Dear Parent or Carer,

Reception Class
Hello! A big warm welcome to Reception Class, I hope that you had a wonderful summer holiday. Although there were a few nervous faces in the first week, I’m sure it won’t take the children long to settle into their new class and routines. The children may find that there are many differences between Nursery and Reception but these will be phased in gradually and I am sure the children will take things in their stride! However, I hope that if you have any worries or concerns, you will come to see me.

This letter is to introduce you to Reception Class and provide you with information about the different topics that will be taught this year. It details what is being planned for your child’s lessons, the skills, knowledge and concepts that are being developed and the learning objectives taught.

We aim to establish a warm and calm atmosphere to ensure a smooth transition into school life to develop children’s enjoyment of school and learning. We have an excellent support team within the classroom:

During their time in Reception Class, the children will develop their knowledge, understanding, attitudes and skills across seven key areas of learning which form the basis of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum. These areas are:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design
The seven areas of learning and development shape our educational programmes in Reception Class. All seven areas of the Foundation Curriculum are interdependent and equally important. Each area of learning has a set of related early learning goals. The 17 Early Learning Goals summarise the knowledge, skills and understanding that all young children should have gained by the end of the Reception year.

**Physical Development**
Physical development involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and also make healthy choices in relation to food. This term we will be learning to move in different ways, including skipping, hopping, galloping. In Reception Class we will have our P.E lesson on **Tuesday and Wednesday**.

**PE Kit:**
Your child will need navy shorts, a white t-shirt and trainers. Tracksuit bottoms and sweatshirts are required for when it gets cold. Please put your child’s name on all items of clothing, it helps your child as well as me (as you can imagine 30 white shirts all look the same when one has been mislaid!) **PE kit is brought in on a Monday and taken home on a Friday. Please practise with your child so that they can dress and undress by themselves.**

**Literacy**

**Phonics**
We follow a published programme called ‘Read Write Inc’. The children will learn to convert a letter or letter group into sounds that are then blended together into a word. Letter sound pictures are used to help the children learn the sounds quickly. The children will practise reading words featuring the above graphemes (letters/ letter groups) to help them learn to blend sounds. The children also learn to read and write a few “red” words that cannot be read easily by sound blending and just have to be learnt (e.g. the, I, me, said, of). They will start by learning the following letter sounds:

- m, a, s, d, t, l, n, p, g, o, c, k, u, b, f, e, i, h, sh, r, j, v, y, w, th, z, ch, q, x, ng, nk.

We also follow a weekly routine of reading one book per week. This term the books we will be looking at are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All About Me</th>
<th>Festivals and Celebrations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funnybones</td>
<td>Kipper’s Birthday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day Monkey/Night Monkey</td>
<td>Owl and the Pussycat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noisy Neighbour</td>
<td>Information texts about different festivals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My Mum is Fantastic/My Dad is Fantastic</td>
<td>The Jolly Christmas Postman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Reading Books / Library Books**
Your child will bring home three books per week – a reading book, a sticker book and a library book. Please note that any lost or damaged books must be paid for. It is important to ensure that all school books are brought to school in a book folder every day. Library, reading and sticker books are changed every Thursday.

Reading will be an important focus this year, and in order to support this, please can you attempt to read with your child for a short time every evening and write a comment (or at least the pages that have been read) in your child’s Reading Record Book. Sharing books with your child is important as we are keen to develop a love of reading and books within the class.

**Writing**
During writing sessions, the children will be encouraged to write their own name correctly using upper and lower case letters. Using their phonics knowledge they will then begin to write correctly formed letters which will lead into writing words that they can sound out and write down. The children will have many opportunities to practise their writing in structured and ‘free writing’ activities.
Mathematics
We use the Singapore Maths approach to Mathematics. One of the key principles behind Singapore Maths is the concrete-pictorial-abstract approach, often referred to as the CPA approach. We will provide children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shapes, spaces, and measures. This term we will be learning to count objects, recognise numerals, order objects according to size, use weighing scales, name and describe 2D shapes.

