



Tweedmouth West First School
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11.5.20

Dear Parents/Carers,

We would normally have our New Starters meeting this term, but obviously that can't happen at the moment.

To make sure you don't miss out on any important information, I would like to talk you through some Frequently Asked Questions. (This goes with the power point)

I hope this is helpful for you.

Q - What if they lose something at school (a jumper or a shoe)?

They will lose things, but if it has their name in it, it will be much easier to find. Please name EVERYTHING - including socks and pants.

Q - What if they have an accident and hurt themselves?

Most children will come home with a plaster on their knee or elbow at some point. They are generally very resilient and bounce back up! If a child has a bang to the head, or a more serious injury, we will always ring you, and you will be welcome to come and check them over yourself.

Q - What if my child cries when they come to school?

When you arrive at school in the morning, you need to be very quick getting them in to class. If they are distressed at this point, don't linger. Once they are in, they quickly become distracted by other things. We will ring you if they continue to cry - but that never happens!

Q - What if they don't want to eat their dinner?

We always encourage children to eat, but do not force them. Please let us know what their usual eating habits are. When they are having lunch with their friends, they often eat without realising it!

Q - What if they are not reliably toilet trained?

If there is a specific medical issue regarding toileting, please let us know so that we can accommodate their needs. September is still quite a way off, and so if they are not yet reliable there is time for that to happen. It is always a good idea to put spare clothes into their bag, as there will always be little accidents.

Q - What if my child has special educational needs?

Inclusion is very important to us at Tweedmouth West. Mrs Anderson is the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENDCo) If your child has special educational needs, please have a conversation with us before they start in September.

We will also keep a close eye on all the children once they start school, and if any new issues arise, we will deal with them together.

Q - What will they do all day at school?

Once in school, the day will be extremely busy, but they will probably tell you they have played all day! To begin with, getting used to routines and exploring the school take up a lot of time. We will also spend a great deal of time in the outdoors. They will come home exhausted!

Q - What if they don't make any friends?

We keep a very close eye on children when they first start to make sure no-one is without friends. We ensure that everyone is included in games and activities.

Q - What happens before and after school?

We have a Breakfast Club before school, which starts at 8.00. Any child is welcome, no need to book. Although we do have many after school clubs, we don't open these to Reception children. We feel they are quite exhausted after a day at school, and need to go home.

Q - What do the children do in the outdoors?

Working in the outdoors is a key part of being at Tweedmouth West. We have Field Days each week where the class has access to our field all day. The same curriculum happens outside as inside. The children really enjoy the space, and there are many benefits to being out in the fresh air.

We also have the Reception playground which the children use on a daily basis.

In order to enjoy their time outside, the children need to have suitable clothing for cold or wet days.

Q - What happens when the children go swimming?

The children in Reception start swimming in the summer term. We firmly believe that the sooner children start swimming, the more confident and proficient they will become.

Q - What is Parentmail?

Parentmail is our method of communication. Mrs Hodgson will set you up with this on your phone (This may have happened already) We use it to send you messages, and you can use it as a method of payment.

Q - What if I need to tell the teacher something?

I will be at the gate every morning to welcome you into school, and the teachers are always at the classroom door at the start and end of the day. If there is anything you want to discuss, you can do so then. If you need a little bit more time or privacy, then please make an appointment to see a member of staff.

Q - What can I expect at the end of the day?

I'm afraid most children have very little to say at the end of the day! They are most probably exhausted, and if you ask them what they have done, they may well say 'Nothing!'

However, later in the evening when they have relaxed, they may start to tell you little snippets from their day.

Please take what the children tell you with a pinch of salt! They can be masters of exaggeration!

Q - How can I make sure my child is ready for school?

Between now and September, there is lots you can be doing to get your child ready for school.

Most importantly - lots of conversation. The more a child can talk, the better their communication and reading skills will be.

Reading - look at lots of books together. One of the best times of the day is the bedtime story.

Practical skills - getting dressed and undressed independently. Using a knife and fork to eat. Going to the toilet independently. These are all things you can practice at home.

Lots and lots of encouraging talk about what it will be like at school. Really make your child feel excited about starting at Tweedmouth West.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any further questions or concerns.

Warmest regards

Mrs Robertson