

Smithy Bridge Primary School Nursery
September 2016



Dear Parents / Carers

The purpose of this letter is to welcome you to our nursery and to explain a little of what to expect during your child's first half term.

For the first few weeks in nursery we will be getting to know each other and doing lots of activities to introduce the children to the different opportunities available in the unit. We are sure the children will be bringing home lots of things to show you, but please remember you are very welcome to come inside and see our work or to talk to the staff.

We would like to remind you all to join in with our 'self registration' board in the nursery cloakroom. On arrival to nursery, please help your child to recognise his/her name card and post it in the letterbox. It would be helpful if you could talk about the first letter in their name and maybe look at others that begin with the same letter.

We would also like to remind you to take your child to the toilet on their way into nursery every day. We realise it does sometimes create a queue, but it helps us to get the nursery session off to a much smoother start if the children have already been to the toilet.

Can we ask you to be patient with us for the first few weeks at home time. We are trying very hard to learn lots of new children's names and will not yet have had the chance to match all the children with their carers. It would be most helpful if you could tell us who you have come to collect when we hand children over to you at the quiet room door. Remember to tell us at the beginning of a session if it will be anybody different to the usual carer collecting your child. There is always a Teaching Assistant standing at the door with a diary to take any messages from you. All messages are shared with the Nursery team. If you are running late for pick up time, please ring the school office we can reassure your child that you are on your way and avoid unnecessary distress. We also suggest that if you have any older children in school, that you pick up your Nursery child first as younger children can become upset if they are here when the other children have gone home.

If you are bringing a younger sibling with you when you drop your child off at Nursery, could we politely ask if you could please leave their pram outside under our shelter. The space in our Nursery is extremely limited and we have found that having prams inside the door makes finding coat pegs and posting name cards extremely difficult for the children.

As you know, British weather can be very changeable! For this reason please ensure your child attends each day with a waterproof coat. We will still play out in the rain, as valuable learning opportunities arise. Also, please send in a pair of wellies as soon as possible, with your child's name inside to leave at nursery in our welly box. This will allow them to fully utilise our outdoor area in all weathers.

Can we also remind you to put your child's name in jumpers and t-shirts etc. your child may get wet during water play and it does help us return clothing to the right child if it has a name on it. We would also like you to send a spare set of clothes (this doesn't need to be uniform) and leave it on your child's peg. If we have to put any items of nursery clothing on your child, could you please return them as soon as possible in a clean condition, as supplies are limited!

Please remember the rule regarding jewellery for children at nursery, is that for children's own safety, no jewellery is to be worn with the exception of small stud earrings (which need to be removed on P.E. days).

The children will start P.E. sessions during their first couple of weeks in Nursery, they do not need any special kit. We only remove jumpers, so once again please ensure they are clearly labelled with your child's name.

The two areas of development which we will be focusing on with the children for this half term are putting their own coats on (initially just to put it on independently and then working towards fastening it themselves) and remembering to flush the toilet and to wash their hands after using the toilet. It would be most helpful if you could practise these skills at home. We have also have a urinal in Nursery, so if you have a little boy could you please use any available opportunities e.g. in shops to practise using a urinal.

We are eager to celebrate and share the lovely work that is going on in our Foundation Stage Unit by posting photos on our school website. Therefore we urge you to return your internet form ASAP giving us your permission to do this. We cannot put any children's photos on until forms are returned. Even if you do not want your child to be put on the website, we need your form returned to tell us that. Can we also return milk and fruit forms as soon as possible. If you have not yet returned your contact forms, general information forms or medical information please do ensure these are returned ASAP.

If your child has attended another setting (Nursery/Playgroup/Childminder), they may have given you a 'Learning Journey' and some form of 'assessment tracker' demonstrating your child's progress. We would appreciate you bringing these into Nursery ASAP for us to look at please. We would like to photocopy the information and will then return it to you. If you have not received anything from your child's previous setting, could you please ask them for it.

You may recall from our information evenings that we have a 'Gold Status' of the 'Golden Grin Award' in our Nursery. This is an award which we achieve for the work we do with our children and families regarding good dental health and encouraging tooth friendly snacks and drinks. In nursery, we only give children milk or water and fruit. We reward children with praise, stickers and certificates and not sweets. Could we please ask for your support in not meeting and greeting your children at the end of a session with sweets, chocolates or sugary drinks and to save such treats for after their tea and for when they can brush their teeth soon after. We encourage children to bring in a water bottle (available from our school office for £1.50) to nursery with them each day. We have a box by the door for you to leave water bottles in on

your way into Nursery and to collect them from at the end of the day. Please ensure your child's name is clearly visible on the bottle as they can access these independently during play too.

We are currently collecting lots of junk modelling materials e.g. Empty boxes, cardboard kitchen rolls, plastic tubs, foil trays etc if you can help with any of these items, we are always grateful.

On the walls in nursery, you will see we have created a small display space for each child. We will be displaying some of their first photographs, paintings, mark making etc from nursery. We would also like each child to bring in a photograph of their family and/or pets to put on their display space. This will help the children develop a sense of belonging in their new setting.

Could we please ask all parents/carers to ask their children, not to climb on our climbing frame or play with our outdoor equipment before and after nursery sessions. Many thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

We are looking forward to a really enjoyable first half term in nursery, if however, you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to come in and discuss them with the nursery staff.

Miss Copeland, Mrs Williams, Mrs Ames and Mrs Wharton.
(Nursery Staff)

Have I remembered.....?

Waterproof coat (name on)	
Wellies for Welly box (name on)	
Spare set of clothes for peg (name on)	
Internet form - website agreement	
School visits permission form	
Contact Sheet/medical information	
'All about me' information sheets x2	
Ethnicity Sheet	
Cultural Awareness Questionnaire	
Fruit and Milk forms	
Learning Journey/Tracker from previous setting	
Any junk modelling materials	
A family/pet photograph for display	