

Starting School



A guide to those first days in the Reception Stage class

First day Wed 6th September 2017 8.55am

All children will go home at 12.00 noon until Monday 11th September

Monday 11th September until Friday 15th September

Children should stay for their free school meal or bring a packed lunch and stay until 1.15pm

From Monday 18th September all pupils stay in school until 3.15pm

Free school meals are available for all children in Reception and Year 1 and 2. If your child chooses to bring a packed lunch, sweets, glass bottles or fizzy drinks are not allowed, thank you.

A plea!

Please encourage your child to fasten his or her coat and shoes AND please label everything!

The Early Learning Goals



Prime Areas

- Communication and Language Development
- Physical Development
- Personal Social and Emotional development

Specific Areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding of the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Ways to help.....

Communication and Language (and Literacy)

- Encourage your child to speak and give opinions! This will help with story writing
- Let your child write... Those squiggles may look as if they mean nothing, but encourage your child to read his or her story back to you - offer a variety of tools for this - crayons, pens, fingers in sand..etc
- When your child holds a pencil try to encourage the correct grip with the pencil resting on the side of the middle finger.
- When your child begins to form letters encourage the correct formation - ask the teacher for help if you are unsure.

Early Reading

- Practice the words and sounds - No, they are not as much fun as the new book, but most children need lots of help remembering the patterns contained within words.
- Try to find a good time for reading when you can spend some peaceful time together. Your child can "read" a variety of books not just reading books.
- Look for words and letters around you when you are out and about
- Don't worry if your child learns a book or story by heart. This can be really useful when your child begins to write - He or she will have a story to tell!



Maths

- Numbers and shapes are all around - play games at finding them
- Do lots of counting together. Count in two, threes, tens - that really helps when it comes to addition - don't forget to count down and that will help subtraction!
- Play games - snakes and ladders is great for helping with matching one square to one number.
- Encourage your child to sort things out - the cutlery drawer, types of toys, colours of crayons - then count the numbers in each group.



Some of your Questions Answered

What happens if my child becomes ill at school?

Our members of staff are qualified First - Aiders, so help is on hand if your child becomes ill. We will contact you on the number that you provide us with and ask that you come and collect your child. If we consider that your child is seriously ill and you can't be contacted, then we'll dial 999 and let the emergency services take over. If your child has a bump or minor accident during school time, the accident book will be filled in and you will be given a note of the incident when you collect your child at the end of the day. If we consider the bump to be of concern to us, then we'll contact you. We normally contact parents regarding head bumps.

What if my child is ill and can't come to school?

Please get a message to school by phone or via another parent if your child is poorly. Contact us each day until the illness is over. If you do not, we will contact you to find out where your child is. You may be asked to send a letter explaining the illness on the day your child comes back to school IF your child is absent frequently.

Can I take my child on holiday during term time?

There may be good reasons why parents want to take their children out of school for a holiday during term time, such as cost and work commitments. However, it is equally true that children should miss as little school as possible. The governors have agreed that rather than make difficult judgements on a case to case basis about whether a particular holiday during term time may or may not be a good idea that a simple policy should be adopted that all absences as a result of holidays will be recorded as unauthorised. If your child has a high rate of absence and you then chose to take unauthorised leave for a holiday, a route of prosecution may be taken.

What about snack, break times and dinnertime?

Milk (free for children under 5) or water is available at snack time and the school takes part in the national fruit scheme, so fresh fruit and/or vegetables are available to children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. During morning and afternoon playtime, teachers and teaching assistants supervise pupils in the playground. At lunchtime children eat in the school hall. They are supervised by midday meal supervisors. Members of the teaching staff are always in the building during the lunch hour

How will I know what's going on in school?

A monthly newsletter is given to one member of each family and e-mailed to parents who request this service. It should give you the latest information. We use a text messaging and email service for last-minute reminders and our website is kept up to date. You will receive a curriculum letter at the beginning of each term to tell you about the work that your child will cover in class. You will be invited to meet with your child's teacher after your child has had a few weeks in school to chat about how he/she is settling. There will be another formal parents' meeting later in the school year. If you want to ask your child's teacher or the head teacher anything about school, please don't wait, pop in and see them at the end of the school day or phone for an appointment.

