



Year R

Information for Parents/Carers

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year.

The information set out in this booklet is about how the class will operate throughout the year.

If you have any questions or queries throughout the year please feel free to ask at any time.

N.B. Don't forget to check out the school website and class dojo for our latest news, photographs and examples of work.

www.valewood.co.uk

Year R Staff

Class Teacher – Miss Metcalfe (Full time) Mrs Lynam (Mornings)

Teaching Assistants – Mrs Brown (Full time)

Mrs Parry (full time)

Mrs Silcock (Full time)

Mrs Biddlecombe (part time)

Mrs Donnelon

Please feel free to pass on any information to the above staff. There is always someone available at the beginning and at the end of every day.

School Day

Doors open at 8.40 am

Registration takes place at 8.50am

School ends at 3.15pm

Dismissal Procedures

Dismissal at the end of the day will be from the classroom door. Children will only be handed over to a known adult. If you require another adult to collect your child at the end of the day a verbal communication at the classroom will suffice or communication via the school office. However, school cannot accept the say so of another child's parent and your child will not be handed over. NB a password may be required from any adult not known to the school.

Please be reminded that you are responsible for your children before 8.45am/handover and also after 3.15pm/pick up from school. Children need to be supervised by parents/carers at all times. If an older sibling is due to collect a member of Year R then the signed permission form (permission to walk home) must be completed and a message must be sent via dojo to inform the class teacher.

Attendance & Punctuality

Termly acknowledgements regarding attendance will continue to be issued this year. 97% is our school target. It is important that your child arrives to school on time, as learning starts the moment they step foot in the classroom! If your child is late or needs to be collected for an appointment you will be required to use the electronic signing in/out system located by the school office. If your child's attendance falls below 90% they are classed as a "Persistent Absentee". Attendance concerns are addressed each half term and parents/carers will be notified in writing of this. Please be reminded that request for holidays in term time will not be authorised and it is school policy to issue a local authority fine if the child has had 5 days unauthorised absence in one term. Any request for "special leave" (extenuating circumstances) must be made on the orange form which can be collected from the school office.

Behaviour

This year the children will continue to receive 'Dojo' points for their behaviour and fabulous work. This system has been a great success over the last few years as both a way of celebrating successes and communicating with parents. I will usually be available after school but this is not always possible due to busy schedules so please feel free to contact me via the Dojo system and I will respond at my earliest convenience. I am available via dojo for minor queries, however, if you have anything that you feel needs discussing in more detail, please contact me via my school email (Jmetcalfe.vps@schools.sefton.gov.uk) and/or make an appointment to meet at a suitable time. Please be aware that messages in the evenings and at weekends will not be routinely monitored. Please be reminded that all urgent queries in the school day should go through the office.

Uniform

Please ensure your child comes to school in the correct Valewood uniform. Nail varnish, make up and jewellery are not permitted to be worn in school. Small stud earrings and a small analogue watch are permitted but smart watches are not allowed. Non uniform day attire: please note that cropped tops, football kits and high heels are not permitted to be worn in school. Children need to be dressed appropriately for ALL school days.

Curriculum

The children will have 6 topics, that we often cover throughout the year, these topics are subject to change based on the children's development needs and interests: 'We're all Heroes', 'Twinkle, Twinkle', 'All aboard', 'Magical creatures', 'Emerging as a Butterfly', 'Into the Wild'. Check out the school website or class dojo for information and updates regarding the Year R curriculum and information about current themes in class.

At Valewood our reading scheme is centred around the Oxford Reading Tree scheme. The children follow the Floppy's Phonics scheme and access to these resources can be found at the Oxford Owl website.

School excursions and learning outside the classroom (e.g. Forest School) are important elements of our school curriculum and parents/carers are welcome to support these days providing you have a current school volunteer DBS. Please contact the school office to apply. All volunteers must agree to the School's Volunteer Code of Conduct.

Online Safety

Teaching online safety is an integral part of our curriculum and is referenced in all subjects. Children's use of technology is carefully planned for throughout the week and all school devices are protected by our school firewall.

Use of Technology at Home

Children's access and use of technology and social media at home is the responsibility of the parents/carers. Issues arising from inappropriate use of social media outside of the school day will not be dealt with by school staff.

Learning at Home

Home Reading

(once books are issued)

Regular home reading gives children an opportunity to practise skills and encourages a love of reading in leisure time. In Year R, the children will read through 1:1 sessions each week. Please encourage your child to read every day at home (or at least 5 times a week for 10 minutes) as it is proven that home reading has a big impact on a child's reading fluency and accuracy. Please ensure you make a record of your child's reading at home as reading records will be monitored. Children should bring their book bags to school every day and children's reading folders will be kept in their Bookbag. Children in R have a reading folder which contains a reading record, a decodable and non-decodable book (changed each week) and resources to support phonics, including letter flashcards and helpful words and weekly phonic homework. Reading books are changed once a week when reading 1:1 with an adult, children are encouraged to revisit books as repetition helps with fluency and confidence. Oxford Reading Buddies is also a wonderful resource for children to use to access Floppy's Phonics resources and read additional banded books, Your child's login can be found inside their reading diary.

Phonics Homework

Year R will receive a Floppy Phonics worksheet to practise the two sounds learned that week. The sheets include reading and writing application using the sounds learned. Miss Metcalfe will be sharing helpful tips for supporting phonics at home towards the end of September.

P.E.

P.E. will usually take place twice a week but sometimes this has to be changed, so please can children have their kits (shorts, t-shirt, spare socks and pumps/trainers, plain tracksuit in cold weather) in school every day. Please name all kit. P.E. kits will be sent home after the last PE lesson of the week, to be washed and need to be returned by the following week. Please note during autumn term 1 children will require their PE kits every Thursday.

Free School Meals

Every child in Year R is eligible to receive a free school meal, under the government's initiative. We encourage you to take up this offer. If you believe you are eligible for free school meals, linked to your income, it is important that you apply for this as it provides additional funding for your child in school (the form for this application can be collected from the school office). If your child decides to bring a packed lunch then they can bring their lunch in an appropriate lunch box which will be kept in their locker.

Snacks

Children are allowed to bring a sensible snack from home to consume throughout the morning. Fruit and healthy snacks are encouraged. Fruit and milk is also provided every day in Reception.

Birthday Treats

If your child would like to bring in a birthday treat to celebrate their special day then only individually wrapped treats are allowed. They must be given to one of the adults in class (no treats will be accepted via the office) who will place the treats in a safe place and supervise the distribution of the treats at the end of the day.

Bikes and Scooters

We encourage families to walk to school and park away from Sherwood Ave and Sherwood Rd. If you do need to park then please park respectfully and do not park across our neighbours' driveways. Please remind your children that scooters/bicycles etc should not be used on school property and should be locked in the bike sheds. A bicycle/scooter agreement should be completed before your child comes to school on their bike/scooter.

REMINDERS

- Please help us to make sure that your child does not lose any of their clothing by naming all items.
- Please ensure that your child arrives at school with all the necessary equipment they need to minimise disruptions to learning.

I am looking forward to teaching and supporting your child in Year R, here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Miss Metcalfe and Mrs Lynam
Year R Teachers

We kindly ask that all Reception families sign the Home/School Agreement. Thank you

Further Meetings

Parents/Carers progress meetings will be held in October and March