



Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome to Reception at Eastbrook Primary Academy. We hope your child has settled into school and is enjoying the beginning of their learning journey with us!

Topic

This term's topic is called '*Magical, Marvellous Me*'. There will be a big focus on getting to know each other. We will learn who we are as individuals and how we all share responsibility for upholding the school's Community and Learning values.

Staff in Early Years

We feel it is important to introduce you to all of the members of staff that work in the Early Years unit. Most of you will know that the class teachers are Miss Perkins and Miss Blythman but we also have some helpers that work incredibly hard to support us and your children. The table below indicates which members of staff work directly with your child but we do work as a team which means every child will work with all adults in Reception.

RMP	REB
Miss Perkins	Miss Blythman
Mrs Divall - Class TA	Miss Miller-Barlow Monday and Tuesday - Class TA Wednesday - Support Teacher
Mrs Alexander - 1:1 LSA	Mrs Martin Wednesday, Thursday and Friday - Class TA

All teaching staff are entitled to time for preparation and planning, as well as time to carry out any leadership responsibilities. The way our school likes to do this is by having talented and experienced teachers cover these times for the class teachers. You will have already met some of the teachers that work at these times but we wanted to let you know who these wonderful individuals are.

RMP	REB
Mrs Domingo - Wednesday Mornings	Mrs Groves - Wednesday Mornings
Mrs Groves - Thursday Afternoons	

We would also like to take this opportunity to ask that you allow these members of staff a little extra time when dismissing the classes while they are getting to know you over the coming weeks.

Book Bags and Home Learning

We have sent home a reading book for you to share with your child and a yellow 'Reading Diary'. This is for you to write your comments in or even just a title of a book you have shared and your name. In the weeks to follow we will be sending these books home in a plastic wallet. Please keep the books in the plastic wallet as this helps us to take care of everything and protect the books from those pesky water bottles! Once you have shared the book with your child another book will be sent home in its place. We can only send home new books when the old ones are in the book bags. The books will be changed every week. In the next couple of weeks we will also begin sending home phonics friendly reading books for your child to try and read to you.

Purple '**Just Write**' books will be sent home for your child to use as they wish. These are purely for experimenting with mark making and writing and will be looked at but not marked.

The blue 'Phonics' workbooks will also be sent home after your child's first phonics session. Please practise saying, reading and writing the sounds or word lists that are given. The phonic books will need to be in school every day so we can provide new sounds and word lists when your child is ready for the next set.

Observations

It is current practice for schools to assess where children are working (within the 17 strands of the EYFS curriculum) when they start school. This is in order to ascertain what children already know, or have experience of, and what the next steps in their learning should look like. This is generally referred to as a baseline. At Eastbrook, we do this through a range of observations and informal activities; the children are not aware that they are being assessed as each task is designed to be child-friendly and is only completed when the children are familiar with our staff. For two areas (literacy and number) we will be using the tasks the government have asked schools to pilot so that they can create a standardised baseline for all children in all schools. The tasks are very similar to those which we would normally complete so we are not expecting parents of children with older siblings to notice any difference but if you have any questions about the way we assess your child during their time in Early Years please do not hesitate to ask your class teacher for more details.

First PE Lesson

Your child will be having their first PE lesson Wednesday 18th September. It is important that your child brings in a **named** bag containing a **named** PE kit. In order for us to make sure children go home with all the right belongings it is vital that everything is named and identifiable. It might also be beneficial for children to remove any earrings on these days as they will have to have them taped up during PE lessons and children can find this quite upsetting.

Important Dates- "6 weeks in meeting"

Parents and Carers are invited to join us for a coffee morning on Tuesday 22nd October. We will be discussing various ways that you can help to enhance your child's learning experience at home. You will then be invited in on a separate afternoon to view your child's learning.

PE for both classes	Every Wednesday
Macmillan coffee morning	Friday 27 th September
6 weeks in meeting	Tuesday 22 nd October

Reminders

We would just like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support at the start of each day. Lots of children have shown great confidence in coming in independently and it would be great to have your continued support in encouraging the children to come in on their own in the mornings. We would also like to remind you to check that all of your child's clothes and belongings are named so that we can do our best to ensure things are not lost or misplaced.

If you have any questions about the above, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of the Early Years team. Although we may not always be able to speak to you in depth at the beginning or end of the day, you can make an appointment to see any member of the EYFS teaching staff after school to discuss any concerns you may have.

Warm Regards,

The Early Years Team