

# Les Landes School

Rue des Cosnets  
St Ouen  
Jersey  
JE3 2BJ



Reception  
September 2021

Dear Parents,

The children have begun to settle into school and are busy getting to know the staff and their peers in Reception. We realise that the transition to school can be daunting for children and parents, so please speak to us about any issues or concerns which you may have. Our aim is to ensure the children are happy and secure in their environment, and to encourage new friendships.

We are continually assessing the children whilst they are learning. The topics and themes which we cover may change according to the children's needs and interests. This half term we are planning to look at the topics of 'Me and my family', 'Autumn' and 'Wizards and Witches/Halloween'. Next half term we aim to focus on 'Dinosaurs' and 'Christmas'.

## **The Early Years Curriculum**

The Reception curriculum focusses on developing the characteristics of effective learning alongside the prime and specific areas of learning.

### **Characteristics of effective learning**

The ways in which children engage with other people and their environment underpin learning and development across all areas and support children to remain an effective and motivated learner.

The characteristics are listed below -

- **Playing and exploring – engagement**  
Finding out and exploring  
Playing with what they know  
Being willing to 'have a go'
- **Active learning – motivation**  
Being involved and concentrating  
Keeping trying  
Enjoying achieving what they set out to do
- **Creating and thinking critically – thinking**  
Having their own ideas  
Making links  
Choosing ways to do things

The areas of learning and development are as follows –

### **Prime Areas**

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**  
Making relationships  
Self-confidence and self-awareness  
Managing feelings and behaviour
- **Physical Development**  
Moving and handling  
Health and self-care
- **Communication and Language**  
Listening and attention  
Understanding  
Speaking

## **Specific areas**

- **Literacy**  
Reading  
Writing
- **Mathematics**  
Numbers  
Shape, space and measure
- **Understanding the World**  
People and communities  
The world  
Technology
- **Expressive Arts and Design**  
Exploring and using media and materials  
Being imaginative

There are many ways in which you can support your child at home to link with the prime and specific areas.

## **Communication and Language**

Speak to your child about everyday experiences and ask them questions about their day.

### **Literacy**

Read stories at home and talk about what you have read, encourage them to read and write their own name, and play games such as 'I spy with my little eye'. They will bring home a library book to share with you each week. During the term they will begin to follow a phonics programme focussing on learning initial sounds and high frequency words. These will be sent home in their reading wallet to practise with you at home. Guided reading sessions will begin when we feel that your child is ready. A familiar book will be sent home for your child to read.

### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

Encourage your child to tackle new activities, make friends with new children, and help them to be understanding of others.

### **Physical Development**

Support your child to become more independent when getting dressed. Putting on socks or tights and doing up zips on coats usually need the most practise.

### **Mathematical Development**

Count out items, point out numerals and the shape of objects when out and about. The focus for mathematics this term will be developing a secure knowledge of the numbers up to 5. Although many children will already be able to recognise numbers higher than this, our aim is to develop subitising skills so that children can instantly recognise and recall patterns of numbers without always having to count. Keeping the focus of maths sessions on smaller numbers will develop the children's confidence in carrying out the different operations such as addition, subtraction and comparing numbers. We will regularly look at numbers higher than this.

## **Additional Information**

**Name all items** – Please check that all belongings brought into school are clearly named. Belongings will get mixed up and so we rely on everything being named so that we can help your child to locate their items. This includes coats, jumpers, shoes, hats, lunch boxes, snack pots and water bottles.

### **Snack time**

Your child will need to have a snack to put into the snack tray each morning. The snack table is open all morning and the children can access it independently. A suitable snack might include a piece of fruit, selection of vegetables, cereal bar, or a couple of biscuits or crackers.

### **Lunch time**

The children eat lunch in their classroom. They need to have one clearly named lunchbox which is kept on the lunchbox trolley. Please provide your child with any cutlery which they may need. We are unable to provide spoons, forks etc...

**Nuts** - Due to some children in the class having severe allergies from ingesting or encountering certain foods we ask you to be understanding and make sure that no nuts of any description to be brought into school. This includes peanut butter and cereal or snack bars containing nuts.

**Yoghurts** –Please ensure that your child has a yogurt pot and a spoon; if possible avoid sending in Frubes and raspberry shaped squashums as they are hard for the children to open and often get spilt.

**Water** – Please ensure that your child has a clearly named bottle of water with them every day. If you wish to provide juice for your child to drink at lunchtime this must be put into their lunch box.

**P.E. kits** – Please ensure you child has a named P.E. kit in school (school shorts and t-shirt) in a drawstring bag which will hang easily from their coat peg. Spare pants and socks can also be kept in your child's P.E. bag. There is no need to send in trainers or a tracksuit.

### **Bags/ Ruck sacs**

Please do not send bags or ruck sacs into school as the children's pegs are very close together and we do not have room to store them. Their pegs are already full with jumpers, coats and P.E. bags hanging from them. Thank you for your understanding.

**Wet weather clothing** –We do work outside whatever the weather, therefore bringing a waterproof coat to school is advisable. Please leave a pair of named wellington boots in school for your child to wear when playing outside in wet weather and for water play.

**Forest School sessions** – Every Friday. Please send your child into school wearing suitable clothing for Forest School (clothes which can get muddy). This must include a long-sleeved top and long trousers (their arms and legs should be covered to protect them when exploring the Forest School area) As the weather becomes colder, it is advisable to send in extra layers for them to put on. We will provide your child with a puddle suit to wear if the weather is wet.

**Swimming** – We are hoping that swimming lessons will go ahead. The aim is for each child to have 10 lessons through Les Mourier Swim School. We will advise you when it is your child's term to swim.

**Sun safety** – Whilst the weather is still warm and sunny please ensure that your child has sun cream applied before coming to school and has a sun hat to wear outside.

**All About Me Poster** – Please remember to help your child make a poster to display in class. The children use their posters as a way of developing new friendships and they find it comforting to be able to show people pictures of things which are important to them.

### **Family photo**

Please can you send in a family photo which will be put onto our family display board and kept up all year.

**Toys** – Please do not send your child into school with any toys from home.

**Birthdays** – There is no expectation for you to provide treats for the class when it is your child's birthday. However, if you do choose to send in a treat please ensure that the item is individually wrapped and can be sent home with the children at home time.

**End of day collection** – If your child is being collected on a regular basis by different adults please send me an e-mail to let me know who will be collecting and on which days. For last minute changes about end of day collections, you will need to ring the school office.

**Seesaw** – Over the next few weeks I will continue to use Seesaw to keep you updated about the learning we are doing in school. This may include occasional photos of your child. Please ensure that you are able to access it and let me know if you are unable to.

**EEXAT** – Later this term you will be given a log on to EEXAT which is the assessment tool used to log your child's progress and to inform planning. You will be able to view some observations and key moment of their learning through this.

### **Important Dates**

**Monday** – library book changeover day.

Your child will only be allowed to choose a new book to take home if they return the book which they have already got signed out.

**Wednesday** - P.E. Please ensure that your child has their P.E. kit in school.

**Friday** – Forest School **Beginning on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September**

Children need to come to school wearing appropriate clothing and footwear (closed shoes).

Thank you for a great start to the school year. If you wish to discuss anything, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Ali Courtness

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