



St Mark's Church Of England/Methodist Ecumenical VA Primary School
Headteacher: Mrs. Helen Bath BEd (Hons)

November 2007

To the Parents of Reception Children

Dear Parents

Parent Induction Questionnaires

Thank you for the completed questionnaires that we have already received. If you have yet to return yours please do so as soon as possible, as this will enable us to improve our practice in future years.

Classroom Help

Many thanks for volunteering to help in the classroom; your support is most valued. If you haven't done so yet please collect a CRB police check form from the office. This needs to be completed even if you have done one for another organisation. If you would like to help in the classroom or could help supervise outdoor play during lunchtime 12.40 pm – 1.10 pm (to enable the children to access the climbing equipment), please speak to your child's teacher. As part of your role as a parent helper information about children/work should be kept confidential at all times.

Wheeled Toys

We would be grateful if anyone would be willing to carry out some repairs – adjust brakes, tighten wheels etc. Please see either myself or Mrs MacAulay.

Encouraging Independence

Now the children are settled into school life we would like to encourage them to come into the classroom independently. Please continue to feel welcome to discuss any matters with the Foundation Stage staff at the beginning or end of the day or to arrange an appointment.

Please continue to encourage your child to fasten their own coats, get dressed and wipe themselves after going to the toilet; all these things help your child in school.

Homework in the Reception Classes

Bedtime storybooks: Parents are encouraged to remind their child to choose a bedtime storybook at the beginning of the school day.

Reading books: Daily reading practise of five to ten minutes of reading scheme books is encouraged at St Mark's School. These are changed regularly by the Foundation Stage staff and parent helpers. Sometimes your child may bring home two books, it is not expected that they read both on the same evening. Please save one to read the following day.

Letter Sounds and Words: Experience has proved that daily reinforcement of letter sounds actions and names and high frequency words, aids children's progress of reading and spelling. Please continue to play games such as 'hunt the letter' or 'matching pairs' to make it an enjoyable experience.

Spellings: Later in the year when we feel your child is ready, he/she child will bring home weekly spellings to practise.

Maths Games: We would like to encourage children to borrow games from the club. Please return your yellow form as soon as possible.

Lunch Talk- Settling in Project

Thank you for attending this session. If you would like some lunchbox hints and tips please see Mrs Davis for the leaflet which was available on the day. School dinner menus can be found outside the office.

Some parents have asked for clarification on our lunchtime arrangements:

12.00 – 12.40 pm: Children from both classes eat their lunch (packed lunch and school dinners) in the studio.

12.40 – 1.10 pm: The Reception children play outside. They have an opportunity to play with a selection of toys e.g. wheeled toys and bikes, sand, water, bats and balls, dolls, dinosaurs, books, construction, dressing up and parachute games. To give the children further opportunities we would be grateful if any parents could volunteer to help supervise the climbing equipment. We are hoping to film the routine of the school day for you to watch at the next meeting.

Wishing Mrs MacAulay well

As you will be aware Mrs MacAulay is due to start her maternity leave at the end of term 2. We wish her well. Miss Ball has been appointed to cover during her leave and many of you have already had the opportunity of meeting her.

She is going to be in school on Friday 7th December. Her day will be spent with the children and meeting with Mrs MacAulay and myself to discuss the children and class arrangements to ensure a smooth transition after the Christmas break.

Yours sincerely

Miss Matthews
Foundation Stage Leader