

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Walnut Tree Walk! We hope you all had a lovely summer and are looking forward to the year ahead. We are excited to welcome you all and get to know your children in the coming weeks! Below are some key points to help make the start of Reception as easy as possible.

Any urgent messages that need to be dealt with on the same day must be telephoned through to the school office as we may not access our emails during the school day. This is especially important if someone else is picking your child up, as we cannot let your child go home with another adult unless this has been confirmed with the office.

PE

PE lessons for **Chris' class** are on **Monday and Wednesday** mornings, **Dannie's class** are on **Tuesday and Thursday** mornings. These will be led by Billy, the school PE teacher. Your child must have a school PE t-shirt, which can be purchased from the office. They will also need dark grey or black jogging bottoms/shorts/leggings and **suitable footwear**. Please no crocs or sandals as these can cause injuries. Please can you ensure your child is wearing their PE kit to school on their allocated days.

What your child should bring in

Your child will need some spare clothes every day. These can be left in a bag on their peg unless items need replacing. This should contain at least one spare change of clothes (replace these if your child has had an accident) and a full water bottle. If your child forgets to bring their water bottle home, we will fill it up for them in school. Please remember to write your child's name on every item they bring in including jumpers and coats. Water bottles, bookbags, and PE tops can be purchased from the office.

Reading

From the week beginning **14th September**, we will begin to send home your child's reading book. Please can all children bring in a named book bag by **Friday 11th September**. These will be sent home the following week on your child's allocated reading day. The reading books will be linked to the children's learning in phonics. Please return your child's book bag each week on their allocated day. Ensure that only the books are carried in the book bags as books tend to get damaged or wet if they are sent in the same bag as the water bottles. It is important that you read every evening with your child, however they may well find it tricky to attempt the book in the first few weeks of school. In that case, please read the book to them and

pause to talk about the different events that happen in the story. Your child will also receive a reading record. We will write in this after each reading session and we encourage you to write a comment when you have read with your child at home.

Topic

Our topic this term is 'All About Me'. We are finding out lots of information about the children and what makes them unique. If you have any special photos or memories at home that your child would like to share with the class, please e-mail them to Dannie or Chris.

Coffee Morning and Phonics Workshop

There will be a coffee morning for reception parents on **Tuesday 8th September** from 9am – 10am. This is an opportunity to meet other parents and get to know each other over a cup of coffee! During this session, Connor (Assistant Head for Early Years) will talk through how we teach your children to read using phonics and how you can support them at home.

School Day

School starts at 8.55am. The gate will be opened at 8.45am. From Monday 7th September, please drop your child at the gate and they will be supported to line up with a member of staff. If you are late and the gate is closed you will need to use the entrance on Fitzalan Street and will need to be signed in by the office. School finishes at 3.30pm. The gate will be opened at 3.25pm. Please let us know in advance if someone who is not familiar to us is collecting your child. While we get to know you and your children please bear with us at home time as it may take a little longer than usual. If you need to speak to us at the end of the day, please wait until all the children have been collected.

Head injury policy

It is the school's policy that **ANY** head injury is reported to you via a phone call and an accident slip which is sent home at home time. In most cases, these minor bumps or knocks are nothing to worry about and could be as simple as a ball hitting your child's head during a game. While we understand that these phone calls can seem worrying in most cases they are made as a precautionary measure. If we are ever concerned we will always make this apparent during that telephone call.

We are looking forward to a great year ahead!

Many thanks, Chris, Dannie, Aurora, Charmaine and Serena