What about getting my child to school and collection at the end of the day

Please bring your child to class between 8.45am and 8.55am. There is a drop off system at the start of the school day, during which children are met from cars. Our mini bus service currently operates for children who live in Great Rissington and attend Upper Rissington site and vice versa. You may want to use drop-off when your child is confident about coming to school, although you may wish to continue bringing him/her yourself. If you drive to the Great Rissington site, please do not park at the front of the school, by the yellow zig-zags, as this makes it hard for cars turning right at the green. If you take a car to the Upper Rissington site, please avoid the area at the top of the lay by, which is where the bus stops. At the end of the school day please be in the playground to pick up your child at 3.15pm. If you have to drive, please park with consideration for our neighbours or consider using the village car park at Great Rissington to "Park and Stride". Your child will only be released to an adult who has permission from parents to collect a child. Sadly, grannies and aunts will be turned away unless you have made it clear to the school that they have your permission to collect.

What other things have I got to remember?

- Please label all of your child's clothes and equipment. Foundation Stage children find it hard to remember which socks and shoes are theirs after changing for P.E.
- Please send any money for trips, or eventually swimming, in a named envelope Money in envelopes should be handed to the teacher.
- Cheques should be made payable to The Rissington School or Gloucestershire County Council, depending on instruction. We use Parent Pay for some items; you will be given instructions about logging on when your child starts school.
- If your child has a packed lunch, please do not send in fizzy drinks or drinks in glass bottles. We also ask that you do not send in sweets.
- Generally we do not allow toys in school as they may get damaged or lost. However, class teachers do occasionally ask for toys to be brought in if they relate to a class topic or the current sound that is being taught.
- If you can help in class, either by hearing reading or by working with a small group, please let the teacher know. As soon as your child is settled, you will be made good use of!

What about jewellery?

We actively discourage the wearing of jewellery in school, as it can be dangerous, especially during play time or P.E. Our policy states that children may wear a maximum of one ear stud in each ear and a plain watch.

Does the school have a Behaviour Policy?

At The Rissington School we firmly believe that children learn most effectively in a secure and caring environment, where each individual is striving to reach his or her potential and feel a happy and valued member of the school community. . This can only be achieved where there is effective discipline. The most effective discipline is self-discipline, where children are encouraged to take responsibility for themselves, wherever possible, so that they can eventually become independent, thoughtful and responsible adults. We believe that discipline has as much to do with praise, as it is to do with sanctions. You will receive a copy of our behaviour policy when your child starts school.

What if I am worried about my child?

Please talk to your child's class teacher or the head teacher as soon as possible. We have an open door policy and are always ready to give support.

Cursive Lower Case Letters



Letter-join 

Joined-up handwriting made easy – www.letterjoin.co.uk

We use letter-join handwriting scheme. Each letter begins on the line to help children to form their handwriting correctly. Joined writing follows naturally from this approach.



Counting takes concentration!



There's so many skills to master in school!

Teamwork is always important!



You're never too young to play the ukulele!



ICT in action – computers are available at all

Parents and school – A partnership

As parents you have done a tremendous job of teaching your child before



school. Children learn more in the years before they start school than at any other period in their lives. We need you to help us give your child the best possible start to their education, so if you have any concerns about your child and school, or if there is anything that you feel might help us get to know your child better, please let us know.



Your child's teacher will be happy to talk to you at the end of the day if you have any queries; first thing in the morning can be a bit hectic, but you can always phone to arrange a mutually convenient time for a chat. There will be a chance to have a more formal meeting with your child's teacher in October. Sign up sheets will be available in your child's class.

Our school is a great community to belong to. Here is what some of our pupils think of it

- The children and teachers are kind
- The school gives us a good education. Sometimes the work can be challenging and sometimes it can be fun
- You are well looked after in the playground
- The school grounds and the special place are great
- We like having responsibility