

We hope you have found this booklet helpful

Please let us know if there is any other way in which we can help you

Thank you

**Starting School
Autumn 2020**

CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	3
Daily Routines	4
Food and Drink	8
Illness	9
Importance of Information	11
What to wear and bring to school	11
Managing Independently	13
The Curriculum	14
Speaking and Listening	16
Reading	18
Acronyms	21

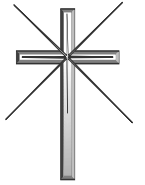
DAILY ROUTINES

What time does school start?

Registration is at 9.00 am, when a bell is rung. You may



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Schoolhouse Lane, Litton Cheney,
Dorchester, Dorset
DT2 9AU
Tel: 01308 482410
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www.thorners.dorset.sch.uk



Dear Parents and Children

Welcome to Thorner's School. We hope that we will have a happy association and that you will enjoy your time here with us.

This booklet is about our school and tries to answer all the questions you may have about daily routines and learning. There is lots more information on our website.

If there is anything else that you would like to know about our school, please do get in touch with us.

Yours sincerely

Jyotsna Chaffey
Headteacher

bring your child at 8.50 am, but please do not leave your child before then, as there is no supervision. It is important that children are punctual; being late to school could cause them to be worried or upset because they miss the morning settling-in routines and the start of the first lesson.



May I come into the classroom

All parents are welcome to come into school, whilst their children are in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, to help their child put away their things and ensure that their child is safely in the classroom. We would ask all parents to leave the school by 9.00 am please.

What happens if my child is unwilling to settle?

Please say goodbye kindly but firmly and let the teacher and teaching assistant settle your child. It often only takes a minute or two when you have gone. If you would like to telephone the school office (01308 482410) we would be happy to reassure you that your child has settled.

How often can I talk to the teacher?

Mornings are very busy times. Please keep requests for appointments, informal and formal meetings to after school. You will soon know what needs to be discussed with the teacher and when. Messages can be written in the Home/School contact book, which is checked every day.

We offer Parent Consultation sessions in the Autumn and Spring Terms. You can view your child's work and discuss their progress with your child's teacher.

Can my child bring toys to school?

No. because toys may be lost or broken. But children in Reception may bring in a toy for 'Show and Tell' (page 18).

What happens at the end of the day?

The morning session ends at 12pm. The afternoon session starts at 1pm and finishes at 3.30pm. When collecting your child, please wait in the playground with the other parents.

If you are not there, we will keep your child until you arrive. If you are more than 5 minutes late we may take the child back into the classroom and give them a task to do while we contact you to ensure that you are on your way. Occasionally you may be **unavoidably late** in collecting your child. It is very helpful if you can telephone the school so that we can reassure your child that you are on your way.

If your child is going home with anyone else, it is essential that you let us know, preferably through the Home/School contact book. Please introduce us to grandparents or childminders who will be collecting your child, prior to the day if possible, especially if they are not currently parents of a child at school.

Children who go home by school bus or taxi are

SOME EDUCATIONAL ACRONYMS

TA	Teaching Assistant
PPA	Planning, Preparation and Assessment Time
TSA	Thorner's School Association – of which you are automatically a member when you are the parent of a child at our school
SATs	Statutory Assessment Tests
EYFS	Early Years Foundation Stage (Reception)
OFSTED	Office for Standards in Education
SEN	Special Educational Needs
IEP	Individual Education Programme
EHCP	Education Health and Care Plan

escorted by staff. The children are encouraged to fasten their own seat belts, but all belts are checked by staff.

Can I take my child on holiday in school time?

By law, schools are not allowed to grant leave during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Any holiday during term time would therefore be marked as unauthorised absence. For details, please look at the Attendance Policy on our website.

Please think also about the fact that your child will miss lessons and could find it difficult to catch up. Younger children may also find it difficult to renew friendships with classmates.

How do I know what is going on in school?

Newsletters are issued by the school on a regular basis. We also send emails as needed and flyers about special events. All these are emailed to you unless you request a hard copy. Newsletters are also available on our website.

