

7th September 2020

Dear Parents/carers,

A very warm welcome to Buttercross Reception! I hope you have had a good summer and stayed safe and well. We are very much looking forward to the taster sessions with your child this week and to meeting you all in person. Two-way communication is vital between families and school, and we will endeavour to make this as simple and easy as possible during these unprecedented times.

Communication

As we were unable to carry out home visits this year, I will be available for an outdoor, socially distanced chat at pick-up time to let you know how your child has settled. However, if you have any concerns or queries (no matter how small), please do contact the office to request a phone call and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

All information from school this year will be sent to you via ParentMail, so please check this daily so as not to miss out on anything important. For example, a reminder for something that is happening in school or if your child needs to bring in a special item.

Phone/email the office to tell us:

- any change in home time arrangements, such as who will be collecting your child or whether they are going to before or out of school club.
- information that may affect your child during the day, such as if they have had a very poor night's sleep or a significant change to their routine.
- a change in family circumstances such as a parent working away.
- any medical issues such as doctor or dentist appointment, or whether they have been given any medication.
- if they have any injuries or had any accidents which have occurred at home.
- any simple queries or questions you may have about school.

First Aid

Any first aid given to your child will be recorded on a green slip and passed to you at the end of the day, or placed inside your child's book wallet (please note your child will also wear a sticker to show when they have bumped their head). If we are at all concerned about whether your child is fit to stay in school after an accident, however, we will phone you straight away.

Toileting

We teach children to use a 'T' sign in class, so that they can tell us they need the toilet without interrupting the lesson. The adult responds with a thumbs up to signal we know where they are going. Please make sure your child knows how to look after their own hygiene, including wiping themselves, washing and drying hands thoroughly. However, we know that some children may have the odd accident at school, especially if they become engrossed in an activity and/or forget to go. Please be reassured that we make sure your child's dignity is maintained and have spare clothes in class, which we would ask you to wash and return.

If your child has repeated accidents, we would request they have a change of clothes from home (which may be stored in a tote bag on their coat peg in the cloakroom). In this case, your child may need to remain part-time until they are dry (please refer to the 'Criteria for Full-time Attendance' guidance in your information pack).

Water

It is very important that your child does not become dehydrated at school, especially in warm weather. Please ensure a NAMED water bottle is brought to school full of fresh water every day. You may include a juice carton in your child's lunch bag to drink with their food at lunch time if you wish, but **NO JUICE IS ALLOWED IN WATER BOTTLES**, due to the impact on healthy teeth.

School bags and coats

Due to the lack of space in the cloakroom, we request that children do not bring bags into school. Your child will only need to carry their lunch bag, water bottle and book wallet. Please practise with your child how to carry these independently, as parents will not be able to accompany their child into the classroom. Please can you also teach your child how to put on their coat independently (we can help with zips if needs be). **INDEPENDENCE INCREASES CONFIDENCE** and will help your child settle into school life quickly.

Reading

We encourage the children to share and enjoy books from the start in Buttercross through the daily routines and activities across the curriculum. Every day, there is a book time after lunch when your child can choose their own story book to bring home, as well as a teacher-led story session at home time. We encourage you to continue sharing a bedtime book with your child every night, as listening to stories is so important to support their own reading endeavours later on. Your child will bring home a book wallet which will contain a reading record card to show you when they have read with an adult in class and for you to sign when they have read with you at home.

PE

PE will take place every **MONDAY** afternoon with our sports coach, Mr Weston. Your child is expected to wear their PE kit to school on this day to reduce the need for changing clothes and shoes (and getting them mixed up!). Sweatshirts and joggers are a good idea as the weather gets colder. We will go outside if the weather is fine, so please make sure your child wears suitable footwear such as trainers. Everything needs to be **NAMED** to help us match up any missing items with your child.

Home Learning

You will be given an email and password for your child to login to Google Classroom at home. This will be used to:

- send out weekly home learning activities on Fridays called 'assignments', to be completed and handed in online by the following Thursday. This can be done by uploading files or photos. These are shared and celebrated with the class during our 'Learning Gallery' time on Friday afternoons.
- provide you with learning 'materials' to explain or support assignments.
- share your child's learning in class with you and for you to share their news from home.

More details on Google Classroom will follow.

I hope this information has been useful, but once again, please do not hesitate to contact us if you are not sure about anything at all. We will also make sure we update you with any changes.

Kind regards,

Mrs Bacon and the Buttercross Team.

