

# Helmingham Primary School and Nursery



## Hedgehogs Reception Class



## Information and Expectations

### Introduction

Here are a few guidelines to support your child's learning at our school. Please take some time to read them through with your child.

### Attendance and Punctuality

Pupils are expected to attend school each day unless ill. If your child is absent due to illness you need to inform the school office (on 01473 890267) as soon as possible. If your child has a necessary medical appointment during school hours, please take the appointment letter to the school office before the day of the appointment. Please note the school times for reception are 8.30 a.m. – 3.15 p.m. It is important that your child arrives at school and is collected on time.

### School lunches

A healthy lunch is necessary for your child to maintain their energy and concentration levels throughout the afternoon classes. Please ensure that your child can confidently feed themselves and has breakfast each day before school. School Dinners are free of charge. There is a vegetarian option for your child to choose from and other dietary requirements can be catered for. Please inform staff of any additional dietary requirements such as allergies.

### School Uniform

In reception, school uniform is compulsory. Uniform can be order from [www.myclothing.com](http://www.myclothing.com)

School uniform includes:

- White shirt/polo t shirt.
- Red School jumper.
- Navy bottom (trousers/skirt/tights).
- Black shoes – not trainers. NOTE: If your child wears shoes with laces, it is expected that they know how to tie them up.

**P.E.**

P.E. kits should be kept in class for the full half term and sessions take place weekly. Your child's P.E. kit should include:

- Red T-shirt
- Navy shorts/tracksuit trousers
  - Navy jumper
  - Trainers

Please ensure that all P.E. kits are clearly named and are kept in a bag different to the book bag. Each piece of your child's clothing should be clearly labelled. NOTE: Children are expected to dress and undress themselves for P.E. Please make sure your child wears clothes he/she can manage independently.

### **Book bags**

- Children are expected to bring their book bags in every day.
  - Please ensure that your child's book bag is clearly named.
- Please check your child's book bag every day for important notes and letters from school.
- Please help your child to take care of their book bag and empty excessive items weekly.
- Your child will get a new reading book every week. Please read with them daily and ensure they are returned to school promptly and in good condition.

### **Reception Maths Information**

- Count reliably up to 10 everyday objects.
  - Recognise numerals 1 to 20.
- Use language such as more or less, greater or smaller, heavier or lighter.
  - Find one more or less than a number from 1 to 10.
- In practical activities, begin to understand addition and subtraction.
  - Talk about and recognise simple patterns.
  - Describe 3D and 2D shapes.
- Use mathematical ideas and methods to solve practical problems.

### **Homework**

It is helpful to practise key spellings and sounds for a few minutes every day.

### **Reading Guidance**

- Read and listen to your child, read in any language.
  - Read the letter sounds and phonemes of words.
    - Model and read each sound of the words.
  - Use picture cues to help your child understand the story.
- Ask questions about the things that have happened in the story.
  - Ask your child to re-tell the story to you.

- Join the Library, and the School Learning Library.
  - Make up stories with your child.
- Practise the week's key words and letter sounds with your child.
- Read and look out for text and words to read in the wider environment.
  - Point and use your fingers as you read a word.

### Writing Guidance

- Allow your child to write with a range of tools.
- Encourage your child to write for a range of purposes, e.g. stories, invitations, lists etc.
- Practise writing your child's full name remembering a capital letter only at the beginning.
- As your child becomes more confident practise writing and spelling key words from the Reception word list.
  - Praise all writing efforts and talk about your child's writing experiences.
    - Speak and write in full sentences.

### Reception Word List

I	are	go
the	all	no
he	you	so
she	your	my
me	come	one
we	some	by
be	said	like
was	here	have
to	there	live
do	they	give

### School readiness

- Where you can promote social skills through spending time with others.
- Build on your child's independence skills. These are just as important as academic skills! Teach them to put on their coat/ shoes/ clothes independently. Go to the toilet by themselves and to clean themselves afterwards.

- Help them to recognise their own name. Knowing what their name looks like will help your child find their own peg, their PE bag, name label etc.
- Get a good diet and sleep routine. Ensure your child eats healthy meals at home and gets plenty of sleep.