How can I get a message to my child or the teacher urgently?

Telephone the school office: 01308 482410. If there is no answer, please leave a message on the answer machine which is checked frequently.

Complaints procedure

Any concern should be raised promptly with the class teacher. Anyone wishing to make a complaint about any

Reading practice happens on most days with a teaching assistant or volunteer helper or through shared reading with another child. We hope that you will find time to enjoy reading with your child on most days too.

How often are the books changed?

Books are changed when the teacher/teaching assistant considers that the child is ready to move on.



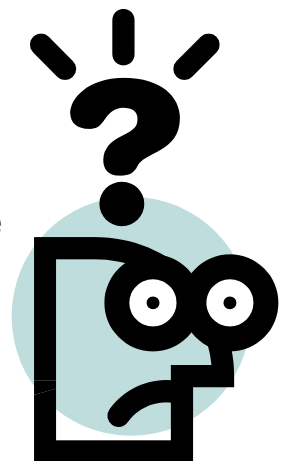
What do the colours and levels mean on reading books?

Reading books are organised into stages. The colours and levels on the back of the books are only relevant to the particular reading scheme and not to each other.

Why do some books have no words on them?

We often use such books to encourage the children to tell a story.

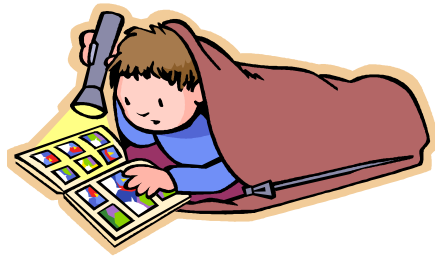
The early skills of reading are developed at home when books and stories are shared. Listening to your child and reading to your child as often as possible can make the process of learning this important skill easier and more enjoyable.



- support their child through positive comments and encouragement
- maintain good links with their child's teacher
- listen to their child read at home
- resist comparing one child with another.

Early experiences at home are very important:

- talking about things they see and experience
- sharing a range of books together - picture books, stories with text, information books
- discussing the content of books, making a story from the pictures
- child seeing parents reading
- listening to stories- bedtime stories every night
- children 'reading' books to dolls/toys, to themselves, to parents



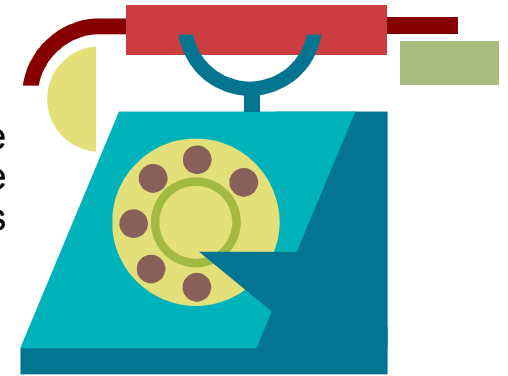
Good early experiences of finding meaning and enjoyment in books, which can start at home, give children a great boost in learning to read.

ANSWERS TO SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

How often will my child be heard to read?

The teacher will listen to your child reading at least once a week.

aspect of the school's provision should first discuss the complaint with the Headteacher. We hope that most complaints can be satisfactorily resolved in this way. If this is not possible there is an agreed procedure of making formal complaints to the Chair of Governors. Please be aware that discussing the complaint with a third party could jeopardise or prejudice the outcome.



FOOD AND DRINK

What about food at school?

All children under 5 are entitled to free milk; please complete a form available at the office. All children get a healthy morning break time snack of fruit. No other food is allowed at this time, unless there are specific medical reasons.



Is water available?

Children are encouraged to bring water bottles into the classroom. A drinking water fountain is provided in the playground. Children may drink water at any time except during morning assembly.

Water bottles can be purchased from the school office and replacement caps are also available. Please label your child's water bottle and ensure your child brings the bottle home regularly to be cleaned.

Lunch Time

Lunchtime is from 12 noon to 1 pm.

