**Reception FAQ**

**The school day**

**When does my child start school?**

Please see the induction timetable for specific information – This was inside your induction pack. Please follow this timetable. You can drop off and collect your child from the gate in Reception outdoor area at the times given on your timetable.

If your child finishes school at 12.30pm they are invited to stay for lunch at 11.50. Please ensure that you order them a school dinner for these days.

**When does the school day officially start?**

The school doors open at **8.50am**. The Reception Teaching Assistants will be at the gate to begin letting children into school. The bell will ring at **9.00am** for the start of the school day and the register will be taken. We encourage children to enter school independently.

**Where should my child’s older sibling enter and exit school?**

If you have older children in school, they are welcome to enter school and be collected at the end of the day through the same class as your Reception child.

**Where can I find information on breakfast club?**

Mrs Cook (Reception Teaching Assistant) runs breakfast club. Please speak to Mrs Cook if you have any questions regarding starting breakfast club. We do ask that you allow your child to settle into school at least one full week before introducing Breakfast club to their routine.

Further information about ‘Breakfast club’ is available on our website at [www.finstallfirst.co.uk](http://www.finstallfirst.co.uk). Click the ‘information’ tab and then ‘Breakfast club’ is an option to choose on the left hand side. On or after the information evening, we invite you to come and register your interest to Mrs Cook or the office. This is to give us an idea on numbers for the coming year.

**What should my child bring into school each day?**

Children must bring in their book bag every day and this should be placed in their drawer. Monday, Wednesday and Friday they should be placed in the box outside the classroom so that their reading books will be changed. Inside their book bags please include a healthy snack for morning break, their reading record and reading book and communication book. Please place communication books in the trays outside the classroom if there are comments that require attention.

Children should also bring in a water bottle each day and they will be shown where to keep it in the classroom. Please also send a coat/jumper/cardigan. They can be kept on their peg when they are not needed.

Indoor P.E Kits can be left in school for the half term and will be sent home to be washed during the holidays.

Outdoor P.E kits need to be sent into school on each Wednesday morning. The children will come home wearing this kit on Wednesday afternoon and their uniform in their bag.

**Food & Drink**

**Do I need to bring in anything for snack time?**

Yes. Please can you send a healthy morning snack in your child’s book bag. Please can you ensure that you show your child how to open their snacks and if possible place them in a disposable bag that they can throw away in the bins in the playground. Snack for the afternoon is provided by school.

**Does my child need a drink for the classroom?**

Yes please! Your child will need to bring in a bottle filled with water each day. Please ensure the water bottle has a lid to prevent spillage. The children will be shown where their bottles will be kept during the day and they will have access to this all day. Please can you ensure that the bottle is named and your child knows where the name is.

**Do I need to pay for milk?**

Milk is free until your child reaches the age of 5. When your child turns 5, you will receive a letter from the office, asking if you would like your child to continue receiving milk, and how much this will cost. Please return the forms to the class by placing in the trays outside the classroom.

**Where can I find the school menu and how do I pay/order?**

You can find the latest school menu on our website at [www.finstallfirst.co.uk](http://www.finstallfirst.co.uk)

Click the ‘information’ tab and then ‘school dinners (class catering)’ is an option to choose on the left hand side. You will be given an order form but additional copies are available on the website. School meals are free for all Reception, Year One & Year Two children. Please ensure that you return the order forms provided to the office as soon as possible. From September the forms can be returned by placing them in the trays outside the Reception classroom when you drop off your child.

**PE kit**

**When is PE is and what does my child need?**

**Tuesday**: Indoor P.E kit.

Please send this kit into school as soon as your child starts.

Green P.E bag to include:

* white t-shirt
* green shorts
* Black pumps

We will keep this kit in school and send it home to be washing during the half term.

**Wednesday:** Outdoor games kit

Please send this kit into school each Wednesday morning.

Different coloured P.E bag to include:

* White t-shirt
* Grey jumper
* Grey trousers
* Trainers

The children will come home wearing this kit on a Wednesday and their uniform will be in the P.E bag.

