

Headteacher: Mr S Payne  
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs M Clark  
Telephone: 01474 833177

Email: [irpoffice@swale.at](mailto:irpoffice@swale.at)  
Website: [www.isteadrise.org.uk](http://www.isteadrise.org.uk)

Downs Road  
Istead Rise  
Northfleet  
Kent  
DA13 9HG

6th September 2023

## Parents/Carers of new Reception Children - September 2023

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome to Reception! We hope you had a fantastic summer and we are very much looking forward to working with you and your child. It was great to meet the children during the transition mornings and it was clear to see how ready they all were to become Reception pupils! Reception is a very exciting year where children are supported and encouraged to develop into resilient, capable and confident learners. To help your child settle back into school, we thought you would appreciate the following information about school routines. We will send a separate letter detailing what your child will be learning over the course of the year.

### Transitions dates

**Tuesday 5th September to Wednesday 6th September** (8:50am - 12:00pm) - excluding lunch. By 8:50am, please bring your child up to the KS1 playground via the KS1 gate. At 12:00pm please make your way up the drive and collect your child from the door opposite Kiddicare.

**Thursday 7th September to Friday 8th September** (8:50am - 1:15pm) - your child can bring a packed lunch to school or order a school meal. By 8:50am, please bring your child up to the KS1 playground via the KS1 gate. At 1:15pm please make your way up the drive and collect your child from the door opposite Kiddicare.

### Start of the day

**Monday 11th September** full-time education begins. The KS1 gate opens at 8:40am. Please make your way up to the top playground (KS1) where a member of staff will be available to meet and greet you. We ask that parents/carers do not come to the classroom door, in order to make your child's transition as smooth as possible. At 8:50am, all doors and gates, except the main entrance will close and children arriving after this time will need to come in via the school office.

### End of the day

The school day ends at 3:10pm and your child will exit the classroom to meet you on the KS1 playground with a member of staff. All children must be collected by a nominated adult over the age of 16 - please be patient as we get to know you all over the first few weeks. Should your child need to be collected by someone who is not a nominated adult, please inform the office or a member of the Reception Team as soon as possible.

### PE

Our PE day is on a Thursday and begins on **Thursday 14th September 2023**. Please ensure your child arrives at school dressed in their full PE kit on these days. We recommend black jogging bottoms should be worn during the colder months as some lessons are held outside. School uniforms are not required on these days.

## **Forest School**

In Term 1, your child will attend Forest School. These sessions will run every Thursday afternoon commencing on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023 with the final session being Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023**. Your child will have Forest School later on in the year and dates will be sent out nearer the time. Please note that children should bring their forest school clothing to school so that they can get changed into it after they have had their lunch. Staff will be available to assist them with this.

## **Uniform**

The school's uniform policy can be found on the school's website and in your child's planner. Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct uniform at all times and that all items of your child's uniform are clearly labelled with your child's full name and class.

## **Milk**

Milk is available every day. It is free for children under five but has to be paid for as soon as your child reaches five. If you wish your child to have this you can apply online via [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com). For those children who have allergies such as lactose and dairy intolerance and whose parents have notified the school, we are happy for you to supply an alternative such as soy, rice or hemp milk.

## **Snacks**

Your child will be offered a free piece of fruit during the school day however, if you wish your child to bring their own fruit from home this is acceptable.

## **Lunch**

School dinners are held in the Key Stage 1 hall between 12:00pm until 12:30pm. The children are taken into the hall where they will have the opportunity to sit with friends from their class. Meals are served to the children by our midday meal supervisors and class teaching assistants.

If you are providing a packed lunch, please ensure it contains healthy food to appropriately sustain children – this affects academic performance! Limit treat items such as cake, crisps and chocolate to 1 item. No fizzy drinks or glass bottles. Kindly note, we do have children who have serious or life-threatening allergic reactions. We ask that any food items containing nuts are not sent in to school.

If you would like your child to have a school dinner, please book this in via your Parent Pay account on the days when your child would like lunch (login details will be sent home today). You will not be requested to pay but booking them in allows the kitchen to cook the right amount of food each day. If your child is sick or absent or you are going to send them in with a packed lunch, please **cancel your booking** before 8:30am on the day. Children will be asked what they would like for lunch every morning in class during registration and would be helpful if you perhaps discuss the options on the menu each morning prior to the school day to aid them in making a decision.

Once the children have had their lunch, they are taken out onto the playground with a teaching assistant until 1:00pm.

## **Water bottles**

We would like to remind parents to send children into school with a filled up water bottle everyday and we encourage them to drink water whenever they feel thirsty. They are allowed to refill their water bottles when needed. We ask that your child's water bottle is filled and named before your child arrives at school.

## **Reading at Home**

Reading is one of life's most essential skills and the success to learning. We hope that all children will develop a love of books, enthusiasm for promoting their reading skills and grow to be confident, competent readers. Children

are required to read daily and change their books regularly. At the start of Term 1, your child will choose a home story book to share with you. We kindly ask you to make a comment in your child's planner each time your child has read at home. Once this has been actioned, we will then change your child's reading book with them. From Term 2, we will be sending home a sharing book and a phonics Ditty book. To support your child with their phonics in class, these books are used in class daily and therefore must be returned daily and kept in good condition. Please ensure that your child brings their reading folder containing their reading book and planner to school every day.

### **Communication**

You can always catch a member of the class team first thing in the morning or at the end of the day for short messages/reminders. However, if you require to speak to us at length, we would be more than happy to arrange a meeting at a mutually convenient time. Please do come and talk to us if you have any questions or concerns and remember – there is no such thing as a daft question!

### **Mathletics**

Your child will have access to Mathletics. This program is a targeted, rewarding and captivating online learning resource, which is aligned to curriculum standards. You simply sign in with your child's school username and password using any compatible computer or mobile device. The extra Mathletics practice at home can make all the difference to your child's progress. Encourage them to achieve a weekly target of 1000 points to earn a certificate. Please note that we will advise you of your child's log in details and password once your child has been set up.

### **Google Classroom**

Google Classroom (including Google Meets) is a secure learning network for teachers, students and schools to use as an educational tool. It is strictly for educational purposes and is a Government approved provider for remote learning. It provides a safe way for us to teach, share content and receive children's completed work. It can be accessed online through any desktop or mobile devices with internet capabilities—including iPhone, iPad and Android devices. We will only use Google Classroom if for any reason the school has been closed or if your child is absent from school for a long period of time. Once your child has been set up, we will advise you of the log in details and provide information on how to use this platform.

### **Marvellous Me!**

Marvellous Me is an app that we use to share wonderful news with you about your child's learning and development. It's a great way to hear about the wonderful things your child is doing, and to celebrate their achievements. The Marvellous Me Parent app is free, fun and simple to use and can be used on your smartphone, tablet or online. It can easily be shared with partners, carers and family members too. We will send you a letter containing all the details of how you can sign up to Marvellous Me, and your special join code once your child has been set up.

### **Spare clothes**

Foundation is a time where children explore and investigate the learning environment. Please provide your child with a spare set of clothing, including underwear, in a named bag.

We appreciate that this is a lot of information to take in, especially for families who are new to our school. However, we wanted to ensure that you have all the necessary information in one place.

We look forward to working with you across the year.



Karen Underdown  
Assistant Headteacher