17/07/2020

**Group B – 11.30 – 12.15pm**

Dear Families,

I do hope you are well. We are all really looking forward to your child starting with us at Rackenford in September and are very busy with preparations to ensure that school is a safe and welcoming place to be for all our children.

As I am sure you will be aware the government have produced CoVid-19 guidelines for schools welcoming back all children from September. We are mindful of these guidelines and will have to make some adjustments to how things would normally be in school. Please be rest assured that we will not compromise on the care and nurture we provide nor on our philosophy of education, which we hold so true.

We are sad that we have not been able to have all the usual transition activities in place over the Summer term but we are so pleased that some of our children, those who have attended Little Angles, have been coming over to school regularly for their lunch or to play over the earlier part of the year.

Nickki at Little Angels, and I have met regularly over this last term to think about how we can best move forwards together to support all of our families now, from September and beyond.

Following two staff training days, school will be open to children from Monday 7th September. We will be having a staggered start with our new Reception children (and some year 1 children) having their first day on **Tuesday 8th September**. This gives children in other years an opportunity to settle in before we welcome our new intake. This also provides undivided attention for welcoming the new intake on the Tuesday.

We are hosting a socially distanced induction / welcome morning on Monday 7th September. Parents will be split into Group A or Group B. Group A induction will be between at 10.30 – 11.15am. Group B induction will be at 11.30 – 12.15pm. **It will state which group you are in at the top of this letter.** This will give you an opportunity to meet with most of the staff in Class R; class teacher, Sharon Hagley, teaching assistant Corinne Ashdown and our Trainee teacher Gemma Coussell. Miss Mia Horrell only works at RPS on a Friday and cannot be with us on Monday as she also works at Bishop Nympton Primary School. **Please note this is for adults only and not for your children, we also ask that only one parent attends.** If you are unable to attend please just let us know.

You will be able to see the lay out of the classroom, how we use resources, learning through play and continuous provision and Sharon will also talk to you all about how we approach and teach reading, phonics and maths at school and how you can support your child’s learning and development at home.

In the second half of the term we will be hosting a workshop about learning through play and we will share with you a loose parts toolkit.

**What does a day at school look like?**

School is open from 8.45 and children who come to school by bus will arrive then and go straight into class. All other children in Class R will arrive for 9.10 and be greeted at the side church gate by Sharon, Mia, Corinne or Gemma. We ask that you kindly observe social distancing and our one-way system when dropping off and collecting your child. After dropping your child off, please leave by carrying on walking through the churchyard to the other gate at the end of the path.

The school day for Class R will finish at 3.15. Please also collect your child at the same gate as drop off and observe the same procedure for socially distancing. We have staggered all our drop off and pick up times so please be punctual as another group is using the same gate.

Unfortunately, parents will not be able to come into school. If you need to talk to a member of staff please can you make an appointment, with our admin assistant, Michaela for them to phone you at the end of a school day.

**Bubbles**

Our children are in two bubbles. Bubble 1- Classes R & 1, Bubble 2 – Classes 2 & 3.

Lunch times are staggered within the bubbles so when one class is in the hall eating, the other is outside playing.

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| Bubble 1 Reception  |
| 9.10 – 9.30 | Daily mile, dancing, exercise |
| 9.30 – 10:30  | Session 1 & snack time |
| 10:30 – 10:45  | Break time |
| 10:45 – 12:00 | Session 2 |
| 12:00 – 12:30 | Lunch in hall |
| 12:30 – 1:00 | Break time |
| 1:00 – 1:10 | Registration |
| 1:10 – 1:40 | Assembly in class |
| 1:40 – 3:00  | Session 3 |
| 3:15  | home time |

Please check out the welcome video on our website which takes you on a walk through of how classes are at the moment.

**Phased start to school**

A couple of weeks ago we invited you to let us know how you would like to phase your child’s start to school for the first few weeks. Devon County Council is supporting this up to 25th September. Please ensure your reply slip indicating your choice for the first week back is in to us by Friday 24th July. Please ignore the Monday. We will ask you to indicate your choice each week for the following week in the same way.