We offer daily hot meals prepared by Local Food Links in Bridport and cooked in the LATCH kitchen. All children in Litton and Chesil are entitled to free school meals. Other children can purchase a hot meal. You will need to book your child's meal one week in advance; you can do this online (please ask Mrs Harp for a code).

If your child is bringing a packed lunch, please provide your child with a named lunchbox which will fit into their rucksack easily.

Listening and concentrating go hand in hand and are vital skills needed in life.

How can parents help?

- Have times without the television or radio on
- Use family meal times to encourage the children to discuss their day
- Have daily talking and listening time with your children, when you give them your full attention
- Encourage children to use correct language
- Value what your children tell you and show them that you are really interested in what they are saying.

What is 'Show and Tell'?

Reception pupils have regular 'Show and Tell'. Each child is allocated a day each week when he/she is invited to bring in something of interest to show the other children. This could be a favourite toy, a fossil picked up on the beach, a picture of where they went on holiday, or something they built at home.

READING

Reading is a very complex skill. Some children acquire it very early and easily, others find it much more difficult.

Parents need to:

- be patient

indicates what the children know when they start school.

How are children rewarded at school?

If a child has worked hard, behaved especially well, achieved something exceptional or overcome a difficulty, they may receive an award, such as a sticker, certificate or privilege, or a house point or thank you card.

SPEAKING AND LISTENING

The skills of speaking and listening are extremely important.

Well developed language gives the children the tools for reading and writing. Children do not read or write words which they do not use in their own language.

The children's vocabulary, the complexity of their speech and their confidence are developed through opportunities to discuss and express points of view, recall the past, describe places, events, situations and feelings.

Children need to talk and tell stories in order to develop their language, learn new ways of talking and try out new words.

At school, we encourage them to talk to other children and adults about the tasks they are doing and things that interest them, both in and out of school.

Children are also encouraged to develop listening skills - listening when an adult or child is speaking.



Please ensure that you only provide the amount and type of food you think your child will eat. A suggested selection: sandwich, pasta or rice or vegetable salad, yoghurt, fruit, cereal bar, and a carton of drink.

Please do not include any sweets, fizzy drinks, cans or glass bottles. Water is always available in the hall.

Any uneaten food is left in the lunchbox and sent home. If your child has specific medical needs please discuss with their class teacher.



ILLNESS

What do I do if my child is ill?

On the first morning, please telephone or email explaining the situation.

If your child is unwell with diarrhoea and/or vomiting they should be kept at home for 48 hours after the last sickness.

What happens if my child needs medicine?

If your child is on long term medication, eg for asthma, diabetes or cystic fibrosis, you must inform the school and fill in the appropriate form. The children administer their own medication whenever possible, under the supervision of a trained first aider or class teacher.



No other medication is normally administered in school. You are welcome to come in during the day to administer medicine if you feel it necessary.

What happens if my child is taken ill during the day?

If a child is too ill to stay at school, their parent is contacted. If they cannot be found, the emergency contact number is used. If no one can be contacted the Headteacher makes a decision about the child's condition and acts accordingly.

What happens if my child has an accident at school?

If a child is involved in an accident during the school day it is noted in our accident book and you will be informed. If it is serious or a head injury we will contact you immediately and personally, otherwise a note will be sent home through the Home/School contact book with your child.

Are there trained First Aiders in school?

We have four staff members who are fully trained in first aid and all other staff have basic first aid training.

IMPORTANCE OF INFORMATION

What happens if we move house?

Key Stage	Year Group	Age Group	Class Name
Foundation	Reception	4 to 5 years	Litton
Key Stage 1	Year 1	5 to 6 years	Chesil
	Year 2	6 to 7 years	
Key Stage 2	Year 3	7 to 8 years	Bredy
	Year 4	8 to 9 years	
	Year 5	9 to 10 years	Eggardon
Year 6	10 to 11 years		

week, a teaching assistant.

In the classes that have more than one age group, the children do most of their work in groups.

Why is play important?

