



Starting School Booklet Information for Parents

2020

Welcome to Two Rivers CofE Primary School

We are really looking forward to officially welcoming you to Two Rivers CofE Primary school in September but wanted to provide you with some useful starting school information which you may want to look over before your child starts school.

As a new school we are excited to be starting on a new journey with new families and children and so would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of you.

Meet the Team



Mrs A Smart
Executive Headteacher



Mrs W Carver
Head of school and EYFS Class Teacher for 3.5 days each week.



Mrs L Trembeth
EYFS Class Teacher with Mrs Carver 1.5 days each week



Mr M Trenchard
EYFS Teaching Assistant

Ready for school check list

Your child will need:

- PE Kit: A small named bag with a short drawstring (to stop tangles!) containing named black shorts and a plain white T-shirt which a child can put on and take off themselves. This bag of clothing can be taken home on Fridays for washing. Outdoor footwear, i.e. named black daps or Velcro trainers. No shoe laces please. Jogging bottoms and tops for cooler weather. **Please do not send backpacks, as our storage facilities in the cloakroom are quite limited.**
- Water bottle: A small named sports type water bottle with a simple top that children can manage themselves. The water bottle will be returned home each afternoon for washing. Please return in the morning, refilled with water only (no squash or juice). Children will be able to refill them during the day.
- Bookbag: A bookbag to carry books and letters. We are currently arranging how these can be purchased.
- Lunch: A small named lunchbox (if packed lunches). **No backpacks please as above.**
- Spare clothing: Spare named underwear, as accidents do happen! Please put this in your child's PE bag.
- Forest School clothing: A second small named bag with a drawstring containing an outdoor kit: waterproofs, thick trousers and wellies (all clearly named). It would also be useful for your child to have a fleecy top, gloves, scarf and a hat as we go to outside in all weathers. This bag is left at school and returned as necessary for washing.
- **Please** name clothing, bags, shoes, outdoor clothing and PE kits either with name tapes or permanent marker pen. Without this, we cannot return unnamed items to your child if they get lost.

THE FIRST FEW WEEKS AT SCHOOL

The first few weeks in school are very important and the welfare of your child comes first. Even children who have attended for many hours in nursery or pre-school have lots of new things to get used to when they start in Reception and they may get very tired. This is why all children start school on a part-time basis. Having small groups of children in at a time enables everyone to get to know each other, ensures a calm and happy start to school life and allows staff to get to know your child and complete initial assessments.

Illness

If your child is ill at school or has an accident then we shall contact you, therefore it is important that we **always** have your up to date contact numbers. If your child is unwell and unable to attend school or is returning from a period of illness, please either visit or phone Mrs Batchelor in the office rather than leave a message with the class teacher. In this way, we can ensure that all absences are recorded correctly.

Please ring us to report absence before 9.30am, unless by prior arrangement with the office, e.g. in the case of chickenpox, where a set number of days at home may be required. Mrs Batchelor will be in the office from 8.15am each day but you can leave a message on the answer machine too.

Dropping off and collecting your child from school

The school day will begin at 9am and end at 3:20pm. Please note that parents do not enter the classroom with the children. Gates are locked at 9.10am and anybody arriving later than this time will need to enter through the office to sign in.

At home time, the gates will be reopened and your child will be released directly to you, one at a time. If for whatever reason you are unable to pick up your child from school and your child is expecting you to be there, please ring us as soon as you know and we shall be able to inform your child as to who is picking them up and prepare them.

We do not let children go home with anyone other than you, unless we have had either written permission or a phone call from yourself. Please try to avoid last minute changes unless in an emergency.

Getting dressed

It would be really helpful if your child could get themselves dressed and undressed prior to coming to school so that they can get changed for PE and forest school. It would be useful if they could learn how to turn their clothes the right way after taking them off, to help them when it is time to get dressed again. If you could practice putting on coats and fastening buttons and zips that would be fantastic!

School Shoes

Velcro shoes are ideal because there are no laces and the children can be independent. If possible, we would appreciate it if your child could have Velcro fasteners on their shoes. Please ensure that your child's shoes are named.

Toileting

We expect that the children will be able to toilet themselves unless there are exceptional circumstances and we do realise that children do have accidents. Helping children who have had accidents takes support away from the children's learning so we would ask you to ensure that as far as possible your child can use the toilet independently, including wiping themselves. We may have a small amount of spare clothes available but would appreciate it if you could put spare, named underwear in your child's PE bag.

