

# Ranelagh Primary School Reception Parents'



## Information Book



## **General Information**

Our contact details are:

Ranelagh Primary School

Corporation Street

London

E15 3DN

**Telephone:** 0208 534 4364

**Email:** [info@ranelagh.newham.sch.uk](mailto:info@ranelagh.newham.sch.uk)

**School Website:** <http://www.ranelagh.newham.sch.uk>

**Head Teacher:** Mrs Shella Lawrenson

If you need to access the school during the school day (when the main gates are locked), please ring the bell on the front gate and a member of staff will be pleased to assist you.

Beginning school is a major event in the life of a four year old, and it won't be long before your child will be starting with us at Ranelagh Primary School. There will be lots of new things to learn and of course you will want to ensure that you child is well prepared for this important event. We aim to make it a happy and memorable experience. We hope that this booklet will provide some useful information that will help your child to settle quickly into school.

## Our Vision

At Ranelagh Primary School our motto is '**Be the Best You Can Be**' and this value is the foundation of everything we do. Our aim is to provide a happy, stimulating environment where every child will be given the best possible opportunities to achieve their full potential and an education which will nurture their needs as individuals. We constantly review our provision and in consultation with parents and our wider community, we strive to retain our family ethos whilst also equipping our children for the future. We hope to encourage a shared commitment to the success of our children, where parents have a positive role in complementing and supporting the work of the school.

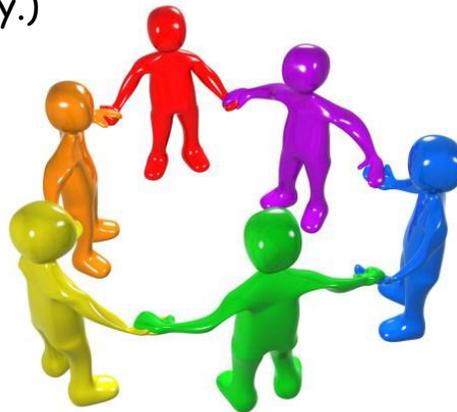


## Parents as Partners

We recognise the importance of parents and carers in a child's developing stages. You are your child's first educators and we greatly value any input, opinions and information you can share with us about your child's learning and progress.

As our Foundation Stage children enter the classroom they learn primarily through a variety of play and real-life experiences. Our teaching is delivered through carefully planned tasks and guided focus activities. The children access their environment freely; however they understand they must complete 'focus tasks' throughout the week which will scaffold and extend their learning. Their development is tracked through detailed, daily observations and child-initiated interaction. This information is then transferred into your child's personal learning journey - a diary of information and photographs. We use these to record individual interests, progress and plan the next steps of your child's learning.

We also encourage you to contribute to your child's learning journey by making small observations at home. (For example if your child's target is to identify numbers to 10, you may notice him or her using the remote control to change the channel correctly to channel 3. This is showing us that your child can recognise the number three independently.)



## Preparing your child for school

Your child will be in a class of approximately 20 small children. It will make starting school much easier and happier if they are independent and can do many things for themselves.

### What should he/she be able to do?

Can he/she...

- Dress and undress themselves?
- Use the toilet independently and ask to go there?
- Tidy up after himself/herself?
- Recognise their own name? Please tell your child's teacher if their name is abbreviated in any way.
- Feed himself/herself?
- Share toys and equipment?
- Handle a pencil?
- Sing some nursery rhymes?
- Practise counting to 10?
- Listen well and follow simple instructions?

### How can I help my child prepare for school?

- Encourage your child to be as independent as possible even if it takes far longer for them to get ready.
- Get them used to a routine of reasonably early to bed and up early enough for you and your child to have a stress free time to get ready for school.
- Never threaten them with school! Be positive. Show it to them as an enjoyable experience.

## What can I do with my child before they start school?

- Give your child as many varied experiences as possible: drawing, painting, cooking, singing, making models, playing games, jigsaws, etc
- Get them used to: pencils, crayons, felt pens, chinks, paints, play dough, scissors
- Share stories, books and rhymes. Read to them.
- Count everything and share things out.
- Use lots of one to one correspondence—cup, plate, knife, fork and spoon for each person.
- Talk to them all the time. Name familiar things and discuss what they see around them and what things are for. Talk about what you see when you are out and about. Watch people work and discuss what they are doing



# THE SCHOOL DAY

8.50 Register

9:00 Read Write Inc (Phonics)

9:30 Independent learning activities

10:30 Snack time

11:00 Literacy tasks

11:20 Independent learning & focused activity

12:00 Lunch time

1:20 Register

1:25 Maths tasks

1:45 Independent learning & focused activity

2.30 Tidy up time

2.40 Story Time

3.00 Home time

## The School Day (continued)

### Morning Procedures for the first week

Children are brought into school via the front gate on Corporation Street. Reception children and their parents are invited to come into the classroom from **8.45** to see their child's work, watch as the classroom changes around their child's interests and make sure their child is settled. However we do ask that you please leave by 8.55am to enable us to start our activities promptly.

