

# **Welcome to the Reception Class at Dean Valley Community Primary**



**Information for Parents and  
Carers 2019 - 2020**



***Success and  
Fulfilment for all***

# **Welcome to Dean Valley Community Primary School!**

We hope this booklet helps to provide you with the information you might need about your child becoming part of their new school in September 2019. It contains information covered at the introductory 'Parents' Talk' and reference to it will ensure that your child makes a settled start at our school. If you have any further queries or questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Most of the children starting school in September will soon become familiar with the Reception classroom during their preliminary visits. We realise that starting school can be a big step for some children, and so we try to make the transition as smooth and happy as possible. More details regarding your child starting school can be found later in this book.

## **The Reception Curriculum**

At Dean Valley we follow the Revised Early Years Foundation Stage framework (EYFS) which now consists of three *prime* areas and four *specific* areas of learning and development. The prime areas cover the knowledge and skills which are the foundations for children's development and future progress, and which are applied and reinforced by the specific areas, particularly literacy and mathematics. They also form an appropriate baseline for the National Curriculum in Year 1.

The Reception Curriculum now consists of:

### **The Prime Areas**

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Communication and Language

### **The Specific Areas**

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Further information regarding this can be viewed at:

<http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/parents/>

There are also four themes underpinning the EYFS Curriculum. These are as follows:

### **A Unique Child**

Every child is a competent learner from birth and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.

### **Positive Relationships**

Children learn to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with parents and carers.

### **Enabling Environments**

The environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning.

### **Learning and Developing**

Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates and all areas of learning and development are equally important.

The Reception Curriculum involves a structured continuous provision play-based approach and therefore, we provide a variety of activities and resources to address this. Such resources include sand and water, a role-play corner, the theme of which is changed each half term or term, a creative art and making corner, writing area with a variety of writing and mark making resources, a reading area with a wide selection of books, a maths area, construction kits, jigsaws and puzzles and puppets and puppet theatre. These resources are both in our indoor classroom and outdoor area. We also have fantastic school grounds where the children can explore plants and wildlife, build dens, dig in the garden, play on the adventure playground and ride trikes and scooters. We plan for the children to access the outdoors as much as possible and therefore ask that your child is always suitably dressed when they come to school and always has a waterproof coat.

We support and encourage all children in their development towards achieving the 'Early Learning Goals' in the Prime and Specific Areas. More information on the Early Years Foundation Stage will be shared with you in the Autumn Term at the Reception Parents Meeting. If you have any questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact us.

### **Early Years Foundation Stage Profile**

We are required to complete an Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Profile for each child by the end of each academic year (when Reception children have reached the age of five). This profile sums up and describes each child's development and learning achievements at the end of the EYFS. It is based on ongoing observation and assessment in the Prime and Specific areas. We use post-it notes to record observations/comments made by the children, photographs and whole group observation records, as well as more formal assessments

including word lists and maths activities. We then use these observations and assessments to plan for each individual's interests, needs and next steps.

As Parents and Carers who know their child intimately, we encourage you to contribute to and participate in completing the EYFS Profile. More information on the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile will be shared with you during the in the Autumn Term at the Reception Parents Meeting.

### **End of Year Report**

At the end of the year you will receive a written report about your child informing you of their progress against the Early Learning Goals.

### **Positive Behaviour Routines**

At Dean Valley we encourage positive social skills and good behaviour. We are a Gold Rights Respecting School which means we place the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of our ethos and curriculum.

In Reception everyone will take it in turns to be Star of the Day and be the special class helper. Each time they are star of the day they will wear the Star of the Day badge and can sit on the special cushion and hold Larry Lamb or Suzy Sheep.

We have a class 'Marble Jar' which all children contribute to by placing a marble in the jar when they are praised or when they work well or behave as a class. When the jar is full the whole class receives a reward, such as a Teddy Bear's Picnic or a Pyjama Party! The children are encouraged to choose their own reward as a class for filling the jar.

We also have a 'Behaviour Ladder' on which everyone starts at green each day. Children can move up the ladder to bronze, silver and gold for good behaviour but can also move down to amber and red for inappropriate behaviour. If they land on 'red' they miss an amount of their playtime but if they climb to 'gold' they receive a prize from the Headteacher!

Each child also gets 'Stickers' for good behaviour and clever learning.

## What can I do to help my child at school?

At Dean Valley all children are encouraged to have a positive approach to learning and to believe that learning is fun and enjoyable. We have high expectations of our children and believe in the 'can do' approach to learning by always encouraging them to 'have a go' and do their best.

Once your child has started school, your involvement and support remains vital to their development. Your encouragement will help your child to settle into school happily and confidently and show that home and school are working together.

