



small, special, successful

Selattyn C. of E. Primary School

Head Teacher: Ms. Claire P.P. Morgan

Glyn Road
Selattyn
Oswestry
Shropshire
SY10 7DH

Tel: 01691 659744

Fax: 01691 652358

www.selattyn.shropshire.sch.uk

admin@selattyn.shropshire.sch.uk

head@selattyn.shropshire.sch.uk

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Dear Parent/Carer,

I have finally been able to put together a letter detailing the start of the September Term 2021 arrangements for our new Reception pupils. As a school, we have been robustly following the Local Authority and Government directives for the past 16 months. We yet again find ourselves in a different situation with changes to rules and regulations, that will not be completely finalised until next week. However, I would like to go ahead and come up with a plan which meets the criteria we have at the moment, whilst still offering the new Reception pupils a chance of a 'taster' session.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 put a stop to our usual 'taster' sessions for the new Reception pupils, and we have given much thought to how we could go some way to rectifying this. We feel a 'taster' session remains very important for our new pupils. It will give them a chance to get the feel of the classroom area and the school environment, meet Miss Ward and Miss Morris who will be their class teacher and teaching assistant, hear about the rules and procedures for their school day and meet up with a couple of their peers before the whole class comes together. It will also enable Miss Ward and Miss Morris to get to know the individual children a little before they are in their larger class setting.

We plan therefore, to have a short period of staggered start for our new Reception pupils, two groups over two days, before they all come in as a full class together. Each Reception pupil will have one 'taster' session. These sessions will take place on 2nd and 3rd September, with the whole class starting fully together on Monday 6th September.

The session will start at 9:30am with a meeting for parents and children with Miss Ward and Miss Morris. After the meeting, parents will be invited to exit school, and the pupils will remain for a session together. The children's session will finish at 12:00pm.

On arrival, (09:30) please come up the main steps at the school entrance and take a place on the front tarmac of the school (as a family). Miss Ward will be there to greet you and escort you up to the class room entrance which will be through the wooden gate of the reception outdoor play area. This would be a good time to take a 'first day at school' individual photograph of your child – no group photos please! Reception pupils and parents will use the double entry doors in the Reception outdoor play area to enter and exit school.

At 12:00pm, Miss Ward and Miss Morris will bring the Reception children back down again on to the front tarmac of the school and hand them over to parents waiting on the pavement outside school. Although social distancing will not be as it is at the moment, I ask that you please wait outside along the stone wall, with a considerate distance between families.

I thought I would just put down a few helpful points for New Reception pupils which may be useful for the first few weeks.

- From Monday 6th September, Reception children **with a sibling already attending school** should arrive at school between 08:30 and 8:50 and go up to their classroom with their older sibling. Parent/carer should say good bye at the school gate. Miss Ward will be in class to greet them.
- From Monday 6th September, for the first week only, Reception children **with-out a sibling**, will be collected from the front tarmac of the school, greeted by Miss Morris at 9:00am and escorted up to the classroom. Parent/carer should say good bye at the school gate.
- After the first week, from Monday 13th September, **Reception pupils should all** arrive at school between 08:30 and 08:50, as is best for each family, and go up to their classroom where Miss Ward will be there to greet them.
- At the moment, the plan for leaving school is:
 - One parent/carer only to collect.
 - All parents will be allowed up on to the school playground at 3:20pm where they will wait in their child's class section.
 - Parents with more than one child in school should go to the youngest child's class area to wait.
 - All pupils will be supervised by staff to go to their parent/carer at 3:30pm.
 - Parents and children will leave the school.

Please be aware that this plan could change as we get nearer to September and further directives from Government or Local Authority emerge. If there are any changes they will be posted on our school website www.selattyn.shropshire.sch.uk

PE

- Please could all PE bags remain in school fully loaded for the half term
- Please make sure your child can put their pumps on and off themselves, elasticated are best!

MONEY/LETTERS

- It is essential that all money brought in to school is in a named and sealed envelope with the reason for payment clearly indicated. This should be placed, by your child, in the class money basket to adhere to school money collection policy. Letters should also be placed, by the child, in the class basket, which will then be taken to the school main office.
- Monies can not be handled by class staff.

LUNCH TIME

- School lunches are provided by 'Academy' based at Woodside School. All Reception children are eligible for a *free* universal school lunch. Reception children may bring their own packed lunch if they prefer. As we are a healthy eating school, we ask that no packs of sweets or fizzy drinks are brought to school. Similarly, no glass bottles please.
- Milk or water is provided for all Reception pupils with their lunch.

WATER BOTTLES

- Please may all children bring a named water bottle into school each day. It should go home each evening to be washed and refilled.
- We ask that ONLY water should be in water bottles! No juice or squash, or flavoured water please!
- Pupils may bring juice as part of their packed lunch from home if they are not having a school lunch.

NAME TAGS

- Please ensure all items of clothing and possessions are clearly named and that you check on a regular basis that the name tags have not fallen out or been washed off. All items of clothing that are taken off for PE... including shoes... need to be labelled please.

As always, even with slightly different procedures and systems, we aim to make the start of school for all of our Reception children as enjoyable and positive as possible. We are looking forward very much to

getting to know them all and to working together with them on their learning journey.

To help new Reception pupils and their families who have not had a chance to visit school, I will be posting a short video on the school website showing the route up to the classroom, the entrance to the classroom and a quick 'Hello' from Miss Ward. I hope that this will help make the start a little easier. This will be posted on the website by 21/07/21

The school website remains the source of information for any changes to routines and school business regarding the pupils, so please check it out for any updates regarding COVID or start to school.

Please, if at any time you have concerns or worries, or you are unsure of anything at all, simply phone the school office and we will do our best to reassure or sort something out as soon as possible.

Thank you very much for your co-operation and help, in what is still a very strange and changing landscape.

Yours Sincerely,

C.P.P. Morgan (Head)