



Davington Primary School

Priory Row, Faversham, Kent. ME13 7EQ

Tel: (01795) 532401

Headteacher: Mr C Saint BA (Ed) Hons NPQH

E-mail: office@davington.kent.sch.uk

10th September 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

We welcome you and your children to Year R. We are looking forward to a successful and happy year, full of enjoyable learning.

Arriving at school

Year R children start at 8:50 and finish at 3:15. Thank you so much for your support in keeping staff and pupils safe by remaining outside the classroom. Whilst we are not able to invite parents in to the classroom, we are always available at drop off and pick up times to discuss any concerns or receive messages. If you need a longer discussion, please contact the office so that we can arrange a phone call with you.

Outside Area

We will be using the outside area as much as possible so please make sure your child is suitably dressed for all weathers. They will need a pair of named wellington boots to be kept at school. We would be very grateful if you could assist your child in practising changing their shoes. Please ensure that all items of clothing, footwear and bags are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Curriculum

This year, Davington will be following the new Early Learning Goals for Reception children. A copy of this has been attached for you.

Year R children need to share a book with an adult **every day**. Hearing an adult reading a story is an essential part of a child's language development. We visit the school library to allow every child to borrow a book on a **Tuesday** so this would be a good opportunity to share a new book with your child and talk about the story. Reading the same book several times helps support the children's fluency and confidence. Please also share nursery rhymes and simple songs with your child as much as possible. A good website for this is <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-songs-index/zhwdgwx>
At the start of Term 2, children will start bringing reading books home to read to you.

We shall shortly be starting our phonics program, focusing on the sounds that each letter makes. The first sounds we learn are the pure sounds *s a t p i n* followed by *m d g o c k ck*. The following link will show you how to pronounce each sound.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IwJxINSineE>

Once the children have learnt some sounds we will begin to blend letters together to make 2 and 3 letter words.

We will be introducing Makaton to the children. Mr Tumble is a fantastic resource, as is 'Singing Hands', who have a lot of videos on YouTube as well as their own Website

<https://singinghands.co.uk/blog/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Csy7Tzpufw>

PE and safety

Please ensure your child's PE kit is in school at all times. They will come home at the end of each term to be washed. Please ensure children with shoulder length hair or longer have their hair tied back. If your child has pierced ears, please make sure that they **only wear studs at school**. Earrings will need to be removed **before** P.E sessions.

Water

Your child will need a filled reusable named water bottle which they can access throughout the day. Please make sure this does not leak and has a 'sports top' lid. These can be bought in the school office. The children are strongly encouraged to drink water, not squash.

Milk

Lots of our children have asked for milk. Unfortunately we cannot give milk to them unless you have signed up to *Coolmilk*. **All children under 5 are entitled to free milk**. You can register for this really easily online. Please be patient, it does take a couple of weeks before the children are registered on our lists.

<http://www.coolmilk.com/>

Children over 5 have to pay. It works out at about £15 a term. Please see the website for more details.

Break Time Snacks

Reception children currently receive a piece of fruit each day. This ranges from apples, pears etc to snap peas. This changes depending on delivery and we are unable to predict what we will get although we always try to give the children the choice from two items. If you would rather provide your child with their own snack, please ensure that it is a fruit/vegetable snack. Please ask us if you are unsure.

Lunchtime

All children in Reception will have a free school lunch as part of the 'Universal Free School Meals'. Please send back the menu indicating whether your child is having a hot dinner or a home packed lunch if they are going to mix and match between the two. Please tell us if your child has allergies or is vegan/vegetarian.

Independence

We encourage the children to be as independent as possible. This includes putting on coats, taking jumpers on and off as well as getting dressed independently. Please support your child by encouraging them to dress themselves, including putting on socks/tights and doing up zips and buttons. You could further support your child by encouraging them to "have a go" at using a knife and fork to cut up their dinner.

We have enjoyed getting to know your children better in their first week and look forward to a successful year ahead.

Yours sincerely

Miss Kennett and Mrs Bowley
Reception Class Teachers

