**Welcome to the Reception class**

A very warm welcome to the Reception class, we hope you all had an enjoyable Summer as best you can during these unprecedented times. During the first few days the children have spent time settling into their new class and familiarising themselves with our new surroundings and new routines. We are so pleased with how well the children have settled and adapted to the routines put in place for everyone`s safety and wellbeing. Their enthusiasm for the new school year has been delightful to see too.

We hope the following information will be helpful over the coming weeks and new term. As new information or changes may come to light, we will inform you as soon as possible.

**Reception Class staff**

**Mrs Karen Bennett - Class Teacher**

**Mrs Jayne Llewelyn – Class Teacher**

**Mrs Alison Sayce - Teaching Assistant**

**Mrs Sarah O'Donnell - Teaching Assistant**

P.E

P.E./Games/Physical activity days will be outdoors (weather permitting) on a Wednesday. Please could you dress your child in suitable clothing each week, on this day e.g tracksuit bottoms, trainers. They will remain in these all day as we are unable to support them to change during this time.

Daily Break

As part of our 'Healthy Schools Policy' every child throughout the school is encouraged to bring a piece of fruit or vegetable. Please ensure each item/snack box is clearly labelled and is separate from their lunch box/bag. Also please ensure it is something they can open or peel themselves as we are limiting the touching of anything from home and are unable to peel fruits like tangerines etc.

Website/Blog

Please remember to check out our school website and our class page/blog for the latest information about our learning experiences and current information. We enjoy reading the comments left, so please feel free to add a note to our learning. Here you will find class information and reminders as well as it being an ideal place to check out the latest photographs.

All communication where possible will be done remotely through our website and through the use of Seesaw. We can already see lots of you have logged on and uploaded a picture to Seesaw this will be our learning platform moving forward for our blended learning approach and should we need it in the future if the situation arises.

Arrival/Dismissal

Please ensure children are dropped off and collected through the correct entrance and at the allocated times to avoid congestion with other classes.

Teaching and Learning

Our topic this term is ‘Africa’, which we will be learning about in a variety of ways, through stories, poems, games and practical activities, covering different areas of the Foundation Phase curriculum as best we can.

The children will be encouraged to develop their early reading and writing skills through a range of activities. We will be looking at and developing their phonological awareness, focusing on letter and sound recognition leading on to letter formation and early writing development. Children will learn about letter sounds and patterns through the 'Letters and Sounds' programme. Lots of our learning will focus around picture books which will be a stimulus for lots of our literacy and topic based learning activities. We encourage children to look at books and read as much as possible so that your child will develop a love for reading.

The children will be introduced to their individual reading books and start their reading journey during this term, an exciting and enjoyable time for them and you. Your child will have a reading book shortly, within the next few weeks, once they have fully settled into fulltime schooling and have a grasp of the basics needed.

When we begin sending home reading books it will be important that these are brought in weekly and will need to be left for 72 hours before staff can change them. No reading records will be sent home currently and all assessment and recordings will take place in school only. ***More information regarding this will follow within the next few weeks, by half term.***

Our mathematical learning will follow our Numicon scheme and we will be building on their previous knowledge of the Numicon shapes and patterns. We will also be focusing on number recognition and formation, we aim to do this through multi-sensory and practical games and activities, again as best we can. We will be working on counting forwards and backwards, and developing their early understanding of the number system. As the term continues, we will look at adding groups of items/numbers together to explore basic addition.

If you feel you have any queries throughout the term please speak to us or the Reception class team. Unfortunately we are unable to have much face to face contact on a daily basis currently however if you would like to make a telephone appointment to discuss anything in more depth we would be more than happy to do so. We look forward to meeting you all and to an enjoyable term ahead getting to know and working with your children, with lots of stimulating learning experiences and memorable moments.

**Stay safe!**

**Mrs Bennett, Mrs Llewelyn and the Reception Team**