

EYFS Welcome Letter!

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have all managed to enjoy the summer and are as excited as we are about starting this new Autumn Term. We are thrilled to see so many familiar faces returning to the team, and we extend a very warm welcome to those parents and children joining us for the first time this September.

Our Early Years Foundation Stage Team is made up of 3 classes, and below is an outline of the staff members attached to each class. This year the children move freely around the Reception classrooms and mix with Nursery children in our outdoor area. All staff members play a role in their play and in extending their learning opportunities.

Our Team



Year Group and Class Name	Teacher/s	Teaching Assistant/s
Reception Belfast	Mrs Haynes	Miss Gaulton
Reception London	Miss Haywood	Mrs Cozens
Nursery Cardiff	Miss Nesbitt	Mrs Foster Mrs Askins

Induction

On **Friday 25th September** the children will be staying at school for a 'Starter Lunch' and therefore will need to be collected at 1:00pm from the hall doors. All children will attend school **full-time** from **Monday 28th September (8.40am-3.05pm)**. We would like to remind you that if you wish for your child to have a hot school dinner, from **Monday 28th September**, please ensure this has been ordered through 'Parent Pay' by the Wednesday prior to the week ahead (**Wednesday 23rd September**).

Tapestry

We hope that you have all been able to connect to your child's tapestry account. We look forward to sharing the learning that they have been doing and the different experiences the children are having at school.

WOW moments

We love to celebrate your child's WOW moments captured at school and at home. To help us do this we ask you to add your own observation onto Tapestry. This can be done with or without a picture. We will then be able to share this as a whole class and celebrate their achievements.

Reception Collection from Monday 28th September

When collecting your child from school, please wait inside the pencil fenced area, located around the back of the school. Children will be released at **3:05pm** when we open the classroom doors. It is important that you are easily seen by your class teacher.

We ask that before and after school, children are not to play on or with ANY school equipment.



If your child is unable to be picked up by one of the persons mentioned in the 'All About Me' form, please can you inform your class teacher. For security purposes, we will ask the adult collecting to confirm the password supplied. If your child is not collected by **3.25pm**, a late collection will be recorded and a member of staff will contact you to ensure a collection has been arranged.

Early Morning Routine

We have been so impressed by the children's independence when coming in each morning. Thank you for your cooperation with this. On arrival to school, please encourage your child to greet their friends and ask them to say good morning to their class teacher. Please ensure your child brings their **book bag** and **water bottle** to school each day. We ask that all of your child's belongings are **clearly labelled**, to avoid items going missing!



Snack

Each day the children will be provided with a piece of fresh fruit or vegetable as part of the government free fruit and vegetable scheme. If you have registered for your child to receive free cartons of milk from the company, 'Cool Milk', this will be given at snack time. Once your child turns 5, this service is no longer free and you will be charged if you wish for your child to continue receiving it.

We ask for a £5 voluntary contribution in the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms to go towards purchasing additional snack items and cooking ingredients. This provides the children with an opportunity to taste and cook a range of different foods. If you would like to contribute towards this, please send the first payment of £5 into school by **Monday 28th September** in a **named envelope** and hand to your class teacher. Please can the contribution be made in **cash only**.



Lending Library

We will be opening our lending library for book swaps every Friday, starting next Friday 25th September. Each child will have the opportunity to take home a book and these can then be swapped the following Friday. We would like to encourage you to share the lending library book together with your child, and share a range of books either from your home or local library where possible. Talk about the books you read; what might happen next, talk about characters and how they might feel. You could even retell the story, or adapt with different characters or ending of the story. When your child brings their book back to swap, they can put a stamp on their loyalty card (which they will receive when they take home their first book). Children can collect stamps to earn rewards.



Reading

Over the first term we will be sharing a wide range of story books and we hope that you will continue to do this at home. Through our phonics teaching, your child will develop confidence in blending and segmenting words as well as building up their sound knowledge. In the next few weeks, your child will receive a school reading book and a blue reading record. Parents are encouraged to share the book at home with their child for approximately 5-10 minutes **each night**. Please date and sign the blue reading record and feel free to write a comment. It is important to share the same book with your child over a number of days, so they can create their own narrative, adapt the story, make predictions, learn the keywords and for you to ask comprehension questions when finished. Your child has either been given a word book or a picture book, depending on their readiness for reading. **Please keep your child's reading record and reading book in their book bag and bring it to school every day.** Children's reading books will be changed once a week. We will be randomly placing the children into five groups. Each group will have a specified day for book change. Once organised, we will make sure to communicate this with you. On these days, children will place it along with their reading record, in the designated tray inside the classroom. In class, we hear children read daily through our phonic sessions and our classroom activities.

Keywords

After half term, your child will be issued with a purple keyword book, which will contain sets of words your child is required to learn. Please refer to the inside cover for guidance to support your child. Please encourage your child to initially segment each word, saying the phonic sound for each letter, and then



blend them together to read the word. Each week we will assess your child on their ability to **sight read** (not segment and blend) the keywords, to identify the progress your child is making. If your child requires a new keyword set, this will be added into their keyword book and sent home after they have been assessed. **Please keep the keyword book in your child's book bag and bring them to school every day so we can regularly update them.**

P.E.

Your child's P.E days are **Mondays** and **Fridays**. Please send your child into school in their PE kits on these days. If your child wears stud earrings, these will need to be either removed at home prior to a P.E day. Long hair will also need to be tied up. PE kits are white t-shirt, black shorts or jogging bottoms and trainers or daps. Children can also wear a black hoodie or a purple Oakhurst hoodie. Another reminder please for **ALL** items of clothing to be named.

Allergies

Due to the severe allergies we have in school, Oakhurst does not allow children to bring in items containing **nuts, coconut and sesame oil**. Please check all packaging.

Donations

As you may have noticed, we have spent time over the summer renovating our classroom environments. With school budgets as they currently are, we have had to do this on a very small budget. Therefore we are on the lookout for some donations. If you have any of the following we would be extremely grateful;

- Cotton reels
- Pots and pans
- Log slices
- Chess/draughts boards



Information and Updates

Please look at the school website www.oakhurst.swindon.sch.uk, the school Facebook page and the classroom windows for further information. Make sure to check the school calendar 'for the fridge' for other important dates. You can also keep up to date using the Schoop App. This enables you to receive push messages to your smartphone or tablet giving you all the latest alerts, newsletters, photos and much more. Push messages do not require a telephone signal which makes it even more accessible. Our school ID is: 23055. If your child was in Nursery last academic year, don't forget to change year groups on the app.

Many Thanks,

Mrs Haynes and Miss Haywood



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twitter.com/OakhurstSchool

Schoop ID: 23055