CLAYTON ST JOHN

C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Reception Prospectus

"Growing together in God's love"

Welcome to Clayton St John CofE Primary School

The day

The school day starts at 8:30am and doors close at 8.40am. There will be a member of staff available for you to pass messages to.

At the end of the day please wait in the reception class outdoor area to collect your child. School finishes at 3:00pm and there will be a member of staff available to talk to you at this time of day.

We take the safety of children very seriously and will not allow your child to go home with an adult not known to staff. You will need to speak to a member of the team to name people over 16 who will be collecting your child regularly and set up a password. If anyone different is coming you must inform the staff and that person must have the password.

Lunch

You may be aware that all the children who attend school in Reception and Years 1 & 2 are entitled to a Universal free school meal each day. If you are in receipt of any benefits or claim Universal Credit, please still inform the benefits office that your child is starting school as you could then be entitled uniform vouchers or reduced costs to any school trips and school will receive extra funding to support this benefit.

Children will be encouraged to try the foods on offer. Menus are available to view on our school website (see PARENTS>HEALTHY LUNCHES) to help your child make choices. Children are also able to bring a healthy packed lunch if they would prefer; check the website to see which foods can be included (please note we are a nut free school). Please also be aware that should your child bring any small fruits such as grapes or cherry tomatoes etc, can they please be cut into quarters to prevent any choking accidents.

Snack

The children have access to the snack area throughout the day; there is always fruit and milk. No other snacks are to be brought into school. Other snacks are available e.g., toast, wraps and yoghurts. We ask for a contribution of £4 per term which is payable by Parentpay as we cannot accept cash. Please contact the school office if you require Parentpay Login details.

We ask that all children bring a named water bottle with them daily. This bottle should **only** contain water and should go home at the end of each day.

Library

The children have a library session every week. During this time they can share books in the library. They have a planned story session and time to select a book to take home. Please only bring Library books on your allocated day. The Newsletter at the start of term will give you the library days for Reception.

Reading books

We read with the children 1:1 and during phonics lessons weekly. We will send a book on the same level home for you to read with your child. This book will be changed on Monday's, however, need to be brought daily.

Outdoor learning

Outdoor learning is part of our daily routine. We have some waterproof suits & wellies, but if you would like to send in your own we would appreciate this.

The way we work

In Reception we will plan learning around a particular theme each term. Children will take part in daily phonics, math's and literacy sessions. There will also be adult-led and independent activities for children to access both inside the classroom and in the outdoor provision.

We run several intervention groups throughout the year to support the children's learning and development. You will be informed if your child is part of any intervention.

How can I help my child before he/she starts school?

You can help your child before he/she starts school by talking, listening, and discussing with him/her on every possible occasion. Give your child as many experiences outside and inside the home as possible. Use these to stimulate his/her interest and activity.

Children under the age of seven learn faster than at any other time in their life. Therefore, what they experience and learn during those early years is the foundation for the rest of their lives. For very young children, play is the best kind of learning.

What should my child be able to do when he/she starts school?

It would be helpful if your child has had experience of:

1. Recognising his/her own name which should be written in lower case letters, e.g. John - not JOHN.
2. Developing listening skills by listening to stories and responding to instructions.
3. Sharing toys and being prepared to take turns. This can be playing a family game at home.
4. Recognising his/her belongings.
5. Developing independence by dressing and undressing him/herself.
6. Going to the toilet independently and managing their school uniform clothing.
7. Washing and drying hands.
8. Using a knife and fork.
9. Using a tissue to blow their own nose.
10. Developing concentration by doing a jigsaw and other puzzles. Using construction toys, e.g., Duplo Lego.
11. Tidying and clearing away toys
12. Beginning to understand numbers by using them in play and helping with tasks such as cooking/tidying up.
13 Using writing and drawing equipment to make marks or draw pictures.
14 Using words associated with mathematics – ideas of comparisons i.e., more/less than, bigger/smaller than, taller/shorter than etc.,

Should I teach my child how to write his/her name?

Yes, if your child shows interest. We suggest that you write your child's name with an initial capital letter and the remaining letters in lower case. Try to encourage your child to copy or make independent marks rather than trace over.

How can I help my child with writing?

Young children usually enjoy writing. Encourage your child to draw and write by providing crayons, pencils, pens, chalks, and lots of things to write on. Your child will learn to write by experimenting and this should be encouraged. Early writing may be in the form of `scribble', symbols or random letters. Don't worry if your child cannot attempt to read what he/she has written. Try to read it with him/her. This is the way to conventional writing and accurate reading. Let your child see you writing.

Reading

Encourage your child to recite nursery rhymes and repetitive stories. Give your child the opportunity to predict the end of the story.

There may be times when you get tired of hearing `read it again'. Be patient, there is probably a very good reason why your child loves to hear you read the same words over and over again; such repetition is, in fact, laying firm foundations for your child to learn to read.

