



Welcome to Rabbit Class



Hello and a very warm welcome to Rabbit Class at Shorne C.E. Primary School. My name is Mrs Dawn Thornley, and I shall be teaching your child this year in Rabbit Class. Our teaching assistant is Mrs Bond.

The ethos of Rabbit Class is to create happy, independent, and confident learners. We believe that your child's first experience of school should be one of excitement and enthusiasm. Naturally both parents and child will be apprehensive at the start of the school year, and it is important to create a partnership between home and school.



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The Foundation Stage

The Foundation Stage Curriculum which your child is already following if they have been to nursery or playgroup is continued in Reception Class. The curriculum is very much play based enabling children to settle easily and comfortably into school life.

In Rabbit Class the children will be following termly topics. These topics are fun and creative. They can and do change according to specific events occurring in the world such as the Olympics, and the children's interests. We begin the year with the topic 'All About Me'. This is great to get to know the children and their interests.

At the start of the day

On the first day the children will have a staggered entry. This means groups of 5/6 children at a time will start together. We ensure children with siblings in school get the earlier start times for logistical purposes. This gives the staff a chance to see to a small group and settle them with an activity before the next group of children arrive. Experience has shown that the children respond well to this as it's not so daunting as arriving on your first day with 29 others. The children are given quality attention and shown where to put their belongings.

The school gates open at **8.35am** and Rabbit Class will head into their classroom as soon as they arrive. As soon as the children arrive in class there are activities set up for them to do so they begin playing as soon as they arrive. The day begins at **8.50am** which is when we tidy up and do the register. Please drop your child off at the school gate where a teacher will be waiting to greet them. Once the gate has been locked the door to the classroom will be closed and any late children should report directly to the office where they will need to sign in the late book. If your child becomes distressed in the morning, a member of the Rabbit Class team will be around to comfort and reassure your child. Once the activities commence your child will soon become engrossed in what they are doing and forget the upset. If the problem continues or your child will not settle, then we will contact you.

At the end of the day

The day ends at **3.20pm**. The children will be walked to the gate on the playground. Once the teacher has seen a parent / carer your child will be allowed to leave. NO child will be allowed to leave through the gate until a parent / carer is present. If somebody different is collecting your child from school, please write a note explaining who it is in your child's home / school contact book or message me on Class Dojo.





Class Routine

If you wish to speak to the teacher about a matter concerning your child, please could you wait until **after** school, when we shall be happy to speak to you. Mornings get very busy and there is always a lot to be done and telephone calls to make / return. However, if you need to notify the school of a doctor / dentist appointment etc. please go to the school office. Alternatively, please write a note in the home / school contact book provided or message on Class Dojo and we will acknowledge your note.

Your child will arrive in class and the register will be taken. The morning will consist of literacy and numeracy-based activities which will be practical and games based. Children will participate in guided reading and writing activities also number recognition and counting games.

Before playtime all children are entitled to a FREE piece of fruit which we sit and eat together. This fruit changes on a daily basis and includes apples, pears, satsumas and bananas. Alternatively, children may bring their own snack in to school. If your child decides that they do not want a piece of fruit or they do not like the fruit on offer, we do not insist on the fruit being eaten. **Please do NOT send in any crisps, chocolate or nuts for snack.**

We also run the Milk in School Scheme. All children up until their fifth birthday are entitled to a daily free carton of milk. After their fifth birthday you will need to pay for the milk if your child is to continue. The milk is delivered fresh and kept in the fridge, so the children receive cold fresh milk. To obtain milk you need to register directly with the company. The milk is not automatically sent to the school, so unless you register your child will not receive any milk. For the address, please see your starting school pack or the school office.

Your child is also encouraged to bring a drink of WATER into school. Please ensure that it is in a refillable bottle – no cartons please unless in a packed lunch box. The drink bottle should be named and contain no fizzy drink or squash. Your child is then welcome to have a drink at any time throughout the day. They do not need to ask; they can help themselves.

Your child will attend collective worship daily which lasts for approximately 10 / 15 minutes. This is an opportunity for the whole school to come together but can also be held in the classroom.



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Reading

Children will begin reading by learning letters and the sounds they make. We learn to blend the sounds and read words. Children will then bring home reading books to share with you which are phonetically based so they are able to have a go at reading words themselves. We start sending home reading books just before October half term when the children are confident with a number of sounds. The reading books are changed twice a week enabling plenty of practise at home. Reading the book more than once builds confidence and repetition. If your child is confident reading the book sent home, try reading random words from the book in isolation written on flashcards.

Within class your child will play a number of reading games to practise blending sounds and reading words phonetically.

When you read to your child, or your child reads to you or retells the story through the pictures, please could you comment in your child's home / school contact book. The home / school contact book is a record of your child's progress. It gives both teachers and parents the opportunity to give positive feedback and it also gives your child a sense of achievement.

