**ARCHBISHOP RUNCIE CHURCH of ENGLAND (VA) FIRST SCHOOL**

**4TH September 2018**

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Reception!

I hope everyone has had a lovely summer holiday. I hope the children are as excited as I am about the year of learning ahead. I can’t wait to get started and get to know the children properly. All children are different and some will settle in more quickly than others. If you do have any concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff. We are here to listen and to help in any way to ensure your child’s transition to full time school is as smooth as possible.

Our topic this term is ‘all about me’ and we plan to look at making friendships, emotions, being kind, my body, healthy eating, my family, growing and where we live.

Mathematics and phonics are taught daily within Reception. During mathematics this term we will focus on counting, recognising and ordering numbers, matching the correct numeral to a group of objects, naming and describing 2D shapes and creating repeated patterns. During phonics this term we will be linking sounds to the letters of the alphabet, hearing and saying initial sounds in words and beginning to read simple words. Every Thursday your child will bring home a set of sounds, words and mathematics activities for you to practice at home. Could you please ensure these are brought back the following Tuesday to be changed. Every Monday your child will also bring home a library book for you to share and will be changed the following week. Please could you ensure book bags are brought to school every day and checked for letters every night.

PE will usually be taught on a Thursday. PE kits should be left in school (on cloakroom pegs) and should contain a pair of well-fitting plimsolls for outdoor lessons. It would be very helpful if any child with long hair could have their hair tied up in a ponytail on these days too.

Please be patient in the early weeks of this year as I become more familiar with who will be collecting your child. The children are told they must not exit the classroom door unless a teacher has called their name. They must then point to the adult who is collecting them before leaving the building to come to you. Please inform us if there is a change to the usual pick up routine.

I look forward to meeting you at the Parents Welcome Meeting on Friday 28th September 9:00 – 9:30. During this meeting I will discuss the areas of learning following the Early Years Foundation Stage, how early reading, phonics, writing and number skills are taught in reception and how our classroom is set up to include the many activities the children experience each day. I will also answer any questions you may have.

If you have any queries or questions please do not hesitate to catch one of us at the end of the school day.

I look forward to working with you, and your children, in the coming year.

Yours Sincerely

Miss Leigh

**We are in need of recyclable items for junk modelling activities. Junk modelling is very beneficial to your child’s development as it encourages problem solving, encourages creativity and improves fine motor skills. Some examples of the sort of items you could bring in are:**

**\*bottle tops**

**\*lollipop sticks**

**\*egg cartons**

**\*cereal boxes**

**We are also in need of small sticks and twigs if you find any on your journeys.**

**Thanking You**

**Dates for your diary:**

**07/09/18 – A visit from the bishop.**

**13/09/18 – Children are invited to dress up for Roald Dahl day.**

**14/09/18 – Parents and children stay for lunch.**

**14/09/18 – PTA BBQ after school.**

**17/09/18 – Children start full days.**

**28/09/18 – Parents welcome meeting 9:00 – 9:30.**

**01/10/18 – Forest school.**

**04/10/18 – Asda coming to make fruit yoghurts.**

**22/10/18 – Smoothie day.**

**23/10/18 – Parents evening.**

**24/10/18 – Parents evening**

**26/10/18 – School closed for training day.**