

# Welcome to John Clifford School



## **Welcome Booklet**

Foundation Stage Two – Ladybirds and Butterflies

## **Dates for your diary**

### **Transition Days:**

**Due to the current Covid 19 government guidelines,**

**These haven't been set for this year, but we hope that we can safely do this at the beginning of September. This will be communicated to you.**

### **'Be your best, celebrate success. Together we will be successful' – School Mission Statement.**

We would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your child at John Clifford School. We are sure you are looking forward to this new adventure, just as we are looking forward to meeting you.

It is an exciting time for everyone with lots of new information to remember. The intention of this booklet is to give you an idea of what we can offer you and your child in the early years of their education. We have outlined all the procedures that help us to run an effective and happy Foundation Stage and hope you find these useful.

It is a fascinating and wonderful time when you are 4 or 5 years old. Watching children grow and develop at this age is an inspiring experience. We wish you and your child every happiness at John Clifford. Any questions please just ask one of the Foundation Stage Team. Happy Learning!!

### **The Early Years Foundation Stage**

The basic principles of good early learning emphasise the importance of learning through play. The activities that we provide for your child are often practical and encourage the children to explore and develop their new skills.

Your child will develop within all the seven areas of learning: Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language, Physical Development, Literacy, Mathematical Development, Understanding of the World and Expressive Arts and Design.

#### **You can help to support your child with phonics at home by:**

- Sharing your child's reading book at home at least three times a week.
  - Sharing picture books and discussing the story and characters.
- Singing nursery rhymes together to promote speaking and listening skills.
  - Talking about our half termly topic with your child.
- Building your child's hand strength by drawing, using playdough or squeezing pegs onto a washing line.

#### **You can support your child with mathematics at home by;**

- Counting anything and everything!
- Looking at the different shapes you can see in the environment.
- Singing songs with numbers in (5 little men in a flying saucer, 10 green bottles)
- Reading numbers you see as you walk around e.g. on a bus, in a supermarket.

## **Foundation Stage 2**

We are lucky to have an open plan indoor learning area which is complemented by a secure large outdoor learning area and includes a garden, a canopy and a permanent climbing structure. We have a wide range of outdoor resources and equipment available for the children daily.

The school day is: **8:50am-3:25pm**

In order to help us run smoothly, we would greatly appreciate it if you could bring and collect your child on time. A prompt start helps children to settle into the school day. Gates will be open for 10 minutes to enable you to drop off your child. If you are late for the day you will need to enter school through the main Reception and sign in there.

The Foundation Stage is staffed by an enthusiastic and hard-working team who all work together to provide a happy, caring and successful learning environment.

## **Getting Ready For School**

During the first few weeks of your child's life in FS2 they will be experiencing a lot of new things, meeting new people and getting used to new routines.

To help them settle into their new environment smoothly it will help if they can do some or all of the following:

- Hang up their own coat and bag.
- Put on and zip up their own coat.
- Use the toilet properly and wash their hands afterwards.
- Share their toys and be prepared to take turns with other children.

## **Settling in**

We aim to encourage all children to come into the classroom on their own as quickly as possible to develop their sense of independence. If your child is upset when leaving you, it is sometimes better to say a firm 'goodbye' and leave. If there are any problems we will contact you, please make sure that we have an up to date contact number.

## What happens at school?

A typical day in Foundation Stage 2:

- I go into the classroom on my own, hang my coat and bag on my peg and sit on the carpet, waiting for my teacher to take the register.
- My teacher will explain what we are going to do today. First I will take part in a short whole class mathematics session.
- Then I will go and take part in 'play for learning' time, where I learn through my play. My teacher may want me to do some special jobs with her, this might be a maths game, painting, reading or exploring the activities with some of my friends.
- At 10am I join my class for snack time.
- Every day before lunch, I come together with the rest of the class to take part in phonics, which is when I will learn to read and write.
- I then line up for lunchtime and walk across to the hall with my teacher to have my dinner. Once I have finished I go out to play on the school playground with my friends.
- After lunch I start the afternoon with a short whole class literacy session.
- I then have another 'play for learning' session, stopping for two whole class sessions, one in the middle of the afternoon and the other at the end of the day. These will be used to brush our teeth, sing songs, practice writing and talk about our weekly topic.
- The end of the day is at 3:25pm. I will wait on the carpet until my teacher sees my parent and calls my name.

### **Information Contact Details**

Please could you ensure that we have your up to date contact details. We may have to contact you during the day if your child becomes unwell and it can be very distressing for your child if we are unable to get in contact with you.

### **Reminders**

The children have the opportunity to learn outside every day, whatever the weather, so please ensure that they bring a suitable coat and wellington boots. Please send your child with a named water bottle every day. It would also be helpful if your child could bring a change spare clothes to leave on their peg.

**Please name ALL your child's clothing – including jumpers, shoes, coats, tights, water bottles, full PE kit (including trainers).**

We look forward to seeing you during the transition days and we hope you are as excited as we are about your child joining us.

If you have any questions please contact Miss Draycott (Foundation Stage Leader) or any member of the Foundation Stage Team and we will be more than happy to help you.

We have a page on the school website which is updated regularly with things that you may want to know. There are videos, website links and school documents that explain phonics, mathematics and the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum in more detail.