**Wrap Around Care**

Little Angels are open from 7am to 6pm providing early years nursery care, before, afterschool and holiday care for children in our local community and wider afield. Your child will be escorted to Little Angels by a staff member at 3.30 and remain in a ‘before/afterschool bubble.’

Places are booking up fast for holiday care.

**Transition from Nursery to school**

As I mentioned earlier in our letter, because we have not been able to do our usual transition activities Fi, from Little Angels will be a regular face in class R. She will be coming across to catch up with children, to read stories, lead a meditation session, sing with the children, etc. over the first half term to support the children in their transition from nursery to school.

**Birthdays**

We love to celebrate the birthdays of all our children and staff. We do this by lighting candles around a birthday garland, singing “happy birthday” and usually eating cake or something which children bring in to share. If this is something you would rather you child did not take part in please let us know and we will be respectful of your wishes.

**The Daily Mile**

As a school we start our day with the daily mile. This is a good walk around our lovely village. This will start up again from September. Children will be walking in their bubbles. Our Reception children join in with the Daily mile usually from January and until then they have daily morning exercise “Leap into Life” from 9.10 – 9.30 every morning.

**Yoga, mindfulness and dance** this is something that you would prefer your child not to take part in please can you let us know.

**Collective Worship, Assemblies, Church and Messy Church**

As a C of E primary school, we are a community school inclusive of all religions and non. We teach ‘World religious Education (RE) following the Devon RE syllabus, common to all schools in Devon. We attend church on a Wednesday (in bubbles from September) in a collective worship led by our rector Steph Jeffs. Our collective worship and assemblies will be in class the rest of the week where we look at: values, character, what’s happening in the world, how children can get involved (service) and much more. Steph also works with each class (on a weekly rota) with “Messy Church” this is a session exploring bible stories through drama, art and craft activities. Steph used to be a drama teacher so we really welcome her time here at school. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education.

**Reading books**

We have a reading scheme which links to our Letters and Sounds phonic program. Children will be given a new book and their reading diary on **Monday** each week. Please read and enjoy the books with your children as many times as you can during the week. Please can you keep a track of your reading at home by writing comments in the reading diary. Please return this book and the diary on a Friday morning by placing it in the plastic box at the school gate. These books need to be left for 72 hours before we can use them again.

**No need for a School Bag**

Please can you child bring with them a named water bottle, containing water. This can be refilled frequently at school during the day.

**Letters and correspondence**

We try to email most of our correspondence from school and also post letters, etc. on our website and Face book page. Only occasionally we will send something home for example the school lunch menu.

**School clothes**

Please ensure you child has a coat with them every day. On the first day please can you bring a named plastic bag of sun screen, spare clothes and underwear, which can be left in school in case of ‘accidents’.

**Please can you ensure that all jumpers, shoes, clothes and coats are clearly labelled with your child’s name.**

**Snacks**

Under normal circumstances, Class R are given free fruit each day for snack time as part of the NHS Schools fruit and vegetable scheme, however this has been suspended until further notice. For the meantime, please can you send your child with a small food bag/container with a snack. Suitable snacks include plain biscuits, fruit/vegetables and flapjack. No crisps or chocolate please.

**Lunches**

Jane our amazing cook is with us every day to cook delicious hot meals in our own kitchen. We would love you to support this by signing up your child to have school lunches. These are free to you in Reception and while your child is in years 1 and 2. We cater for vegetarians, vegans and all food allergies. On top of this, if you are on any income benefits you may qualify for “Free School Meals”. This means that school will receive the pupil premium grant for your child, which is a significant amount of money. Help us by applying for this top up funding if you think you may qualify. Your child’s meal will not be effected as it is free anyway, but your child’s education could be as school will have more money to spend on their education.

Little Angels also have their school meals provided by Jane, and we are excited that as from September this will be resumed.

**And to the future….**

Both Little Angels and Rackenford C of E Primary are awaiting further guidance from the government, which will enable us to get back to all our usual routines and ways of being, for example our lunch time and afterschool clubs timetable, Little Angles coming over for play, stories and lunch and more. We will keep you updated as and when we know more and as the lock down eases further.

You will also receive a letter, which I have sent to the whole school. Please ensure you read this also as it will have some additional information for you.

With our very best wishes and kind regards





Sammy, Sarah and Nickki