



Dear Parents/Carers,

September 2020

Welcome to Beckford Reception. We hope you had an enjoyable summer, even in these exceptional circumstances. It has been lovely to welcome your children to Reception over the past days, and we hope their first term in Reception will be an enjoyable and exciting time. We would like to thank you all for your patience and flexibility getting used to the arrangements we have had to put in place to keep the children safe. This letter will tell you all about the learning we do at school and some of our routines.

Our priority is that the children feel safe, happy and secure in their new environment and that they build relationships with the other children in their class and the adults who are working with them. We want the classrooms to be busy and fun places where the children can develop the skills to become independent and enthusiastic learners.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

Our **topics** this term are:

- Me and My Little World
- In the Night Sky
- Festivals (ongoing throughout the year)

More information on the topics will be sent home in the next few weeks. Through these topics, we will be covering the seven areas of learning and development of the **Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum**.

Three Prime Areas - **Communication and Language, Physical Development, Personal, Social and Emotional Development,**

Four Specific Areas - **Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design.**

A Day in Reception

Once the children have had time to play and settle into the classroom, there is a short carpet session where we introduce the day's learning. The children are then able to choose activities independently in both the indoor and outdoor areas, and during this time adults engage with the children during their play and work with individuals and groups on focused activities. There is a whole class phonics session before lunch and a maths session in the afternoon.

Reading

Your child can choose a story book from the reading corner to share with you at least twice a week. It is through enjoyment and the sharing of stories that children will learn to read and develop their own love of books.

When the children are settled, we will send home independent reading books for them to read to you. These will be changed once a week. It is vital to read with your child for five to ten minutes **every day** to give them time to practise and develop their confidence. At this stage, it is fine to read the book together first and then let your child have a go by themselves—maybe just one or two pages at a time. When children start learning to read, there are many reading behaviours which can support them.

- Discuss what is happening in the pictures.
- Point to each word as you read it.
- As the children's phonic knowledge emerges, you can encourage your child to sound out words (but not tricky words such as 'the,' 'I' - these will be learned by sight!)

Further information about our phonics teaching and learning to read will be sent out in the next few weeks. Please write in your child's reading record every week to let us know how your child is getting on and feel free to have a chat with a team member. It is important that you send your child's book bag in every day and check in the evening to see if any letters have been sent home.



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Healthy School



**school
achievement award**
department for education and skills



Routines

Beginning and end of the day

Please bring your child to the **Reception gate** for a **prompt 8.45am start**. Attendance and punctuality are very important and are monitored by the school. When a child is late they miss out on their learning time and can become anxious. It is important that your child attends school every day and develops good habits early on!

At the end of the day children are collected **from their classrooms** (doors leading to playground). Please let us know if there is going to be a change to their usual collection arrangement, **as we are not permitted to release children to anyone but you without written or verbal permission**. If you are late collecting your child this can cause them unnecessary anxiety. In an emergency, please contact the school as soon as possible.

We try to keep the end of day dismissal as smooth and quick as possible, however **the children's safety is our first priority**. This means we need to release the children in an orderly, calm fashion which may take a few minutes. You can help by **standing back from the classroom door** in the playground. This prevents the doorway from becoming congested and chaotic, which can make it difficult for the children to exit and for staff to see if they have reached their adults.

Once you have collected your child, please leave the playground **immediately**. This is so we are able to socially distance effectively.

PE

Mr. Purcell the P.E teacher visits the Reception classes on **Tuesdays** to work with the children and develop their physical skills. Your child does not need a P.E kit at this stage, but please ensure that they have appropriate foot wear on Tuesdays e.g. trainers or plimsolls. Children also need to wear shorts, jogging bottoms or leggings (**no tights**) for P.E.

Clothing

- Please **name** all your child's clothing (including jumpers, cardigans and coats).
- Jewellery is **not allowed** in school for safety reasons.
- Buttons, buckles, belts etc. are difficult for little fingers to deal with - especially when you are busy and in a hurry to return to your activity. Please bear this in mind when choosing clothes for school. Velcro is much easier than shoelaces and helps children to be independent.
- The children have access to the outdoor learning area throughout the day and in all weathers. Please ensure your child wears **suitable clothing for different weather conditions**, for example, a water-proof coat.
- Comfortable, closed shoes are important so children can fully access the outdoor learning.

Other information

- **Fruit** is available for the children throughout the day.
- Please make sure your child has a **named water bottle** at school as water fountains are out of use.
- All children in reception are eligible for a healthy **free school meal**.
- If your child is having a **packed lunch**, please ensure it is healthy (**no crisps, chocolate, sweets or fizzy drinks**).
- As we are a healthy school, it is our policy **not to accept birthday cakes or treats**. Birthdays are celebrated in the classroom with special stickers and songs.
- As part of our first topic (Me and My Little World), we are focusing on families. It would be great if you could send in a family photo for your child to share in class. You could send in a physical copy or email it to reception@beckford.camden.sch.uk and we are happy to print it for you at school.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to speak to us and we will help in anyway we can. Emails can be sent to admin@beckford.camden.sch.uk. We are very much looking forward to working with you and your child this year.

Best wishes,

Pandora Donegan & Berni Quirke (Avon Class) Jenny Armson & Maxine Lee (Lily Class)