Children are expected to share a book with their adult at least 5 times a week. This could be the adult reading to the child, child reading to adult or a mixture of both. In order to reward good reading habits, we shall be monitoring the number of times your child is sharing a book at home. Please remember to sign the home / school reading record book.

It is essential that your child has their reading book and home / school contact book in school daily. Please put this inside your child's book bag to keep it safe. Please keep the books INSIDE the plastic wallet provided to keep the book safe from leaky drinks etc.

We will change your child's reading book twice a week on specified days. These are **MONDAY** and **THURSDAY**. Please note that if there is no signature in the yellow home / school reading book we do not change the reading book.



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P.E.

Every week your child will have PE sessions that include games, gymnastics, and dance. During the Autumn Term and much of the Spring Term these will be indoor lessons in the hall and in our outdoor area. Your child will need to wear trainers – preferably Velcro so they don't have laces which become trip hazards. Please do NOT wear expensive trainers or trainers with flashing lights. In the Summer Term we shall be having mainly outdoor PE lessons. For all these PE lessons children will need to wear their PE kit. Please ensure that girls with long hair have it tied back. No jewellery is to be worn. If your child wears earrings these should be removed for PE days. If earrings are not removed, we apply tape over the top. The children come into school wearing their PE kit on days we do PE. The PE kit consists of a green school logo t-shirt and green shorts. They can wear a school jumper / fleece. In the autumn / winter children may wish to wear green tracksuit bottoms instead of shorts.

Outdoor Play and Forest School:

The children have free flow access to our outdoor area in all weathers. There is a selection of wheeled toys, construction toys, sand play, water play, our role play shed, messy activities, and a digging area.

The children will have 2 sessions a week at our forest school setting where they experience nature – den building, tree climbing, bug hunting, 'cooking' in the mud kitchen, sliding down mud slides and jumping in muddy puddles. The children will therefore need to have a set of waterproofs in school which are big enough to pop their coat underneath. They will also need a NAMED pair of wellington boots to keep in school. The waterproofs need to be in a NAMED drawstring bag along with at least 2 spare pairs of socks and a spare set of school clothes.



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Behaviour

All children are expected to demonstrate good behaviour. It does take time for the children to learn boundaries and learn the dynamics of a whole new environment with new people. We spend the first few weeks settling in and praising behaviour we are keen to adopt in class. We have a set of class rules which the children help to decide at the beginning of the year. These include things such as no running in the classroom, no hitting; make sure we share etc... To reward excellent behaviour and learning within the classroom we use stickers and aim to get a golden card. All the children have a photograph on the green to be good display. To get a gold card they may demonstrate kindness, achieve something they previously couldn't, display good manners or simply persevere. If your child achieves a gold card, they can choose a prize from the prize box at the end of the day. If your child displays unkind words, then they get a yellow card which means they spend some time out with a member of the Rabbit Class staff and if your child physically hurts another child on purpose then they will receive a red card which means they miss their playtime. If your child receives a yellow or red card, then we will message you on Class Dojo to inform you what has happened.

At the end of the day all children return to green to be good.

Playtimes

As well as having free flow access to both the indoors and outdoors classroom the children have playtimes on the field (when dry) and the main playground. We mix with Years 1 and 2 for morning break and usually the whole school is outside for the last 15 minutes or so at lunchtime. There are always members of staff from Rabbit Class on duty and at the start of the school year the children have the option of playing in our outside area at lunchtimes. As your child becomes more confident, they will go on to the main playground with the other children. Please ensure your child has a coat in school as we go outside even when it is cold and there is a little rain!



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Accidents

Unfortunately, accidents do happen within school no matter how careful or safety conscious we are.

If your child does have an accident during the day a form will be sent home on the same day detailing the accident, time of accident and any treatment carried out. Any bumps or injuries of a serious nature, including all head bumps / injuries will result in the parents / carers being notified.

Please ensure that all emergency numbers are updated regularly in the school office. If your child is poorly, we will want to get hold of you quickly and easily.

Accidents in Reception also include incidents where the toilet has not been reached in time. If your child does have an accident of this kind, they will be changed, and the wet clothing will be placed in a plastic bag. The bag will be discreetly handed to a parent / carer at the end of the day. **Please could you place a spare pair of underpants and skirt/ trousers in your child's forest school bag in case of such emergencies.**

I hope that this pack has answered some of your questions and provided you with an insight in to Rabbit Class. We do like parents coming in to look round the classroom, and we know the children like their parents / carers to come in and look at their work on the wall. The door is always open after school for any questions you may have, so please feel free to come in for a chat or just to have a look round.

On a Monday we have a library session after school where parents and children are invited into class to select a library book to take home for the week and return the following week. This is a great opportunity to come in and have a look around!

We look forward to working alongside you this year.

Mrs Thornley & Mrs Bond