***Dear Parent,***

***I understand that you are scared  
to wave your child goodbye  
and leave them in a teacher's hands  
don't worry if you cry!***

***I'm used to weeping parents  
It's hard to leave I know.  
But it's time to share them (just a bit)  
To help them learn and grow.***

***Let me reassure you  
That I'll give your child my best  
I'll wipe their tears, soothe their fears  
And change their dirty vest!***

***If your darling child is full of cold  
I'll blow their nose all day  
Just like you, I'll care for them  
In a special way.***

***I'll treat them like I would my own  
I'll catch them from a fall and  
If there is ANY problem  
I'll be sure to tell you all.***

***It's true they'll grow to love us  
They'll talk of school a lot  
It doesn't mean they hate you  
And that you should lose the plot!***

***I'll tell you a secret..  
That when your child is here  
They talk to me as much of you  
Of this please have no fear.***

***You'll always be their parent  
Whilst teachers come and go  
To them you are their number one  
This I truly know.***

*Soon you'll see some changes  
In your little girl or boy  
They'll become more independent  
And to see this, it's a joy!*

*I'll teach them all I have to give  
To share, climb and to write  
But to you they safely will return  
To tuck them in at night.*

*With love from,*

*Mrs Cross.*

### **Top tips for starting school (for parents!)**

- Keep your emotions in check. It's normal to worry about your child starting school, and to shed a tear on their first day – but try to keep the waterworks under control. Children pick up on parents' anxieties, so keep the new experience positive and upbeat.
- Check their school bag daily. Letters home often get put in children's book bags rather than straight into their hands, so have a quick check every evening to keep abreast of all the information you need about school life.
- Don't stress out about reading levels. All children learn in their own time, at their own pace, and there's no place for competition over their ability to read and write. The best way to develop their reading skills is to enjoy books, pictures and stories together.
- Sign their reading record. Reading with your child, and, eventually, hearing them read is one of the most important things you can do to support their learning. Reading books may not be changed if you haven't signed your child's diary to say they've read them, so keep it up to date to avoid hindering their progress.
- Don't throw lots of questions at your child after school. You are bound to want to know what your child had for lunch, who they played with and what they've been learning, but little good comes from ambushing them with 20 questions when they come out of school. Don't expect them to remember everything they've done; just relax and snippets will come out later.
- Put your phone away. Your child needs you to be attentive to them when you pick them up, so put your phone away and enjoy the stories they tell you, boosting their confidence by showing a real interest in their drawings, creations and conversations.
- Dress them for PE success. Tights and fiddly buttons can be frustrating for your child and their teacher! Find out when your child will be doing PE, and dress them in their most easy-to-wear uniform on those days.
- Be prepared for ups and downs. Sometimes, your child might bounce out of school, full of enthusiasm and energy. At others, they may seem tired, withdrawn, crotchety

or sad. Try not to panic if your child seems to be struggling; getting used to school is a steep learning curve. Talk to us if you are concerned, but keep in mind that teething problems are completely normal.

- Bring a snack to school pick-up. Children are often starving when they come out of school. Being able to produce an energy-boosting snack can prevent many a meltdown.

### **Excellent books to share with your child include;**

We're Going On A Bear Hunt, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Peace at last, Handa's Surprise, The Gruffalo, Rosie's Walk, The Tiger Who Came To Tea, No Matter What, The Owl Who Was afraid of The Dark, Not Now Bernard, Owl Babies, Winnie The Witch, Angry Arthur, Doing The Animal Bop and All Join in.

### **Useful websites**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies>

Oxford Reading Tree

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/welcome-back/for-home/reading-owl/kids-activities>

Outdoor learning

<https://www.outdoorlearningmadeeasy.co.uk>

YouTube Geraldine giraffe for phonics

<https://www.youtube.com/user/breakthruchris>

### **Useful channels and television programmes**

A useful tip is to put subtitles on so that children become familiar with the concept of words and reading.

- CBBC/Cbeebies
  - Alphablocks
  - Mr Maker
- Boogie Beebies
  - Numberjacks
  - Numtums

Praise and encourage your child whenever the opportunity arises, even for small achievements.

Thank you for your support.