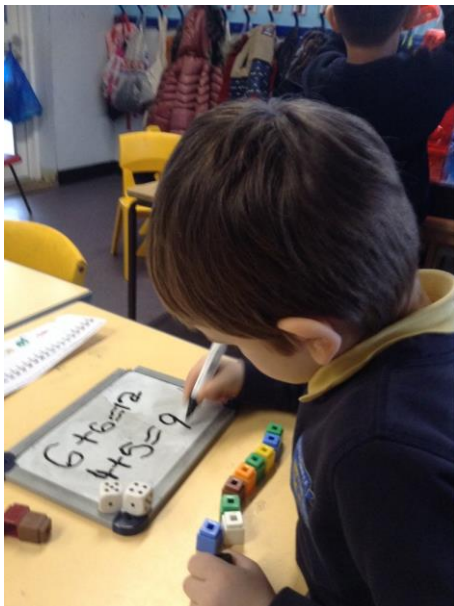




Welcome to Queenswell Infant & Nursery School



Reception Information Booklet



Welcome to Reception

Starting school is an exciting time, but can also be a bit scary if you don't know what to expect. We have written this booklet to help you and your child prepare for starting school so that it can be a happy, stress free time.



Preparing your child for Reception

At Queenswell we encourage independence and expect children to have a go at managing their own self-help skills. Before starting school, please help teach your child to:

- Dress/undress themselves
- Put on their coat
- Use the toilet properly and wash hands with soap
- Use a tissue to wipe their nose
- To throw their tissue into the bin
- Use a knife and fork before starting school lunches
- Tidy up their own toys
- Develop speaking and listening skills e.g. reading stories together, talking together as a family.



Settling in

The children do not all begin Reception on the same day, but are invited to start in small groups over the course of a few days. This enables the staff and the other children to have time to get to know each other.

It is important that a parent or carer is prepared to stay with their child for some of the first session if necessary to help them settle into their new environment.

Your child will stay until 11.30am (before lunchtime) for their first two days. After that, if they have settled happily, they will stay for the full day until 3pm.

If you have any concerns about how your child is settling in, please do talk to your class teacher.

What do I need to bring on my first day?



- A named water bottle that should be refreshed and returned every day.
- Welly boots and a waterproof overall (e.g. 'puddle suit') that can be kept in school.



- All clothes should be named.

The Early Years Curriculum



Reception classes follow the guidelines of the 'Early Years Foundation Stage Framework'. This is approached as much as possible, in a practical way. Research has shown that young children learn through their play and "hands on" experience. Therefore, the Reception classes are arranged in such a way that the children can take part in all these practical activities in an independent manner.

All the activities are carefully planned, arranged and supervised in order that the children are motivated to gain experience in all aspects of the curriculum.

The Early Years curriculum covers the following areas of Learning and Development:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Communication and Language
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design



Outdoor Activities

A very important part of the Foundation Stage Curriculum is promoting children's physical development and learning about what keeps them fit and healthy. It is recognised that physical activity aids brain development and children are encouraged to play outside every day, whatever the weather. This is why we have asked you to provide welly boots and waterproof overalls as part of their uniform requirements.

The Reception Classes have their own outdoor play area and this is used as much as possible for a variety of purposes. **Please ensure that your child comes to school wearing appropriate clothes, for example, hats, gloves, scarves for cold weather, rain coats and wellington boots when rainy and sunhats and sun cream when it is hot and sunny!**



All clothes MUST be named as they will go missing very easily if they do not have the child's name in.

Forest School

We are a Forest School, which means that we have a small dedicated area on the school grounds which the children will sometimes have the opportunity to visit in small groups. Forest School activities may include den building, log climbing, mini-beast hunts, outdoor games, nature arts and crafts, exploring woodland areas within the school grounds, cooking on a camp-fire or using simple tools.



Milk and Fruit

Each day the children have access to milk and fruit. Barnet Council provides free milk for Nursery and Reception children.

Water

Please provide a named water bottle for your child which must be refreshed and returned every day.



Key Person

Your child will be assigned to a named member of staff. This key person will support the development of your child and act as the key point of contact for you should you have any concerns or queries. Your child's key person will usually be assigned after the first few weeks of starting school.



Online Learning Journal



You will be given access to an online record-keeping system called Tapestry. Each child will have their own learning journal where we will keep photos and observations of your child's progress. Only you will have access to your child's learning journal, where you can keep up to date with the progress they are making and respond with your own comments, photos and videos as well!

Illness and Absence

If your child becomes unwell during the day, they will be looked after by our medical room staff and if necessary you will be contacted and asked to collect your child.

- If your child has had vomiting or diarrhoea, they **must** stay at home for 48 hours after the last attack. This is in order to prevent further spread of infection.
- If your child is on medication please advise the school office on return to school.
- If your child has a chronic or long-term illness e.g. asthma or allergies, please inform a member of staff as you will need to fill in a medical form.

Please be reminded that if your child cannot attend school for whatever reason you must inform the school office as soon as possible. Please ensure you clearly state your child's full name, class and details of the reason for absence.

If your child has recurring absences you may be asked to provide medical evidence. If you cannot provide this evidence an appointment will be made for you to meet the Head of School to explain the circumstances.