



Reception
PARENT
HANDBOOK

2019/20

Reception handbook

Welcome to Reception, where we extend your children's early learning experiences with a creative, exciting and engaging curriculum. We explore our topics throughout the year using practical, hands on experiences to establish a firm foundation upon which your children will build their future learning.

During our Reception Curriculum Meeting, we will give further information to help you to support your child during their time with us. We hope this handbook will provide a useful starting point.

Teaching Staff



Sarah James
(Monday and Tuesday)
sjames@priorparkschools.com



Jo Taylor
(Wed, Thurs and Fri)
jtaylor@priorparkschools.com

Teaching Assistant



Dawn Pitchford
DPitchfordPecchia@priorparkschools.com

Daily Routine

Morning lessons – Maths and English sessions

During these lessons we have a short class input on the carpet, followed by group activities on the subject. Each week the children will work with the Class Teacher, Teaching Assistant and engage in independent learning.

Afternoons

This is when we provide consolidating activities for the children, helping them to independently make sense of their learning.

Specialist lessons

The children have specialist Games, PE, Music, Art and French lessons taught by specialist teachers throughout the week.

Tuck and lunches

Please send a small tuck box each day. This should contain a small, healthy snack to keep tummies full until lunchtime! We also offer milk or water with tuck and the children are encouraged to drink water throughout the day.

We encourage all of the children to have a hot lunch. Occasionally some children will not like the hot option on offer and will choose from the cold counter, with support. At lunchtimes we sit with the children to help them to cut up their food and ensure they have plenty to eat. Our weekly menu is available on the school website and will also be displayed on our classroom notice boards.

Academic Matters

Maths

The Abacus Maths scheme that we use follows a cyclical format where topics are repeated periodically and previous work is revised and built upon. This allows the children to move through the material at their own pace. Extra support or extension can then be given along the way, as required.

Children work in small groups on tasks that reflect their stage of learning. We work practically to ensure children understand the concept of Number, Space, Shape and Measurement.

At home you can explore numbers playfully through board games, number rhymes and counting games. Counting forwards and backwards will support your child when we explore addition and subtraction. Involving children in shopping, cooking and daily routines develops an understanding of Maths in the 'real world'. More information can be found in your Maths Handbooks.

Phonics

At the end of Reception all children will be able to read a book and write at their own level.

We teach phonics following the Monster Phonics scheme. This is taught non-alphabetically to allow the children to very quickly start words building and reading using the sounds they have learnt. You will be amazed how many words you can make out of 6 letters!

We learn the sounds at a rate of about 3 to 4 a week. As we learn a new sound, we will put a flash card in your child's bag and also a new letter in their phonics book. We tell the children a story about each letter and from this story we have the action. These actions help the children to remember the sounds.

When we teach the letter sounds we are very careful to make sure we do not add a 'u' onto the end of the sound. We stress the soft sound, eg 'h' not 'hu', 'p' not 'pu'. This is to help the children blend the words and also to hear the individual sounds in words

Reading and Writing

When writing we concentrate on making sure that the children form each letter correctly using a tripod grip on their pencils. If the children start and finish each letter in the right place, then it will be much easier for them when they start joining up when they are ready later on in Pre-Prep.

At home you can encourage your child's interest in writing by involving them with helping to write shopping lists, thank you letters, birthday cards or labeling their drawings.

Your child will be very proud to bring home their first reading book! We introduce children to our reading scheme using wordless books. It is important for children to both feel a sense of accomplishment and develop a love for telling stories. We aim to hear your child read 3 times a week individually and would encourage you to read as often as you can at home, making a note each time in your child's reading record. We will change your child's book each time they finish and move them on at their own pace.

The children will also be reading daily, making sense of their literature rich surroundings.

We do not have a ceiling, or walls, for the children's education. We will keep on stretching and extending the children to make sure they remain engaged in their learning. You can rest assured that we always have the children's best interests at heart and they will achieve their full potential with us.

The Bulletin



The Bulletin is a key publication for parents, do check it every week. It contains a summary of what has been happening in school and, perhaps more importantly, information about forthcoming events.

Details about:

- Trips – letters with permission slips,
- Outdoor Learning activities - appropriate clothing and wellies
- On site special days
- Assemblies
- Headmaster's Comments
- Music and Sport Notices

We hope you find all the enclosed details useful; if you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

SJ/JT 2019