



MELLING PRIMARY SCHOOL



Reception Newsletter - Autumn Term 2024

A very big welcome to all our new children and parents joining Melling School Reception Class. It is a fantastic place to be and you will be very happy here. I would like to say a big thank you to you all for coming into school for your visits. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to meet you all and your lovely children before they begin their exciting first term in YR.

Staff

In addition to myself (Mrs Hargreaves) there will be several adults working in the YR classroom. Mrs Madden and Miss McGurk are the YR teaching assistants and will be in class full time. Miss Scott will be in YR 2 afternoons a week and Mr Millington will do PE for an hour every Friday morning.

Phonics/Reading

Once all of the children have started school we will begin teaching our Read, Write, Inc phonics. Children will be set home learning activities with the new sounds and words they have been working on. Please help your child practise their new sounds at home and keep checking on the see-saw app for any home learning activities that have been set (login details will be given out at the meet the teacher meeting). Children will bring home story books (with no words) that we have shared in school, for you to practise at home. Once children are secure with set 1 sounds and can orally blend vc and cvc words we will introduce them to our school reading scheme books with words. Please remember that children are individuals and therefore the timescale will obviously vary as to when your child starts on a reading book with words. Children in Reception will read every day to begin with and then will read three times a week once all children are on the reading scheme. There will be more information about phonics and reading at the upcoming parent information meeting.

Homework

Children in Reception are expected to read their reading book and practise their phonics every night at home. This will usually consist of letters, sounds and words learnt that week. There may also be numeracy and topic activities when needed. Most Fridays, homework will be set on See-Saw for you to complete on your computer at home. If you do not have access to a computer, laptop or tablet please let me know so I can arrange for your child to complete these activities in school.

P.E.

Children in Reception do P.E. every Friday with Mr Millington and every Wednesday with Mrs Hargreaves. They will do PE in their normal class uniform. This is why it is important that all children have black, Velcro trainers as part of their uniform and not shoes. If girls are wearing summer dresses, they will need navy shorts and a pale blue t-shirt for P.E. sessions. Black pumps can also be worn instead of trainers.

Reception Curriculum

Please do not be alarmed if your child comes home and says that all they have done is play! The Reception curriculum involves a lot of learning through play which is a very pleasurable way to learn.

Our topics this term will be determined by the children's interests and may change. During Harvest and autumn time however, we will be focusing on Percy the Park Keeper stories. The children will be finding out about Percy and the woodland creatures he meets, especially a hedgehog who is sad because he can never have a balloon. We will be gathering autumn fruits and leaves etc for our small world nature area and investigation table. If you would like to contribute to this we would be very grateful. We would like some acorns, conkers, beech nuts etc; anything of interest that you may find in a park or woodland. We will also be learning about ourselves in our 'All about me' topic, animals, weather and seasons and of course Christmas.

Trips

Our first school trip in YR will be to Blackpool Zoo. This will support the EYFS area 'Understanding the World' and help us learn more about animals. You will receive a letter nearer to the time with all the details for this exciting trip. If you would like to help on our school trips you will need to have or complete an up to date Sefton criminal record (DBS) check. Please email Mrs Doyle in the office if you are interested (admin.melling@schools.sefton.gov.uk) You will need to provide your email address so she can send you the necessary information.

Book Bags

Please could you send a book bag to school **every day** with your child so we can put any letters, homework or pictures in at the end of the day. Please remember to send reading books to school every day,

Birthdays

We are very happy to celebrate your child's birthday in school with cakes or party bags if you wish. If possible, please send individual cup-cakes or wrapped cakes such as mini rolls.

YR dog

Our class mascot is a very important member of Reception! He joins in with class activities and encourages the children to always do their best. Our dog (who will be named by the children) goes home each Friday with the 'Child of the Week'. If your child comes home with 'dog' please ensure he is returned to school on Monday morning or we will have a lot of upset children (and teachers!) When 'dog' comes to your house could you please take some photos of your child with 'dog' and send them into school (via see-saw or the class email) for your child to show his/ her friends. Also, a brief description of what your child has done with 'dog' would be useful. Children in YR will be given stickers for good work, excellent manners and good behaviour. One or two children will also be chosen as 'Star of the Day' and will come home with a Star of the Day sticker!

There will also be cups and medals awarded to children for courtesy, being a good friend and trying hard with their work. You will be informed when your child is going to receive a cup so you can come into school for the rewards assembly on Friday afternoon. Please do not tell your child when they are getting a cup as we like it to be a surprise.

Fruit/Drinks

Children will be given a piece of fruit each day at break time or throughout the day. In addition to this, children may bring their own healthy snacks such as a drinking yoghurt, preferred fruit or cereal bar etc. All snacks can be placed in lunch boxes or book bags and placed in your child's drawer on arrival at school. Children will also be allowed to snack when required throughout the day. Children in YR will have a small bottle of milk each day if they wish. It is also advisable to send a water bottle to school, which can then be topped up through the day.

Dressing

Please encourage your child to dress and undress themselves, as you can imagine what it is like preparing 32 children for PE or outdoor play! (jumpers and shoes off and waterproofs/coats and wellies on). Please make sure that every item that may be taken off is clearly named (everything!!).

Cold/wet/hot weather

Please ensure your child brings a suitable coat and waterproofs to school as this must be worn in the outside play area and during break times. It would be helpful if you could teach your child to put on and fasten his/her coat as soon as possible. Warm hats, gloves and scarves are also advisable during cold weather and caps and sun cream if the weather is hot.

Television

YR may watch films or short stories during wet playtimes and lunchtimes. These are all u certificate and are assessed for suitability by staff before the children watch them.

Safety

At Melling School we are very conscientious about your child's safety. Therefore, your child will only be released from the classroom at 3.05pm if an appropriate adult from the agreed collection list is seen by a member of the staff. Should arrangements change or you are delayed for any reason please let the school know.

Independence

Thank you so much for your support in helping the children settle quickly into school routines and helping them become more independent. By leaving them on the playground and letting them to come into the classroom by themselves helps us get our day off to a quick start.

Concerns/further information

Please feel free to arrange a meeting (by telephone or class email... yr.melling@schools.sefton.gov.uk) to discuss any concerns, advice or questions you may have about your child. If you do have any concerns/questions please discuss them with myself (Mrs Hargreaves) first or in my absence other members of the YR staff. I am available most afternoons after school and before school every morning (8-8.30pm). Any small queries can be sent via the class email.

Thank you for your support,

Mrs J. Hargreaves

YR Teacher