

A Year R Update 23.9.22

Welcome

We would like to say a huge well done to all our children for settling so well into their new school and classes. They have already picked up school routines and settled into school life very quickly. We really enjoy seeing such positive children accessing our learning environment and enjoying each other's company. It has been wonderful to speak to so many parents on the playground and see so many happy faces at the beginning and end of day. We hope the following updates will answer any questions that you may have.

Topic

We will be beginning our topic 'All about me' when Baseline Assessments have finished (see previous letter sent home in book bags). We are currently enjoying getting to know more about your child by spending time with them as they play. In order to begin this topic and find out more about your children, we would like each child to send in some photos of their family (this can be sent to your class teacher's email address- see bottom of this letter). In the past, this has been very successful in enabling the children to talk confidently in a small group or to their class. We will use the photos and put them into a shared class book which the children can spend time looking through throughout the rest of the year. Additionally, if your child would like to draw a picture/make a poster of their family, we would love to see it. Please can all photos/work be sent in to school by **Friday 30th September.**

PE

We will begin PE sessions with the children **on Wednesday 5th October.** At the moment, your child should come to school **wearing their PE kit consisting of black shorts/leggings/ jogging bottoms, a black hoodie or sweatshirt and a white t shirt. They should wear suitable black sports footwear.** This means that they do not need to wear their school uniform on a Wednesday.

We request that no jewellery apart from small studs are worn to school. If your child has their ears pierced, earrings must be removed on PE days or covered with tape before entering school. This is to keep your child safe when they are using equipment.

Alongside PE lessons, the children have many opportunities to develop their fine and gross motor skills throughout their school day through a range of activities such as climbing, painting, brain breaks, threading activities and many more.

Reading

During these first couple of weeks we will be reading with all of the children to determine how best to support them to further develop their early reading skills.

You will have received an orange letter earlier in the week inviting you to a Phonics Workshop. Attending this workshop will give you further information about how best to support your child with reading at home. In the meantime, please continue to read to/with your child (bedtime stories/ leaflets/non fiction books), discuss opinions about a text, recall the key events and simply enjoy reading together.

A letter giving more information about Home Reading will be sent out next week.

Lunchtimes

There have been some questions regarding lunchtime and what can/ cannot be provided for children. We provide water with hot dinners but children can bring their own **non fizzy** drink if they wish. We encourage the children to eat most of their lunch but don't insist they eat all of it. We send home anything they don't eat from their packed lunch so that you are aware of what they are eating. Some parents worry that their child may not eat the things in their packed lunches from home and tend to overfill them, we recommend up to a maximum of 5 items in a lunchbox such as: half a sandwich, a piece of fruit, a yoghurt, a biscuit bar, a small packet crisps. We are a healthy eating school so we ask that children do not bring sweets or chocolate bars. We also ask the children not to share their food as some children have food allergies. We are a nut free school- this includes spreads such as Nutella and items stating that they contain nuts. Don't worry if your child can't cut up their dinner or open packets, the staff will assist them (although practising opening packets; and using knives and forks with hot meals at home would be helpful), but it would be appreciated if you could peel fruits like oranges and put them in a container, ensure grapes are cut across the length; and don't forget a spoon for their yoghurts!

Behaviour

We expect all members of our school community to follow the Golden Rules (see below).

This week, the children have read stories that explain each rule. When the children follow the Golden Rules, they are praised. They may receive a sticker, a merit stamp or have their name moved onto 'Silver' or 'Gold'.

Each class has a set of cards in their classroom. When children show exceptional behaviour, they move from Green to the silver card and, if they continue to do wonderful things, they move on to gold. This is a very exciting time for the children!

On the rare occasion that a child persistently chooses to break a Golden Rule, they move their name to amber/orange as a warning and reminder to turn their behaviour around. Unfortunately, if they continue to break Golden Rules, their name will move to the red card and they will sit out instantly for 5 minutes. During the 5 minutes, they are given the opportunity to reflect on the Golden Rules and how they can work hard to follow them. These occasions are incredibly rare as all adults work hard with the child to support them to make good choices. All adults within the school are very keen to 'catch the positive' and reinforce behaviour expectations through verbal praise and stickers.

Each child is also given a Merit Card where personal achievements are recorded (kindness, personal victories, academic achievements and other successes). They have ten spaces in their Merit Card and, once it is complete, you will be invited to an assembly where they will receive a certificate. As a rule, we do not begin to introduce Merit Cards until we feel that the children are secure on the Golden Rules as, experience has shown, that the children respond better to instant rewards (such as verbal praise, names moving up or stickers) when they first begin Reception.



Parents Evening

Year 1 and 2 will attend Parent's Evening next week. Due to Year R having a later start to school and your recent 1:1 meeting, Parent's Evening for Year R will take place in the week beginning the 7th November so that your children have had time to settle. This will be a 10 minute meeting to discuss your child's initial settling into school and a chance to touch base with your child's class teacher. Further information regarding this will be sent out nearer the time.

Home Time

At the end of each day please can the person who is collecting your child **wave** at the teacher to make themselves **visible** when your child is at the **front** of the line. Please don't beckon your child over until we send them to you. This is to ensure the safeguarding of your child until we get to know all of your faces well. With a variety of different people picking children up and up to 30 children in each class, there are a lot of faces for the staff to learn. We appreciate your patience while we go through this learning process.

And Finally...

Thank you for your continued support and patience as your child begins their journey in Year R. We appreciate that you have received a lot of information recently and do hope that this helps you to feel as informed as possible about your child's school experience. As always, please do not hesitate to speak to an adult within your child's class if you have any questions.

Class1@langstone-inf.portsmouth.sch.uk (Mrs Bartlett)

Class2@langstone-inf.portsmouth.sch.uk (Miss Beckwith)

Class3@langstone-inf.portsmouth.sch.uk (Mrs Mitchell)

We hope that you all have a great weekend.

Best wishes

Mrs Blakely

EYFS Lead