Lunchtimes

Lunchtimes are incredibly important for children. We make sure that there are extra staff around when the children start to have lunch at school. It is a good idea to allow your child to try the school cooked dinners to start with; even children who don't like trying new foods tend to eat when all their peers are and they have worked up an appetite from a busy morning.

Cooked School Meals

You may have heard of the Government initiative for every child in Reception and Key Stage One to be entitled to a free cooked lunch every day. This began in September 2014. You can choose to mix packed and cooked lunches, but we advise that you keep to a routine so that children know what they are expecting. It is helpful if you talk through the menu with your child so they can decide which option they would like each day. If having a school lunch, your child can choose between either the meat option, vegetarian option or a jacket potato. Meals can be ordered on a 3-week basis, via an online ordering form that we will send you. This is to ensure that your child gets their choice of meal.

Entitlement to additional funding for your child

If you are receiving any benefits e.g. income support or are a Service Family (member/s of the immediate family working for the MoD) and would have qualified for free school meals under the old system, it is important that you register this online <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/schools-colleges-and-learning/school-meals-and-catering/free-school-meals> If your child is eligible, the school receives additional funding to support their learning. It is well worth taking the time to put in your application if you think you might qualify for this funding.

Packed Lunch

If your child would like a packed lunch, please ensure that the lunch box is clearly named on the outside and is not too big. We encourage children to drink water with their lunch so please either provide a filled water bottle or we will supply a cup and fresh drinking water. Please try to make your child's lunch as healthy as possible and do not include sweets, chocolate bars, fizzy drinks or anything in glass containers. We would like to suggest including small quantities of things you know they like. For example, a few sandwiches, some fruit, a yoghurt and a small snack. Please note that staff are unable to peel or cut up fruit at lunchtime. Please halve or quarter grapes to prevent choking. We are a nut-free school so please do not include any nut products such as Nutella or nutty cereal bars for example.

Food and drink during the school day

Infant age children will be provided with a fruit snack in the morning from the Government's School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme. The aim is for the children to have a positive and enjoyable experience of fruit and vegetables. Please do not send any additional snacks in to school.

The scheme is voluntary, and although there is no obligation for your child to take part, I hope you will share our belief that it has many benefits. It is a great way to help us teach our children the benefits of healthy eating, and of course, will save you providing the daily fruit/vegetable snack. If you do not wish your child to participate in the scheme, you must let the school know before the beginning of term. It is essential that you **inform us of any allergies** your child may have so that we can ensure they are not given anything that might harm them.

We encourage the children to drink water throughout the day. Research shows that 5% dehydration = 30% loss of concentration. It is therefore very important that your child has their water bottle in every day. No other drinks are allowed except milk.

Charged milk scheme

This school in conjunction with School Milk Services Ltd. runs a charged milk scheme for children who are five years old and over. 'Welfare' milk is free to four year olds, but parents will be asked to pay for milk from the date of your child's fifth birthday, if you still want your child to have milk.

The arrangements for ordering milk are as follows:

If you do not wish your child to have milk, please contact the office before you child starts school.

1. 'Free' milk will be available from the day the child starts school until the day before their fifth birthday.

3. A few weeks before the child's fifth birthday, parents will be given a letter closer to the time for starting school, from School Milk Services Ltd., with details of how to order and pay, if they wish their child to continue receiving milk.

4. The alternative to having a drink of milk in school is for your child to bring a named sports cap plastic water bottle, which he or she can leave in school and use to have a drink of water as necessary.

Consultation Evenings and open classrooms

Consultation evenings with your child's class teacher will take place regularly throughout the school year. These meetings are important because they give you an opportunity to ask questions and share information about your child and their learning.

In addition, parents will be invited to 'open classrooms'; you will be invited to come in and share your child's learning with them, giving you the opportunity to find out a bit more about your child's learning and how they are getting on.

PHOTOGRAPHS

- The taking of photographs at school events is constantly under review.
- We take photographs in school time for your child's Tapestry (assessment tool) reports and for displays.
- From time to time, your child's photograph may be included in class displays or in school publicity.
- We also allow parents to photograph and film school concerts.
- We would ask that no parents put the photographs they have taken at a school event (which include children that are not their own) on a social networking site. If this happens, we shall have to review our policy on photographs.
- We will send a Home school agreement prior to your child starting school so that you can state preferences for photos and permissions.