### Collecting your child

At the end of the school day you are able to access the school playground from **2.55pm**. The children will come out into the playground and remain with a teacher until you collect your child. It is vital that you inform us if someone different is collecting your child. If we are unsure we will remain at school until we can contact you.

## FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL

We ask that you please:

- Arrive on time.
- Leave cheerfully.
- Don't linger about looking through windows (first day tears are nothing to worry about!).

Our Foundation Stage children follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFS).

This curriculum is based upon four themes and principles.

**The Unique Child** - We understand that every child is an individual child who is capable in their own right. The holistic child has a variety of needs that need meeting over their time in the Foundation Stage.

**Positive Relationships** - Social interaction is key to children's development. Children become strong, independent learners; as well as scaffolding their learning through positive social interaction.

**Enabling Environments** - Providing a safe, secure and stimulating base for your children is key to their development. The framework allows for experiences that respond to the child's individual needs/interests; as well as developing a strong partnership between practitioners, parents and carers.

**Learning and Development** - Children develop and learn in different ways. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

# Early Learning Goals

Within 'Development Matters' there are 3 prime areas of learning and 4 specific areas. This framework provides the basis of how we structure the setting, the activities and opportunities we provide; as well as how we assess your child's development. For each of these areas your child will have an 'Early Learning Goal' to work towards.

## Prime Areas

- Communication and language
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Physical development

## Specific Areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive arts and design

## Characteristics of Effective Learning

- Playing and exploring
- Active learning
- Creating and thinking critically

## Clothes to Wear for School

Our school uniform consists of:

- Navy Ranelagh Sweat shirt/cardigan
- Navy trousers/skirt.
- Tie with Ranelagh logo
- Polo top. -shirt printed with the school logo.
- Black shoes with Velcro fasteners. **No laces.**
- Girls have the option of wearing a navy blue gingham dress in summer.
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**The school uniform shop is open in the reception area on Monday after school.**

The only jewellery permitted is studs or sleepers for pierced ears. All shoes must be fully enclosed at all times, so no sandals please.

**For P.E:**

- Children need plimsolls that can be managed independently.
- White t-shirt and navy shorts.

As our learning environment is both indoors and outdoors, we ask that you make sure your child is equipped for these areas at all times of year. Please ensure their clothing is practical and suitable for the seasonal changes. Waterproof jackets and winter clothing for cold weather; sun hat and protective clothing in the summer months. We ask that sun cream is applied before the children get to school so that they are ready for the day.



# Helping Prepare your Child for School

Here in Reception we go to great lengths to help your child be prepared for their next stage of learning; as well as developing the confidence and skills to be an independent learner. Our class motto is:

**Teach me to do it myself!**

In preparation for school, here are some things you can do with your child to help them develop the basic skills on the road towards their Early Learning Goals.

## Listening

- Show your child how to be a good listener by listening to them and others
- Be patient—don't interrupt or finish their sentences for them
- Give them your full attention when they are speaking, showing them eye contact and good body language.
- Respond to what they are saying by asking questions or ask about their opinions.
- Listen to your child reading.

## Speaking

- Speak clearly and confidently
- Model using the right words and set an example
- Speak in full sentences
- Use clear, simple directions for tasks and behaviours
- Engage in discussions with your child and allow them the time to speak without being interrupted
- Ask for their opinions
- Tell them about your day and ask about theirs.

## Number Skills

- Count daily with your child, objects, actions, numbers and a range of things.
- Identify numbers wherever you go—a neighbour's house number / number on a bus.
- Help children putting numbers in order.
- Let children help with the tidying and sorting. Can they sort the DVDs by colour?
- Identify shapes around the home.
- Use fingers to represent a number.

## Writing

- Encourage your child to mark make without feeling pressured.
- Let children write their name on cards or letters, shopping lists.
- If your child is already writing with a pen or pencil, support their pencil grip so they do not develop a bad habit.



## Behaviour

- Agree clear and realistic rules—and stick to them. Give your child boundaries so they know what is expected of them.
- Encourage your child to always say 'please' and 'thank you'.
- If your child's behaviour is proving difficult we can work on a home-school reward system together.



## Organisation

- Children like routine—so set regular times for bed, getting up, meals and family time. (Recommended Under 5's need up to 15 hours and primary children 10 hours sleep a night)
- Check your child has their name in every-thing before they bring it, this helps them be organised themselves at school.
- Help **your child remember** to bring every-thing—book bag, PE kit, drinks bottle, reading book etc.
- Let **your child** take hold of their own things on the way to school—they will know where to put dinner money, books, bottles and bags.
- Let your children help you at home with the cooking, cleaning and shopping—they relish an opportunity to feel useful!
- Lay your child's clothes out in the correct order each morning so they can dress themselves—this really helps for PE!

