

# Starting School at Lord Scudamore Academy

## The Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Years Foundation Stage starts at birth and continues until the end of the Reception year. This ensures a smooth transition from your child's experiences at home, in pre-school and then as they start school.

We have established close links with the nurseries and pre-schools and meet with them to ensure that each child's strengths and interests are shared. During the Summer Term we have several visit days where you and your child are invited in to school and spend time meeting staff and getting used to the new environment. We also offer a home visit.

We build on the information from nurseries and pre-schools and from the information that you give us to assess your child's engagement and involvement across a range of activities. This information is collated in an 'entry profile' during the first few weeks of the term.

During a child's Reception year we are building a picture of how they learn which will be used to plan for learning when they start on the National Curriculum in Year One. We identify the strengths and areas for development for each child. We want to ensure that each child will have a good level of development to take with them on their journey through school.

## **Settling into School**

We have a flexible approach to the first few weeks of term in September so that we can get to know each child really well and carry out 'entry' assessments. During the first week children will attend either a morning or an afternoon session and then in the second week all children attend for extended mornings. From week three onwards all children attend all day. There is an option to continue half days if a child needs shorter days until half term. Parents can discuss this with the class teacher and it can be tailored to each child's individual need.

Mornings: 9.00 – 11.30

Afternoons: 12.15 – 2.45

Extended morning: 9.00 – 1.30

## **Learning Journey**

We will be taking lots of photographs of the children and documenting their learning through a 'Learning Journey' book which we will share with you at different times during the year.

Our photographs make the learning visible ~ we can show how children are learning from first hand experiences. At the end of Reception you will receive your child's Learning Journey.

## School Uniform

School uniform is worn in school so that children feel a sense of belonging. The children are very proud of their new clothes and look forward to getting this in the summer holiday.

Uniform is available from: **The School Uniform Shop**

**High Town**

**Hereford**

or online from Clothing at Tesco <http://bit.ly/1LAq5tM>

or from other local retailers who sell the school colours.

### Girl's Uniform

Navy school sweatshirt with logo

Grey skirt or pinafore (grey trousers can also be worn)

White polo shirt

Summer dresses are navy and white stripe or check

White, grey or navy socks, grey or navy tights

Black shoes – **not trainers**

### Boy's Uniform

Navy school sweatshirt

Grey trousers or grey shorts

White polo shirt

White, grey or navy socks

Black shoes – **not trainers**

## **P.E. and Games kit**

White T-shirt

Navy shorts

Pumps/trainers.

During the winter or when the weather is cold the children can wear navy blue tracksuit bottoms and a navy blue sweatshirt.

Please ensure that all items of clothing are named. We expect all children to be responsible for their belongings and it is very important when they are changing for P.E. and swimming.

Help your child to practise putting on their school uniform on and taking it off during the school holidays. They will need to be able to dress and undress themselves during the first few weeks of school so this is a good skill to learn in preparation for school.

P.E. Bag ~ this can be left in school on your child's peg. It will be sent home for washing each half term. Please put a spare set of underwear in just in case of any accidents.

## **Learning to Read**

We want every child to have developed a love for books and to be inspired to read independently.

We learn to read using phonics. At Lord Scudamore we use Floppy's Phonics which is part of the Oxford Reading Tree scheme. Children learn the letters and sounds in a daily phonics session and will need to practise the skills with you at home every night.

In the Autumn Term we hold a reading meeting where we explain how our programme works and how you can support at home. The most valuable support you can give your child when they start school is to spend just 5 to 10 minutes every day to read with them.

When your child starts school in September they will be given a reading bag and reading packet. They will need to bring this to school every day with their reading packet in as it will also be used to carry letters and communication diary.

## **Learning to Write**

Your child will be busy 'mark making' and starting to use pens and pencils to write their name. We will help your child to establish a secure pencil grip and good pencil control in Reception because we know how important this is for future writing.

We work on gross motor skills at first; big arm movements, climbing, running and riding a bike. Once children have developed a good sense of spatial awareness and hand-eye coordination we move onto fine motor skills; painting, cutting and play dough. Children start with 'emergent writing' which allows

them to practise writing letter shapes; this will quickly progress into recognisable words as their phonic skills develop.

Over the summer you can encourage your child to practise 'big' movements by playing ball games, running around outside or in the park and riding their bike. Give them big paintbrushes and a bucket of water in the garden or try making play dough with your child.

## **Snack Time and Lunches**

We encourage the children to drink water throughout the day. There is access to water in the classroom so there is no need to send in a water bottle unless the weather is warm and drinks need to be taken outside. Please do not put water bottles in reading bags as they can often leak.

We are a healthy school and promote the eating of healthy foods. Each child is provided with a piece of fresh fruit every day. Milk is also provided and is free up until your child is five. After this you have the opportunity to pay for milk.

All children in Reception are able to take advantage of the Government's 'Universal Free School Meal' scheme. Lunches are provided daily in the Junior Hall where children are able to enjoy the meal they have chosen from the menu that is sent home each week. There is a selection of hot meals and also a cold option. Children are encouraged to use the salad bar and can choose from a selection of pudding of the day, fruit and yoghurts. Water is provided with all meals.

We encourage children to eat with a knife and fork and develop their social skills as they talk and eat together.

If you do not wish to take up school meals then your child will need to bring in a packed lunch. They are able to eat this in the Junior Hall along with the children having school meals.

## **Parent Partnership**

Children make most progress when they feel safe, secure and happy in school. They need to be confident that parents and teachers are working together. We encourage you to work with us to address any concerns you have. We operate an 'open door' policy and provide a Communication Diary for day to day issues. Effective home/school communication will help your child to learn.

During the year there will be Parents' Evenings when you can meet the class teacher and discuss your child's progress. We offer 'settling in' meetings during the first two weeks of term for Reception children.

You are welcome to speak to the teacher at the end of the day or to arrange an appointment if there are any concerns that you need to discuss. We would rather address any issues promptly as we find this is in the best interests of the children.

You will receive regular newsletters which will let you know what the children are doing and how you can support at home.

## **If your child is unwell**

Children in the Reception class get very tired even if they are used to being in a nursery full time. The school day is very busy and children are continually on the move. If you feel your child is unwell or if they haven't slept well then please let us know. We will find a quiet place in the classroom for children who need space to rest and we will always contact you if we feel they need to be at home.

If your child is sick (vomiting or diarrhoea) then they will need to be off school for 48 hours. Please ring and leave a message with the Office so that we can mark them as 'ill' on the register. We have to record any unauthorised absences so it is really important to let us know if your child is going to be away from school.

If your child has a 'bump' or graze in school we will let you know by putting a note or form in the reading bag (**it is vital that you check for this every day**). Staff in the Reception class are trained in paediatric first aid and we are able to sort out minor cuts and grazes. If your child is allergic to plasters or anything else let us know.

If your child has any kind of medical need or difficulties with their personal care then please talk to us and we will do our best to help.

## Things to do

- Complete all the school forms and return them to the school office as soon as possible.
- Sort out school uniform and P.E. kit.
- Come along to all the visits organised in the Summer Term.

## Over the summer holidays.....

- Practise dressing/undressing skills including shoes and socks.
- Encourage independent toileting and washing hands.
- Encourage independent eating with a knife and fork.

## Have fun.....

- Reading stories, singing songs and rhymes
- Talking at meal times, in the car, when shopping
- Counting
- **Talking about 'starting school'**

