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Foundation Induction Evening

The time for your child to start school is fast approaching! To help with the process we warmly invite you (no children please) to our Induction Evening.

This will consist of short presentations covering important issues such as:

- organisation of your child's day and their learning environment
- school routines and home visits
- details about starting school and
- the school council's view of life at St Ives First School

You will have the opportunity to

- visit the classrooms and look round the school
- meet some of the staff
- ask any questions that you may have
- look at and order the uniform
- meet the School Council
- and meet the Chair of Governors

We would like to gather in the school hall for refreshments at 5.30pm. The presentation will start at 5.45pm.

I look forward to meeting you then.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Laura Crossley
Headteacher



Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, we would like to extend a huge welcome to you and your child to St Ives First School.

We are all extremely excited about your children starting at our school and this booklet is written to hopefully answer all of your questions about this busy time!

At St Ives First School we are very aware that a child's first experiences of school are both exciting and slightly scary for both your child and you. Therefore we hope that this booklet will enable you to be the positive and calming influence that the children may need over their first few weeks at school.

As new parents to St Ives First School we want you to become part of our school in helping your child develop a love of learning. As a school we are continually looking to improve the systems we have in place, to ensure that the children have a very positive first experience of school.

We have a number of ways to support you and your child as you join our school. The main document we would encourage you to read is our school prospectus. A copy of this can be obtained from the school office if you do not already have one. You can also view it on line @ www.stives.dorset.sch.uk. This document outlines many different aspects of school life in detail. The prospectus makes a lot more sense once your child has started with us in the school.

Please read the School Prospectus for further information on the school.

We have tried to answer as many questions as possible based on parents' questions in the past. However, if you still have a question when you finish reading this, please do not hesitate to ask the Foundation team at school who will be willing to help.

Laura Crossley
Headteacher

Aims and Objectives of the School

"Laying the foundations for life"

The school aims to serve the community by providing an education of the highest quality and enabling all young people to become:

- Successful learners who enjoy learning, make progress and achieve
- Confident individuals who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives and
- Responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society

We aim to educate and encourage children to live happily and work together in a caring environment by providing a range of opportunities for each individual to develop to the maximum of his or her potential in physical, intellectual, personal, social and moral terms.

The school recognises and celebrates diversity acknowledging that everyone irrespective of age, gender, creed or race has a part to play in our school community.

To achieve this we seek:

- To provide a secure, happy and stimulating environment and appropriate play and learning experiences for the academic and personal development of each child.
- To equip children with skills, knowledge and attitudes which will help them to take their place in a rapidly changing society.
- To develop the many skills of communication with great emphasis on literacy and numeracy, and to encourage high standards of achievement.
- To foster a spirit of enquiry and individual appreciation of the environment.
- To promote good standards of behaviour through Christian values and attitudes both in school and elsewhere, and to encourage children to respond to and appreciate the needs of others.
- To promote the all round physical development of the child allowing for individual interest and ability.

School code of conduct

Our school Code of Conduct fully supports and implements these aims which are further strengthened by our affirmative Behaviour Policy. This develops the ideas explored in Circle Time by continuing to support children in being responsible for their own behaviour and the school's rewards and sanctions system. Full details of both policies can be obtained from the School Office.

The Golden Rules

At St Ives First School we will:

- Be kind to everyone in all we do
- Listen when someone else is talking
- Respect our own, others and school property
- Be careful how we speak and behave towards others
- Behave in a safe and sensible way
- Work hard and enjoy learning
- Look after and feel proud of our school

Foundation Stage

When your child starts school they will be in "Reception", which is now called the Foundation stage. They will be taught from a document called the Foundation Curriculum. The important thing is that your child should be happy and enjoy coming to school. There will be no learning without this. Building relationships, getting used to the group and enjoying learning are the critical tasks of the first few weeks.

The Foundation Stage Staff are:



Miss Moore (Teacher)



Miss Steer (Teaching Assistant)

We plan the teaching and learning so that it is appropriate, active and hands-on for the youngest children, but also provides challenges to the older ones. We do most of our teaching in the smallest groups possible, making full use of our assistants. We gradually increase the "listening" / sitting still times as the group matures.