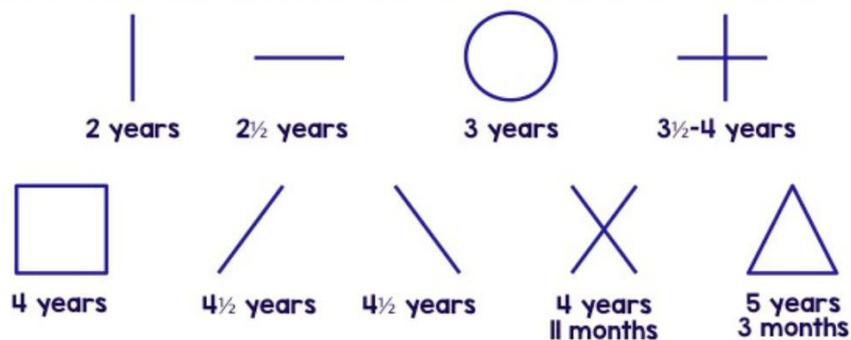
In order for your child to get the best from their education we need to work together to promote the right approach to learning. To do this we would like you to encourage:

- High self esteem
- Confidence
- Fun/enjoyment
- The 'can do', 'have a go' approach
- A positive attitude
- High expectations

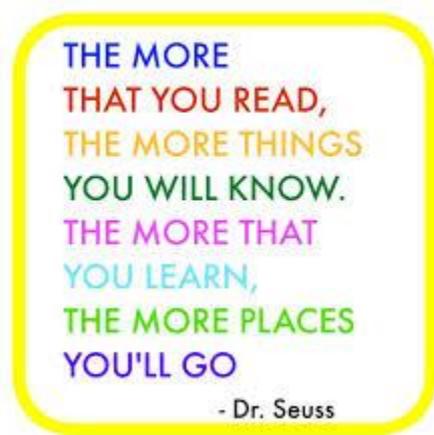
## You can also help your child by:

- Continuing to encourage independence by teaching them to get dressed and undressed by themselves, to put their own coat on independently, to take it off by themselves and hang it up in the correct place.
- Encouraging your child to develop an awareness of safety. This covers such things as not putting things in their mouth to not talking to strangers and learning the importance of internet and road safety.
- Encouraging your child to start mark making. We suggest not formally writing with a pencil and paper yet. We suggest exploring mark making using the below shapes. This may be in sand or mud using a stick, in steam on glass using their finger or with a wet brush outside on the ground. Whichever creative way you choose to expose them to forming these marks will greatly prepare them for starting to form letters.

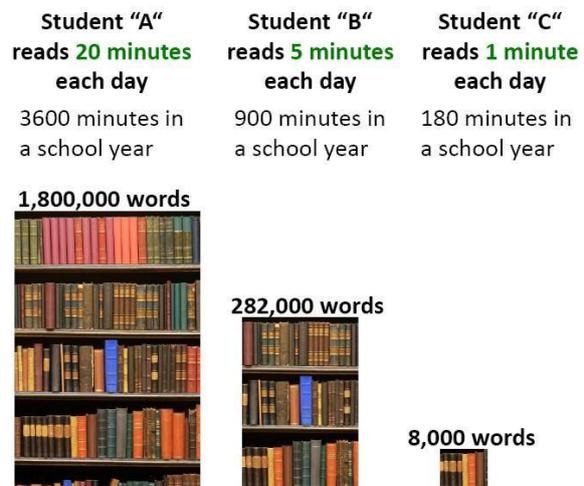
Writing readiness can be guided by the child's ability to write these first 8 to 9 shapes as these form the foundations of all letters and numbers.



- Sharing books whenever and where ever possible. Reading books will be sent home within the first few weeks for you to read with your child. Initially, the books will not contain words. These books are meant to encourage your child to use the pictures as clues about the text. They start to experience holding a book and turning the pages while using 'story talk' to tell the reader what may be happening. This will help build confidence to tell their own stories orally, thus developing speech and language skills. During the school day children will be encouraged to become story tellers in class through a group story telling activity called 'helicopter stories.' This activity involves the children making up a story and telling the class. While the teacher scribes, the teacher will then retell their story and invite children to act out the events of the story. Books will progress to include words as their phonics understanding builds. Children's reading level will be monitored, and they will change coloured levels as and when we feel they are ready. It is advised your child is heard read daily, it is up to you to find a time that best suits you. Some children prefer reading in the morning or others after school or before bed. Find the time that works best for your child and your family.
- And remember to lead by example, reading to you child is just as important. Our days are so busy, but a bed time story promotes a love of reading and is a chance for some one to one time with your child, because they grow as develop so quickly.



### Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?



### Parental involvement

All children benefit from extra adult help in their classroom. Your help will be valued greatly. If you wish to help in school, please let us know. We usually encourage a settling in period for your child before you begin to help in school.

Parents might help in the following ways:

- Sharing books with individual or small groups of children;
- Helping with art and activities;
- Accompanying children on school visits.

## School Uniform

At Dean Valley we expect all children to wear their school uniform each day. Occasionally we have non-uniform days, but we will always let you know. Infant children go outside in all weathers, so please ensure your child comes to school with a **named** suitable coat and sensible footwear, including wellies! They also need a **named** sun-hat in the summer and long lasting sun cream should be applied in the morning at home on summer days.