Understanding the World
Understanding the world involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment. Our first topic this term is “All About Me”. The children will be exploring the five senses and talking about their families. After half term the children will be learning about festivals and occupations. They will also be learning to use simple programmes on the computer.

Expressive Arts and Design
Expressive arts and design involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology. This term the children will be learning a repertoire of songs, and exploring the different sounds of instruments. Children will develop their imagination through role play.

Cross Curricular Learning
Each of the 7 areas of learning are interlinked, each term we will teach the curriculum areas under an umbrella theme. The themes this term will be:

- Autumn Term 1st Half = All About Me
- Autumn Term 2nd Half = Festivals / People who help us

General
Cooking - as an extra activity we are lucky enough to have cooking as part of our curriculum. You will receive a letter shortly to ask you for a donation towards this.

Water Bottles - please provide your child with a water bottle that they can drink from throughout the day. Remember it needs to have a “sports top/ nozzle” and be labelled with their name! If your child has a packed lunch they will need a separate drink in their lunchbox.

Behaviour – it is important that we establish rules and behaviour in school from the start. In Reception class, if a child has behaved appropriately, followed the rules (Ready, Respectful and Safe) and tried hard then they will receive a house point. If they have shown exceptional behaviour, your child will receive a certificate at the end of the week for being a good role model. Every Friday I will also choose one child who has shown fantastic behaviour to take home the ‘treasure bag’. They can bring in a toy from home to show the class and give clues so the children can guess what the toy is. Please can you remind your child not to bring toys from home into school unless they have been given the treasure bag. This prevents the upset and distress that inevitably occurs if a toy goes missing, gets broken or dirty.

Homework - reading books are sent home every day and any time spent reading the books together and naming letters and reinforcing letter sounds will support your child’s reading skills and be very beneficial. Any counting, shape recognition and coin recognition you can involve your child in, as part of your everyday conversation will help practise the work done in school. Homework will be set on a weekly basis (set on the Wednesday and returned to me the following Monday). Homework will commence on 23rd September. Weekly homework sheets will be sent home with your child which will focus on the key areas of learning that week.
School App – Please register your child on our school app. It is available to download to most mobile devices through your app store. Once you have downloaded, click the padlock sign in the top right corner to register your child. This app is very useful to keep up to date with events and notifications such as school trips.

Trip/ Event Money – All paid trips can be paid for through the school app. Parents are welcome to help on trips. If you are interested please let me know. Our first school trip will be in November/December – please keep an eye out for more information closer to the time! Friends of West Twyford Primary School (previously known as the Parent Teacher Association) works to raise additional funding for the school. The funds raised have been used to buy additional resources for the library, playground equipment, fund theatre groups, fish tank, leavers T-shirts for Year 6 and souvenirs for the children to commemorate special events. If you would like to be involved please let us know. Even if you can only give a little time, your support is appreciated.

Helping your child – I have mentioned a few ways in which you can help your child settle in at school. The best ways to support your child include:

- Reading with your child
- Any counting, shape recognition and coin recognition you can involve, as part of your everyday conversation will help practice the work done in school
- Ensuring completion of the weekly homework sheets
- Organising equipment
- Ensuring PE kit is always in school
- Providing the correct uniform
- Follow school rules and procedures, such as arriving on time
- Encourage independence by letting your child bring their own money and letters in and coming into school by themselves

Notices – You will find up-to-date information on events in the school office, and also on the school website. The newsletter is sent out through the school app every Friday afternoon. Please check your child’s book bags daily to ensure you receive any letters and homework.

Conclusion
Please feel free to come to school to discuss any issues or concerns you may have; either make an appointment with myself, Ms Collum (Deputy Headteacher) or Miss Martin (Headteacher). If you need to speak to me, or I need to speak to you, at the end of the day, please wait until I have dismissed all the children first. I hope I have given you an insight into life in our classroom and any other issues, which you may have had queries about. I look forward to teaching your children this year, and am confident that we will have an exciting and successful time together.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Patel
Class Teacher

Miss Rachel Martin
Headteacher