has seen that there is someone to collect your child. Please let us know if someone different is picking them up.
- A day at school for a reception can include – lessons in the classroom, self initiated play activities, outdoor play, assembly, craft, art, PE as well as lunch, break etc.

Things Your Child Needs to Have in School

- Children should wear school uniform which will be shown on the ZOOM meeting and heads presentation memo.
The links for uniform are on the school website under info for new pupils.
- PE kit- please can you bring in – trainers with Velcro fastenings, black shorts and a white T-shirt in a named, cloth, pump bag - this makes it easier to store. PE kits can be left in school and are sent home each half term so they can be washed.
- Wellies – please can you let us have a pair of wellies in school? It would be helpful if these are in a waterproof pull string bag.
- Put names in all articles of clothing including PE kit and wellies.
- A named plastic beaker (no bottles please). This is for the children to have regular drinks of water.
- Rainow School book bag. This can be purchased from the uniform websites as above. Please give the book bag in on the first day and we will use it to put letters and books in.
- A healthy snack each day for break time. Chocolate, sweets, crisps and anything containing nuts are not allowed.

Dates for Starting School

We have given these dates and times as we would normally do each year. This year the start times and finishes will change as we will probably have to do staggered starts and finish times for all year groups. We also don't know the guidelines for September as the government hasn't released them yet. This means we don't know whether there will be a part time timetable, as we have at present.

If COVID 19 didn't exist we would use our tried and tested induction. We introduce the children gradually to the daily routines and find that this is less overwhelming for them.

Details of the induction programme without COVID would be:

Week 1 -	commencing Wednesday 2nd September	9.00am – 11.45am.
Week 2 -	7 th – 11 th September	9.00am – 1.30pm (Children stay for lunch)
Week 3 onwards-		9.00am – 3.15pm.

Please contact school with any queries you still have after the ZOOM meeting on 9th July. Phone Number 01625 572021. Alternatively email Nicola Daley (Deputy Head Teacher, SENDCO and Reception Teacher). ndaley@rainowpri.cheshire.sch.uk