How can I help my child with reading development when he/she starts school?

During your child's first term at school, he/she will bring home picture books and simple texts to share with you. A record book will also be in their book bag for you to share information about your child's progress at home.

We will also share high frequency and tricky words with you along with the next week's phonics work.

When reading with your child the following points may be helpful:

1. Make sure the child can see the print and pictures. Sit comfortably and enjoy the book together.
2. Discuss the pictures.
3. Talk about the characters and the action. Ask questions like "What do you think will happen next?"
4. Read the story slowly, pointing carefully to the words with the child's finger or your own. This will get your child familiar with print going left to right.

5. Encourage your child to share in the telling/reading of the story.
6. Let him/her recite the story to you.
7. Encourage him/her to point to the words. He/she may not point accurately at first, but in time this will come.
8. When your child can point accurately to the words, draw his/her attention to individual words in the text. Ask questions like:
   Can you point to the word 'cat'?
   Can you find a word beginning with the *sound* (not letter name) b' as in 'ball' or 'button'?

How can I help my child with mathematics?

Undoubtedly, you are already involved in teaching your child mathematical skills in everyday situations, e.g., laying the table. Help your child to enjoy and see the value of math's by involving him/her in some of the following activities:

Sorting:

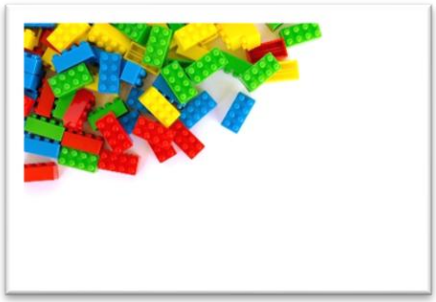
Activity: Unpacking the shopping
Questions: Can you sort all the things that go into the fridge/cupboard?
Can you sort the big tins from the small tins?

Matching:

Activity: Laying the table
Questions: How many knives have I set out?
How many forks will we need?
Do we have enough plates?
Have we set out too many cups?

Comparing:

Activity: Comparing shoe sizes
Questions: Whose feet are the biggest/smallest?
Whose feet are the widest/narrowest?



Measures:

Activity:

Weighing / measuring cooking ingredients

Questions: Can you fill the jug with milk so that it is full?

Can you fill the cup with water so that it is half full?

Time:

Activity:

Preparing for a birthday

Questions: How old will you be on your next birthday?

How many candles will you need on your cake?

Activity:

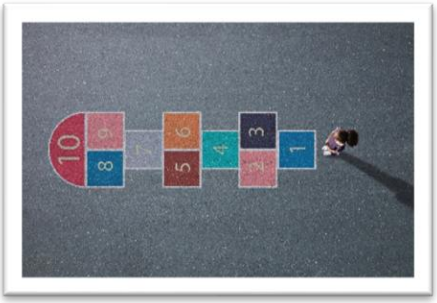
Discussing the time of day

Questions: What did you do this morning?

What would you like to do this afternoon?

Can you remember what we did yesterday?

Tomorrow we're going to...



Counting:

Activity:

Encourage your child to count anything and everything, e.g., the number of stairs/steps as he/she climbs them. Sharing sweets.

Activity:

Can you share the sweets equally between you and your sister?

Questions: Have you got the same number of sweets in each pile?

(Always count objects by placing your finger on each one as you count).

Model making

Encourage your child to make models, using his/her own ideas with old shoe boxes, cereal packets, kitchen foil, margarine tubs, Lolly sticks and all other recyclable materials.

Please remember to value all your child's attempts and put them on display.

Assessment

During your child's time in Reception, members of the team will be observing his/her progress and achievement. We also encourage parents to contribute to their child's learning journey. At the end of the school year, these assessments and observations will support the end of year profile which will support the transition to Year 1. You will receive a report of your child's achievement at the end of the school year.

What happens if my child is upset on the first day?

As you are aware, it is not uncommon for a child to be anxious and upset on the first day of school. Please don't worry if your child does cry. Most children will calm down when the Parent/Carer has left. Your child's teacher or key person will settle and comfort your child and focus his/her attention on something else.

Starting school can be very exhausting. Don't be surprised if your child comes home very tired. Try not to ask him/her what they did at school today as soon as you see him/her. Children need time to relax and unwind after school and given time will undoubtedly share their news and stories with you.

Common fears and worries:

We hope that the following statements will alleviate some of the common fears and worries experienced by many new children and parents:

1. Children can go to the toilet as often as they need to, and the teacher will not be cross if there is an 'accident'.

2. We encourage all pupils to eat their school dinner or packed lunch prepared for them, but no child will be forced to eat food. Children will be given the opportunity to have snacks throughout the day so it is unlikely they will be hungry. We would be grateful if parents indicate to us if their child has any food allergies.

Please feel free to contact any of the Reception Class team if you have questions.

We look forward to seeing you and your child soon!