Please make sure the kits are in separate bags and we ask if possible that they are different coloured to help the children to know which bag they need.

**Reading**

**When will my child have a reading book?**

When your child starts school in September, they will be given a ‘home readers’ book and a pink bookmark. These books are for you to share with your children. The children are not expected to read the book themselves. Use the targets on the pink bookmark to begin asking your child to talk about the story and demonstrate their understanding of characters and events in the stories.

When your child can recognise phase 2 sounds:

**s a t p i n m d g o c k e u r b h f l**

**and** they can blend sounds together to say a word e.g. b-a-t= bat

Then we will put them onto a reading scheme and they will have a new bookmark and targets to practice.

There is a wide range of reading schemes available at each reading stage to give your child a rich experience of reading material.

**What days are reading books changed?**

**MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY.**

On these days please can your child put their book bag in the box available outside the classroom when they enter school in the morning.

**What should I write in the reading record book?**

Please write a short comment about how your child did with the reading book and sign. If you would like to keep the book a little longer then please write this in the reading record.

**Who changes the reading books?**

Volunteers change our reading books. On occasions our volunteers are unable to give up their time. We do our best to make sure that your child’s book is still changed but sometimes this is not possible.

**Who will listen to my child read?**

When your child is on a reading scheme book, the class teacher will hear them read individually at least every other week. Children are also heard read by the teacher in a guided group every week and sometimes by additional adults at other times.

Children’s early reading skills are also encouraged through our daily phonics sessions.

**What do I do with the word list?**

In September your child will be given ‘Phase 2A wordlist’. These are the first words that we will be encouraging your child to read. You can practice these at home. Try to encourage the children to say the sounds then blend the sounds together to read the word. E.g. i-t – it.

You will also get ‘Phase 2 Tricky words’. These words are tricky because you cannot build the word using sounds. You can help your child to practice reading these by sight.

These words lists will be checked regularly in school and new words lists given when your child is ready.

**Writing**

**When do you start cursive writing?**

In September we follow an early writing programme called ‘Write Dance’. This allows children to practice the patterns of writing in a fun way.

By Christmas, we begin to introduce the cursive formation of letters.

We group letters together of similar patterns.

e.g. (i l t) (n m h) (d o a c g) (u v w y) b e f j k p q r s x z

We let you know the letters that we are practicing so that you can practice at

home.

**Forest School**

**When will Forest School start?**

Class RH – Monday Morning

Class RB- Friday Morning

Please send children into school on Forest School morning ready to go out as we will be going straight out after register.

Sessions will begin after Christmas. You will receive further advice and information nearer the time.

**What should my child wear?**

Winter

* Warm clothing as we go out all weathers!
* Thermal socks
* Wellies
* Trousers (tucked inside wellies)
* Jumper
* Hat
* Scarf/gloves (Thinsulate mittens )
* Waterproofs (ideally separate trousers and jacket)

Summer

Even if it is warm, children need to wear clothing that covers their legs and arms to protect against nettles and branches.

For every Forest School session please send:

* A plastic bag for dirty clothes and wellies
* Spare clothing for *when* we get messy!
* Spare coat for playtimes after Forest School.

**What is my child learning at school?**

**2build a profile**

During September, you will receive an email from ‘2 build a profile’. Please follow the instructions on the email to register. Each Friday, your child’s class teacher will email you photos and observations of your child’s learning in school that week.

**Curriculum maps**

What we are learning each half term will be available on the class page of the website.

**Projects**

We use the ‘Projects’ section of the class page on the website to inform you of the sounds that we are learning and the handwriting that we are practicing. We will let you know when we add information to the Projects pages.

**Other**

**I gave a question that’s not been answered!**

At Finstall First School we have an ‘open-door’ policy. If you have a question, query or a worry, then please let us know! The best way to do this is to write it in the communication book and put it in the tray outside the classroom. If it’s a quick word, the class teachers will be available at the end of the day. If you need longer then please ask to meet with the class teacher who will be happy to meet you at an arranged time.

There is also a wealth of information available on our website at [www.finstallfirst.co.uk](http://www.finstallfirst.co.uk) .