



# Welcome to Reception

(Boot and Naoroji Classes)



Dear parent / carer,

Welcome to Victoria Primary School and our Early Years Foundation Stage Unit. We are delighted that you have chosen our school for the exciting first years of your child's education.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is how the Government and early years professionals describe the time in your child's life between birth and age 5.

This is a very important stage as it helps your child get ready for formal school in Year 1 as well as preparing them for their future learning and successes. From when your child is born up until the age of 5, their early years experience should be happy, active, exciting, fun and secure. It should support their personal development, care and learning needs.

Victoria Primary School is an academy operated by the Nova Education Trust. The Nova Education Trust is a primary and secondary Multi-Academy Trust based in Nottinghamshire. Our trust is committed to providing high quality education to all students, regardless of their backgrounds. Our track record demonstrates our ability to deliver our core goal: achievement for every child.

We look forward to getting to know your child and to working with your family over many years to come.

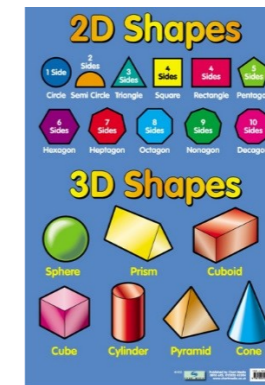
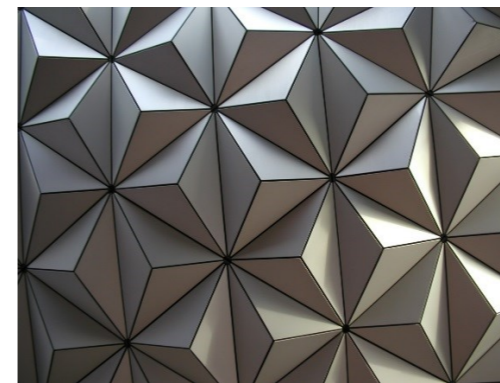
Yours sincerely,



Miss A Froggatt

Head Teacher

## Shape, Space and Measures



- Help your child to find something at home that is circular in shape, or has circles on it.
- Ask your child to find three different shaped items – circle, square and triangle. Encourage them to draw around each shape and then colour them in.
- With paper and ribbon or wool, help your child to make shapes such as a square, a rectangle and a triangle. Let your child stick the shapes on to the paper.
- Help your child to explore what they can do with cylinders (bean cans!). *Can you build with cylinders? Will they roll?* Ask your child to find another shape at home that will roll.
- Talk about the shape of tins and packets from your shopping.
- Talk about the shapes in your house and as you are out and about
- Arrange three spoons of different lengths on a table in order of length. Talk with your child about which is the longest, shortest and middle-sized spoon.
- Help your child to draw a picture of the members of your family in height order. Talk with them about the tallest/shortest people. *Is anyone taller/shorter than you? Is anyone taller than mum?*

**Maths is great — so most importantly have fun!**

## Have Fun with Numbers and Counting



- Recite number rhymes, counting numbers on houses, buses, car number plates etc.
- Look through old papers or magazines; find numbers 1-5 then 1-10. Cut them out and stick them in order on a piece of paper.
- Use an empty sweet box, help your child to look around the home or garden and put ten tiny items into it, e.g. a small stone, leaf, bead.
- Go around the home and help your child to count all your doors. Then help them to draw the doors and write numbers on the drawings.
- Help your child to count up some stairs. Then help them to draw the stairs and write numbers on each step.
- Take a handful of buttons or building bricks and ask your child to do the same. Count your items. The person with the number of items nearest to 10 wins. Repeat several times, choosing different target numbers each time.
- Take turns to roll a dice and collect that number of bricks or buttons. The first to collect 20 is the winner.
- When you are out on a walk or in the garden, encourage your child to collect lots of leaves that have fallen on the ground. Count them. How far can they count? How many have you collected?
- When you are sorting the washing – pair the socks together and count in 2's.
- When laying the table talk about how many more mats/knives/forks you need.
- Play shops – name the coins and talk about their size, shape, colour, value. Play with pennies and match to other coins, e.g. 10 pennies for a 10p coin etc.
- Count tins, packets etc. as you put your shopping away.
- Use fingers for number bonds to 10. *How many fingers up or down to make ten?*

## Victoria Primary School

### Starting in Reception: Everything you need to know

#### Times of the day

**Doors open at 8:45**

**Mornings start at 8:55**

**Afternoons finish at 3:15**

Please be on time for dropping off and collecting.

At the start of the day — Drop off older children first — so you can settle your younger child in class

And at end of day — Pick up younger children first — so your older child develops independence

#### Late or ill?

If you are late please go to the school office to register your child. A member of the office team will bring them over to their classroom. Staff will not open the classroom doors to parents after 9am as this is disruptive to the children's learning.

If your child is too ill to come to school, please phone the office on 0115 807 7750 — or email **[office@victoriaprimarieschool.org.uk](mailto:office@victoriaprimarieschool.org.uk)** — so we know not to expect your child that day.

Children who have had sickness or diarrhoea must stay off school for 48 hours after the last symptom so that illnesses don't spread to other families.

#### Lunch Time

Use the menu to choose your child's meal each morning. Green bands for the vegetarian option, red for the meat option. We also offer halal options. Please see the school menus.

We are excellent at teaching children to try new foods so don't be worried if there's something they don't normally like or eat! We also cater for medical diets.

If you don't want a meal for your child, you can collect them at 11:30—afternoon session starts back at 12:45.

#### Uniform

NAMED school jumper and coat, velcro shoes, not trainers.

Please send in a named pair of wellies which will stay at school. The children go to Forest School each week and spend lots of time outdoors whatever the weather.