THE FOUNDATION STAGE PROFILE

As teachers have always done, we will spend a few weeks getting to know your child, watching how they play and get on with others and finding out all they already know. We will hopefully have some information passed on from any pre-school settings they attended as well. We have a system of on-going assessment that links with the Foundation Stage Curriculum. This does not involve formal testing but carefully planned hands-on activities involving play, group games and one-to-one chats. In the Summer Term you will receive information about your child's progress in the Foundation Stage Profile.

COMMUNICATION / PARENTS CONSULTATIONS

During the first term, there will be a 'Meet the Teacher coffee morning' where the curriculum will be explained more, and a Parents Consultation for you to come and talk to your child's Class Teacher. You will discuss how your child has settled into school and if there are any concerns or worries. Towards the end of the Spring Term there will be another Parent Consultation. Progress reports are sent out at the end of the Summer Term. Throughout the term, you will receive the weekly newsletter informing you of any news or events coming up in the next few weeks at school. These will be filed in your child's book bag, so please make sure they bring the book bag in with them to school every day. If you have any messages concerning your child, please speak to your child's Class Teacher after all the children have been collected by parents at the end of the school day. Alternatively you may ring the school office and leave a message or arrange an appointment to see the teacher.

COLLECTING CHILDREN

Your child will be brought out to the playground into the picnic area. Please wait for the teacher to send your child to you, please bear with us as we get to know who belongs to who! We are careful to hold onto your child until we can see the person who is collecting them. If this is going to be someone different, do let us know. Please tell your child only to go home with the person you have chosen and to wait with their teacher until they are told to go. If for any unforeseen circumstances you cannot collect your child and decide to send another adult, please inform the school office as soon as possible so that a message can be passed onto your child's Class Teacher.

For your child's security we will not allow them to go with another adult without your permission. This can sometimes cause hold ups and embarrassment so please let the office know as soon as possible.

IF YOUR CHILD IS ILL

If your child is unwell, please phone the school and let us know as soon as possible on the same day. It is important for our records that we have notification from you when this happens: the telephone is the quickest and easiest way. The latest guidelines from the health authority recommend that if your child has been sick they should not return until 48 hours after the last bout of sickness. We ask that in the interest of all the children you adhere to these guidelines.

ARRIVING AT SCHOOL LATE

Any child who arrives in school late must be brought to the School Office and signed in by an adult into the Late book/appointments folder, situated on the cupboard outside the School Office.

IF YOU HAVE TO LEAVE SCHOOL EARLY

If you have to take your child out of school for a dentist or doctor's appointment, for example, firstly you need to tell your child's Class Teacher. Then, when you collect your child, please fill in the details of the early departure into the Late book/appointments folder, situated on the cupboard outside the School Office.

IT'S GOOD TO TALK

Please feel welcome to tell us anything that is concerning you about your child: including a bad night's sleep or the death of a pet. We will make a note and make sure the whole staff team is aware of it in full confidence.

How do we get to know you and your child?

In order to get to know your child we will be offering taster sessions at school during the summer term and home visits (times to be arranged). Our aim is for them to have a happy enjoyable time, and to find their way around our large exciting class area. There will be a time when they can tell us about what they have done; a playtime when they can go on the equipment outside; and a story or singing time.

Home visits

We feel this will be an extremely successful way of "getting to know you and your child". Our Foundation Stage staff are able to arrange a 30 minute home visit to provide the opportunity for your child to meet their new teacher in their own home, show their toys and for you to talk about your child. Home visits are invaluable and such a fantastic start to your relationship with the staff at school. Home visits give a wonderful sense of pride to children when described/discussed at a later date. Conversations about home, garden and toys are brought to life by the adults/children's memory of their home visit.

Taster Sessions

We will also be offering three taster sessions on before your child starts school

Starting School

In September we aim to take the children into school having said goodbye in the playground. There will be staff on hand to help them to do this, and take them to the classroom.

There are two reasons for this:

1. It is easier for the children and they enjoy being the same as all the other children in the school.
2. We want them to be independent and ready to start their day as quickly as possible. The children will be undertaking a range of "independent" activities and we want them to enjoy a calm, settled start to the day. From experience we have found that children coming in independently is the best way to ensure this.

There will always be a member of staff on the playground to write down a message for your child's Class Teacher or pass on anything vital or answer any queries you might have. Please help us by encouraging your child to come in. If you are positive about them saying goodbye, it really does work!