Children also need to have a full change of clothing for PE. This is a requirement under DfE regulations for Health and Safety. We ask that they bring this to school in a suitable bag at the start of every half term and then take it home at the end of every half term for checking and washing. This will need to consist of:

- White T-shirt
- Black sports shorts
- Black plimsolls for PE lessons indoors
- PE kit bag to hold the above

Please ensure each item of uniform, including PE kit, is labelled with your child's name. Sewn labels are best!

## Other Useful Information

### Arriving in the morning

For the first four weeks the Reception door is open from 8.40 am. Please bring your child into school, help them with their things and make sure they self-register with their name card. You may then 'stay and play' until 8.50 am which is when the children are called together for the official register.

After this initial settling in period your child will then be asked to line up in the playground at 8:50 in the playground where they will be met and welcomed in. You may follow your child to the ramp but then they will enter the school with their class mates.

In the event of bad weather children may enter the school through the undercover door in the reception outdoor area where they will be met.

### Children's Belongings

Each child will have their own coat peg with their name and a picture on it for hanging their coat and PE kit bag on. In the classroom they will have a box in which they can keep their book bags which they should put in every morning. Any letters for home will go in their book bag together with their school reading folder.

### Larry Lamb and Suzy Sheep

Our class lambs are very special helpers who assist Mrs Dumbleton with her teaching! At the weekend and during school holidays they like to go home with the children. A book will accompany them to record the wonderful things they get to do and places they get to travel to. They are now looking forward to meeting more new friends!

### Whole School Newsletter

A lot of time and effort is put into creating exciting and informative Dean Valley newsletters which go out every two weeks. They contain news, information about the forthcoming events and reports from children about their learning experiences. To ensure school efficiency we prefer to send this out electronically. If you are able to receive it like this, then please make sure the school office has your email address. It is also published on the school website.

### Class Dojo

The Dojo is used as a way to communicate both class and whole school events/information, this is a safe platform accessed only by parents of children within our school.

Class Dojo shares information about what the children have been learning in Reception throughout the week and gives suggestions of activities and things you could try at home.

As well as reminders and publicity of school event which are coming up in class the whole school Dojo is also used to let you know of events taking place in school which affect all year groups. Logins will be provided within the first few weeks.

### Celebration Assembly

Every Friday morning, we hold a 'Celebration Assembly' in our school hall. This is a time when each class teacher awards certificates to two children in their own class. Each class celebrates a 'Child of the Week' who receives a special yellow jumper to wear for a week, awarded for good work or behaviour, progress or effort etc, and a 'Pupil of the Week' who receives a Rights Respecting badge to wear for a week, awarded for either exercising their own 'Rights of the Child' or for observing the Rights of others. The headteacher and Club@DV also chose their own 'Child of the Week' and 'Rights Respecting Child'. The mid-day staff also give out certificates allowing children to eat at the Golden Table on Friday with a friend of their choice.

### Book Bags

Each child should have their own school book bag (available from the school office) which should be brought to school every day. This bag is used to carry your child's reading books and diary, as well as any communication between home and school. Children do not need any other bag except one for their PE kit.

### Drinks

We have three water fountains in school which children have access to throughout the day. However, you may prefer your child to bring a drink in a **named** refillable flask or plastic bottle, preferably with a sports top. As a healthy school we ask for these to only hold water.

### Snack

Each child will get a piece of fruit to eat at afternoon playtime, as part of the government's scheme providing free fruit to infant schools.

A morning snack is offered every morning, children can choose between fresh fruit or toast and milk or water to drink. This snack comes at a small daily cost. The school office will contact parents and carers about payment for this. It can be paid monthly or termly.

### Accidents

If your child has a fall resulting in a minor cut, bump or graze they will be treated by a member of staff. All staff have a basic/emergency First Aid certificate. More serious accidents will be treated by our fully qualified First Aiders. We will inform you of any bumps to the head because of the possibility of delayed concussion. You will be notified of any serious injuries by telephone so that your child can be collected and given any necessary medical treatment. Please ensure that we have up to date emergency telephone numbers for contacting you in the event of your child being ill or having an accident. Minor incident will be reported at the end of the day.

### Toileting

Your child should be able to manage to go to the toilet without help. If children don't get to the toilet in time they are given spare clothes to change into. Please wash and return these to school within the following few days so we have them for other emergencies. If children soil themselves in school, we clean and change them when there are staff available. If there are no spare staff available, we contact parents and ask them to collect the child concerned.

### Birthdays

Children may celebrate their birthday by wearing their own clothes to school and you may choose to bring in treats to share with their class. We ask that these treats do not contain nuts as we have children with nut allergies.

### Cooking

We aim to give all children lots of opportunities to do some cooking throughout the year. With parental help we hope to offer this frequently. Parents are asked to contribute a small amount towards the cost of the ingredients in return for the delicious cakes and biscuits brought home by the children after their cookery session.

## **And Finally**

We will do our best to ensure that your child has a happy and positive start to school life. If you or your child does have a concern about anything to do with school, please discuss this with us straight away so that problems can be sorted out quickly.

We look forward to your child joining us at Dean Valley Community Primary School.

Mrs Katherine Dumbleton  
Reception Class Teacher  
June 2019