

# Mosaic Jewish Primary School

## FAQ's for New Parents: 2020



### How will Coronavirus affect my child's start to school?

At the moment we are unsure what restrictions will be in place in September. We will notify you as soon as we have any information but at the moment we are preparing as we usually would, for a normal start. Please be aware this may change depending on Government guidance at the time.

### When will my child begin school?

School will begin on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020, where we will have 6 children a day and they will stay for half a day (until 12:00). This is to ensure we can focus on each child on their first day of school and ensure their transition is not as overwhelming. You will be informed of your child's start date during your home visit and by letter.

### When will my child stay for lunch and begin full days?

The children will begin full days on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020.

### How does lunchtime work?

The children have a 'family style' lunch, where the food is placed in the middle of the table and they are encouraged to serve themselves (with the support of an adult). For the first two weeks the children will be accompanied by a member of the early years team and will only sit with other children in their year group. Once they are comfortable, they will begin to mix with children from Year 1 and Year 2. Due to Government guidelines the children are currently unable to have their lunch in a family style setting and we will update you on the procedures once we have more information in September.

### What if my child doesn't like the food?

There are several options at lunchtime, including a main, vegetables, salad, fresh bread and side dishes. We usually find that seeing other children eating encourages children to try new things. We offer fruit, bagels and milk in the classroom throughout the day.

### How does snack time work?

Bagels are available in the morning for any children who may not have had breakfast. We offer fruit and milk throughout the day and once we have said the blessing the children are free to help themselves.

## Will my child have a reading book when they begin school?

We give each child a lilac reading book when they begin school. This is a book with just pictures in, to really focus on the communication and language skills as well as their comprehension. As we begin to learn phonics sounds the children will move up through the book bands when their teacher decides they are ready to.

## Will my child have homework?

Reception children get homework once a week like the rest of the school. At the beginning the homework is very informal and involves lots of practical, fun activities! The homework is set on a Thursday and we ask for it to be handed back in the following Tuesday.

## When will my child do PE? Do they have help to get changed?

The children have one PE session a week, where they change into their PE kits. We encourage them to be as independent as possible when getting changed but of course help them if required. Every morning we also have a 'Morning Movement' session, where we start the day with 10 minutes of exercise to help the children stay focused and get the most out of their learning.

## When do I need to drop off/pick up my child? Can I come in the classroom to settle my child?

We open our doors at 8:45 and encourage you to arrive as close to this time as possible. We welcome parents to settle their children at the beginning of the day between 8:45-9:00 for the first few weeks. After 9:00 no parents will be allowed in the classroom as we need to begin our day! Due to current Government guidelines we are not allowed parents in the classrooms, therefore depending on guidance in September children may need to be settled outside of the classroom.

## What does my child need to bring to school?

The main things the children need day to day are their school bag, their reading record, a water bottle and their coat. We ask you to bring a coat every day, even if the weather may look nice in the morning. We spend a lot of time outside in all weathers and the weather can turn very quickly. The children also need to have their PE kit in their locker, as well as some spare clothes in case of accidents and wellies for our much loved mud kitchen! There are currently restrictions on what children can bring into school, therefore what we ask children to bring into school in September may change due to Government guidelines.

## Where will my child keep their belongings?

Each child has an allocated box where they will keep their school bag. They will also have a tray where they keep any work they complete at school as well as a locker for things like their spare clothes, wellies and PE kit.

## Can my child bring in things from home?

Every Friday we have a show and tell where the children are permitted to bring in one special item to show their friends and teachers. Toys from home are not permitted the rest of the week.

## What is the school's behavior policy? Are there opportunities for my child's work to be recognised?

We have a behavior system at school where all the children start on the sun. If a child is not following the school rules they are gently reminded. If they continue they will have a couple of warnings before being placed on the part cloud, followed by the storm cloud if it continues again. If a child goes on the storm cloud they will miss out on our 'Mosaic Time' (a game or fun activity) at the end of the day.

If a child particularly impresses us they have the opportunity to go on the 'rainbow', or even on the star. If a child goes on the star their achievement will be announced to the whole school over the tannoy and they will receive a special sticker from the head teacher. We also have a weekly awards assembly where 2 children from each class receive achievement awards in front of the whole school.

## Are there any assemblies at school? Can I come to any?

Each week we have 5 assemblies including a singing assembly. On a Friday we hold our Kabblat Shabbat where we invite parents to join us. Each class takes it in turn to host. Due to Government guidelines we are currently only holding online assemblies and we will update you on our procedures in September.