Sometimes children have accidents. It's ok! Send spare clothes in a bag and leave them on their peg.

#### Book Bag

Bring it EVERY day and empty it every evening. Look out for letters and work sent home. You only need to keep their book, phonics sheets and reading diary in there. We will change books every week. Please read and write in their diary at least 3 times a week.

Please don't bring toys (unless they have been chosen for 'Show and Tell'), sweets (unless it's their birthday), water bottles (we have water available all day), or packed lunch boxes.

#### Be ready for school

Can they do their own coat? Shoes?

Can they go to the toilet independently? (cleaning themselves and washing their hands)?

Can they clean their teeth?

Can they play nicely?

Can they talk about what they like and what they have been doing?

Can they listen to a favourite story and talk about it?

Can they recognise or write their name?

Do they go to bed at a reasonable time so they are not too tired to learn? Children

need between 11½ hours sleep (aged 4) and 9½ hours sleep (aged 11) in order to control their own behaviour properly in school..

## Victoria Primary School

### Starting in Reception: Who's Who



Mrs Moore  
Early Years Lead  
Naoroji Class Teacher



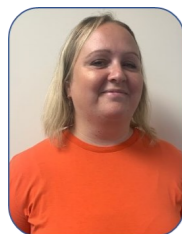
Miss Musson  
Boot Class Teacher



Miss Chan  
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Walker  
Forest School Teacher



Miss Froggatt  
Head Teacher



Mr Edwards  
Deputy Head Teacher



Miss Byrne  
Pastoral Lead



Miss Murphy  
SEND CO



Miss Woodhouse  
Family Support Assistant  
& Safeguarding PA

## Writing together



Every day we will be teaching handwriting to your child. To begin with they may write simple line shapes and follow patterns with their pencil, before writing each letter shape. We will encourage correct pencil grip and help them to develop better control of their pencil over time. From time to time, we may send home some handwriting sheets for extra practice.

### Helping to develop emergent writing:

As well as learning to write their own names, it is very important that young children are encouraged to use different forms of writing, e.g. shopping lists, cards, messages and stories.

Children's first attempts at writing will be marks on paper, but they will be able to tell you what their writing means. Children then start to add letters with their marks, especially letters from their name. Eventually as they learn to word build they will write recognisable words.

### How to support your child with emergent writing:

- Provide opportunities to write, e.g. paper, different scrap paper, old diaries, envelopes, old cards, pencils, felt-tips.
- Encourage them to talk, and then write, and then read their writing back.
- Share real writing with your child, e.g. postcards, texts, cards, shopping lists, emails.
- Let them watch you writing, e.g. notes, reminders, calendar, cards, letters.

### Reading together



Each week your child will bring home a reading book for you share. If you can spend ten minutes each day reading the book together you will be helping your child to become a good reader.

#### Ideas to help you when reading together:

- Talk about the front cover of the book. What can you see? What might the story be about?
- Run your finger along the line of print as you read.
- Children have to learn to look from left to right and top to bottom.
- Talk about the pictures. Do they help to tell the story?
- When reading, stop and ask "What do you think will happen now?"
- If your child is stuck on a word, encourage them to use their blending skills and have a go. If they still don't get it then tell them.
- After you have read the book talk about the story.

#### Other ideas to help:

- Show that you value and enjoy reading.
- Recognise your child's success and praise them.
- Let your child read to anyone willing to listen (grandparents, neighbour, cat, teddy!)
- Join the local library.
- Buy books as presents.
- Read print in everyday life. e.g. on packaging.
- Write and leave notes for your child.
- Find words that begin with the same letter as their name.
- Encourage older children to read to younger children.

### How my child will be learning?

Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through **7 areas of learning and development**.

Children should mostly develop the **3 prime areas** first. These are:

Communication and language;

Physical development; and

Personal, social and emotional development.

These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning.

As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in **4 specific areas**. These are:

Literacy;

Mathematics;

Understanding the world; and

Expressive arts and design.

Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside.

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 Victoria. There will be lots of new things to learn and of course you will want to ensure that your 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 you to support your child.

At Victoria we believe in a rich and varied curriculum which is differentiated for all our pupils. We value the support and expertise of parents and enjoy working alongside parents to promote learning.

We offer a varied and exciting curriculum which as well as reading, writing and maths includes music, games, PE, cooking, Forest Schools and much more. Our curriculum is delivered in a mix of class, small groups and individual sessions. Our learning environment is set up so that children can access learning independently as well as working with adults.

### As a parent or carer, how can I help with my child's learning?

All the fun activities that you do with your child at home are important in supporting their learning and development, and have a really long lasting effect on your child's learning as they progress through school.

Make sure you sound positive about school and learning — a child who THINKS their parent loves school will automatically do better in class.

If you make the time every day to do some of the following things with your child, it will make a real difference to your child's confidence as a young learner.



### How Can I Help My Child With Reading, Writing and Maths?

In school we teach skills for reading during our reading sessions as well as trying to nurture a love of all kinds of books. We teach writing in our phonics lessons as well as Drawing Club sessions. Children have reading and writing equipment available at all times to encourage these vital skills.



We know that your role at home in providing time to practice skills and develop an enjoyment of reading, writing and maths is vital. This partnership between home and school really equals SUCCESS! At the beginning of the school year we will send your child home with '30 things to do before leaving Reception'. These are fun activities for you to do together as a family, which your child will then be able to talk about at school.

Children develop at their own pace. Learning to read, write, count and add is hard so be patient. They will get there!



Remember the most progress will be made by having fun ...whether it is books, poems, comics, instructions or whatever happens to be the current craze, running races, seeing who can spot a number when out and about, counting how many plates you need to lay the table, sorting the knives and forks to put them away, choosing toys from a catalogue and looking at the cost—the list is endless!