

## Middleforth C of E Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Alongside the information booklet, please take a moment to read through the reminders below. They contain key details to help make the start of the year smooth for both you and your child.

### School Bags

We kindly ask that children use the school bags provided in their welcome pack. Large rucksacks are not permitted, as we simply don't have the space for them on our classroom pegs. The school bags are the perfect size for what your child needs each day. Thank you for helping us keep our cloakroom neat and organised!

### Naming Belongings

Please ensure every item of clothing (and belongings) is clearly named. This really helps us, and your child, keep track of everything. While we do our best to look after items, we also encourage children to take responsibility for their own things right from the start. A class full of identical, unnamed cardigans can be quite the challenge to sort out, so your support with labelling is hugely appreciated.

### Snacks

Children are provided with a piece of fruit each day at snack time. If you would like to send your own snack, please make sure it follows our school's healthy eating policy. Suitable options include fresh fruit, a healthy cereal bar, cheese, or yoghurt. Please avoid crisps, chocolate, sweets, or chocolate-filled pastries like crepes, as these do not follow our policy.

If you would like your child to have milk at snack time, please ensure you complete the milk registration form.

**Please note that we are a strictly no nut school due to severe allergies, so please double-check that any snacks brought from home are completely nut-free. Thank you for helping us keep all children safe**

### Water Bottles

As part of our Healthy School Policy, children should bring a named, leak-proof water bottle each day, filled with plain water only. We have limited space on our drinks trolley, so please send a reasonably sized bottle (no large Stanley cups, thank you!).

### PE Days

Children will come to school dressed in their PE kit on PE days. These days will be confirmed via Class Dojo before the start of September. Please refer to our school uniform policy to ensure PE kit is appropriate.

### Hair and Jewellery

For safety and hygiene reasons, we ask that long hair is tied back where possible. Jewellery and watches should not be worn in Reception, especially as we are active outdoors every day.



### **Book Bags and Reading Materials**

School bags and book bags should come to school every day. Children will also receive a separate plastic book bag containing their reading book and reading record. These won't be sent out immediately, you'll be notified when to expect them. Please ensure the book bag is in school daily so staff can read with your child and change their book twice a week.

### **Parent Workshops**

We'll soon be sharing dates for some key parent sessions, including a Reception Welcome Workshop (covering routines, curriculum, and what to expect) and a Reading and Phonics Workshop. We strongly encourage all parents and carers to attend, as these sessions will provide valuable insights into how to support your child's learning and development throughout Reception.

### **Personal Belongings**

We kindly ask that children do not bring toys or personal belongings from home, as these can easily get lost or broken during the school day. If any items are brought in, they will be kept safely with a member of staff until home time. Thank you for your understanding and support in helping us avoid any upset or lost treasures!

### **Communication with Staff**

As mentioned in the welcome leaflet, Class Dojo is our main method of communication. Please feel free to message me via Dojo at any time. While I may not respond during quiet hours, and replies might be slower during the school day when I'm teaching, messages will always be picked up as soon as possible.

We kindly ask that all communication remains respectful in tone and content. As we all know, messages can sometimes be misinterpreted, so if you ever feel a conversation would be better in person or over the phone, just let me know. If not myself, (Miss Stritch) a member of staff will always be at the door at drop-off and pick-up for any quick queries or messages. If you'd like a longer chat, please send me a message and I'll be more than happy to arrange a time to talk.

### **Home Expectations**

Homework and other expectations for home learning will be explained in more detail during our Reception workshops. These sessions will give you all the information you need to support your child's learning at home.

### **Year 6 Buddies**

To help your child settle in, each new Reception child will be paired with a **Year 6 'buddy'**. These buddies support the younger children during their first few weeks and beyond. Over the summer, your child will receive a letter from their buddy, introducing themselves and sharing some of their own Reception memories. The buddy relationship is a special part of school life at Middleforth. Buddies walk with our new pupils to church, play with them on Friday afternoons, share books, or simply enjoy time together, helping your child feel safe, supported, and welcomed.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read through this letter and all the information we've shared. Your support means a lot as we start this new journey in Reception! If you have any questions or would like to chat about anything, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We're really looking forward to a fantastic year ahead with your child!

Kind regards,  
Miss Stritch x

