



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a very busy and positive start to your child's time here at Millfield. The children have settled in brilliantly and have made a fantastic start to their learning in school.

Key Person

This week we have introduced a 'key person' role. Your child's key person has a responsibility to ensure your child feels safe and cared for and has a positive experience at school. This will include building up a relationship with you as parents in order to develop a link between learning at school and home. These groups will be reviewed regularly throughout the year.

The whole team work to support all children so please do feel free to approach any of us with questions or concerns.

Tapestry

At Millfield we use the Tapestry app and website for our online learning journeys. Through this we will celebrate your child's achievements and identify next steps in their learning. We also use Tapestry as a means to communicate with you and to support you in gaining a fuller insight into our curriculum and how we approach learning. Please sign and return the Tapestry guidelines as soon as possible if you haven't already done so. More details about our approach to using Tapestry in Reception will follow.

Our Big Ideas

When planning our teaching and learning we follow and build upon the children's interests we call this our 'Big Idea'. Each week we will give you a brief outline of what we have been doing and where our learning will be taking us the following week. This will be shared with you through Tapestry.

The Big Challenge and Reading at Home

Each week we will set a 'Big Challenge' for you to complete with your child at home. These will link in with our 'Big Ideas' and support your child in engaging with our theme. These activities will be play based and investigative building on the children's interests.

We will be introducing reading books by half term.. Your child will bring home a 'free choice' picture book from our reading area to share with you. Once we feel your child is ready they will also bring home a 'reading scheme' book appropriate to their own level of reading and understanding. Your child will also bring home letters and key words to practise sounding out and reading as well as number cards to 20.

PE and Music

Your child will be taking part in Music and PE sessions every Thursday afternoon. Initially the children will be taking part in these activities in small groups and will not yet need a PE kit in school. We will let you know when PE kits are needed.

A Few Reminders

Coats and wellies– Please ensure your child brings a coat to school every day. Outside learning is an important part of your child's experience in school and we will go outside whatever the weather. Wellies and waterproof trousers are very useful on those rainy days as the children do enjoy being out in the rain.

Uniform – Please ensure that every piece of your child's school uniform is named. We have already started to build a collection of jumpers and cardigans without names!

School Meals – Please ensure you have booked your child's school meal via parentpay by 8.30am. If you do not book, you will be called to bring up a packed lunch. Please remember that you can book weeks in advance.

Water Bottles - Please provide your child with a water bottle everyday. We encourage the children to be independent in accessing water throughout the day. Please only provide your child with water to drink and not squash or juice.

Before and After School - Just to remind everyone that the classroom doors open at 8.35am. We expect all Reception children to be in school by 8.45am and to be collected promptly at 3.15pm. The school gate will be closing at 8.50am and 3.25pm to ensure children's safety. Anybody arriving after these times will need to go to the school office.

Bikes and Scooters - Please remember that the children are not allowed to ride their bikes or scooters on the school premises. Please ensure they dismount at the school gate.

Please do not allow your child/ren to play on the grass mounds or with any of the Reception or Nursery resources and activities whilst you are waiting to drop off or collect your child.

We are all really looking forward to working with your children this year. If you have any further questions please come and talk to your child's class teacher or a member of the early years team.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Hopkins and Lydia Blythe