Children learn best by doing and often by acting out their life experiences, developing language through play. They are organising their thoughts and knowledge, learning to play in a social group. Children need time and space to do this in the first few years at school. They need to have active first hand experience to understand the process and learn the language of what they are doing.

How is my child assessed?

Children are continually assessed in their learning and social skills by the staff. Reception children are assessed using the Early Years Profile. A Baseline Assessment

- than laces)
- do up buttons and zips
- go to the toilet unaccompanied.

If you or your child have any worries about managing independently, please speak to the class teacher.

Young children can have accidents and we have spare clothes but please do remember to return them.

THE CURRICULUM

Children starting Reception experience the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum under which teaching is organised into 7 areas of learning. There are 3 prime areas:

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

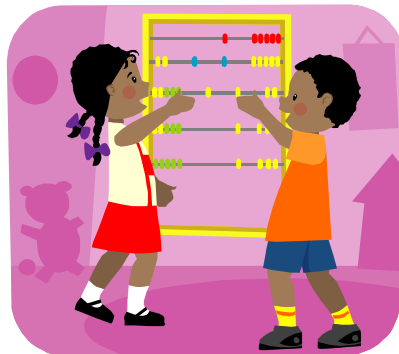
Supported through 4 specific areas:

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

From Year 1, we use the National Curriculum.

How are the classes organised?

Every class has a teacher and, for most days of the



Please keep us up to date with all relevant information such as telephone numbers, both home and mobile, home address and emails and, most importantly, any medical conditions.



WHAT TO WEAR AND BRING

Your child should wear a full school uniform. Please mark all items of clothing with your child's name, using a permanent marker or labels.

The school uniform:

- school blue sweatshirt, hoodie or fleece
- white polo-shirt/ blouse/ shirt
- plain black or grey trousers/ skirt/dress
- black school shoes
- plain black, grey, navy or white socks/tights



Alternative for summer:

- blue striped or checked dress
- plain black or grey shorts

Also, in winter:

- an outdoor weatherproof coat
- hat, gloves and scarf

In the summer:

- a hat to protect from the sun
- sun protection cream – clearly named (for children to apply themselves).

Children also need PE kit in a named PE bag:

- navy or black shorts
- school blue t-shirt or other plain t-shirt
- plimsolls or trainers

PE kit is brought to school at the beginning of each half term. Long hair needs to be tied back and all watches removed. Tiny ear studs are allowed but will have to be removed for PE. No other jewellery should be worn to school apart from watches in KS2.

Suppliers

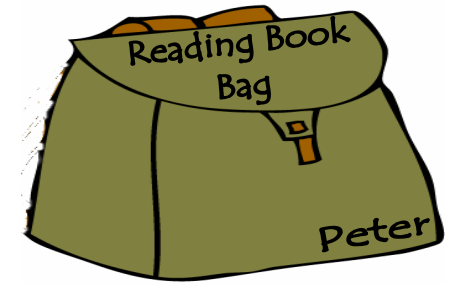
School fleeces, hoodies, sweatshirts and PE t-shirts may be ordered from the school office. School book bags, PE bags and water bottles (or replacement caps) can also be purchased from the office.

Second hand items of school uniform and plimsoll exchange are available. Please speak to the School Secretary.

Your child needs to bring to school each day:

- A packed lunch, if not eating a hot meal (see Food on page 8)

- School book bag - clearly named. This should contain reading book and contact book and will contain any letters from school.
- Home school contact book—this is kept with the reading book in the book bag and is a very important link between home and school. It is also a record of your child's reading progress.



Optional extra:

- a small rucksack (which will hang neatly on a hook) to carry lunch box and book bag

Once a week, Reception children can bring an item for **Show and Tell** – read Speaking and Listening (page 18) for details.

REMEMBER

Please put your child's name on all bags and clothes.
Name tapes are better than marker pens.

MANAGING INDEPENDENTLY

It is important that children can manage the clothes they wear, so please make sure that they can:

- change clothes by themselves
- turn clothes the right way round
- put shoes on correct feet
- do up shoes unaided (velcro or buckles are easier)