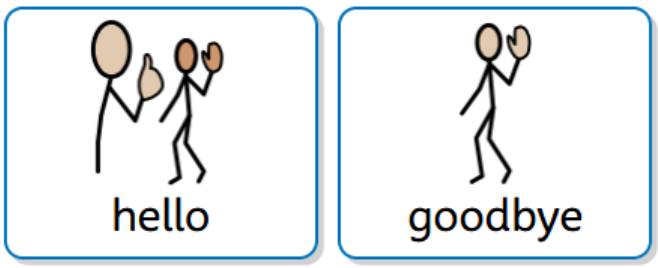
Welcome to Sunshine Class

Here is some information you may find helpful:

Visuals, visuals, visuals!

We use visuals everywhere in our room and throughout school to support our children with communication. We start by introducing them, pointing to them and modelling them. Then we find our children start to copy us and use them over time. They really support our children as another option for communication. It would really support your child if you used them at home and out and about too! We send out regular visuals that we feel are supportive and current. Please always ask if you need any specific ones.

They may look like this:



Makaton

We use Makaton in our morning, afternoon and end of day greetings and goodbyes. We use Makaton in our weekly songs and during our weekly stories. Throughout the day, we use Makaton greetings and communication. Throughout school, we focus on five Makaton signs each day and work together to learn and use new signs.

Food and drink

We want your child to feel happy and settled at school. We have a morning snack, lunch and, depending on need, an afternoon snack. Children have access to their drinks all day. All snacks are welcome as long as they don't contain nuts, we are happy for your child to have water, squash and milk. The children stay in our room and eat together in the same seat every day with their own placemat, therefore keeping the routine really supports their eating. Throughout their time in Sunshine Class, we will encourage children to try new foods, linked to topics or from our dinner hall.

Fund

We kindly ask for an optional contribution of £1 per week. This will be for squash and sensory resources that we provide for messy play. As part of our curriculum, messy play is very important for regulation and early writing skills. We have sensory/messy play out multiple times a day for our children.

PE

I will notify you as soon as we start PE again. They will be able to continue wearing what they wear to school. In the meantime they will have access to sensory circuit and outdoor physical play every day.

Bags

We ask that the children have at least 2 changes of clothes and a selection of socks. We have lots of water play and messy play within our room and therefore this may then require a change of clothes. For outdoor play, we ask that the children have wellies and a puddle suit (we have lots of spares). This means they can thoroughly enjoy being outdoors without becoming dysregulated due to feeling wet.

Nappies, wipes and nappy bags

Please provide nappies, wipes and nappy bags at the beginning of term, then we will let you know in advance when we are about to run out.

Home Learning

Once we are all settled, I will send out a home learning book. There will be options that can be done across a half term within each curriculum area. Please don't feel obliged to do them. They are optional and are just ideas. We would love to see any photos of things you get up to that we can share with your child in school, they love looking through their own book at school and their friends'! I will send you a note in their bag within a week of needing them back in and then we will send out the new home learning, this will be each half term.

Drop off and pick up

Dropping off on time in the morning is essential for your child, as we have half an hour of regulation time, where we set up resources specific to your child that we know will regulate them ready for the day. This time then prepares them for our learning time and can really support their focus and contribution to the lessons. Picking up on time is also very important as our children can become dysregulated when our timetable and routine has finished and they find waiting hard. We want to reduce any stress for your child.

Learning

Please always check our door for what we are learning each week. We have a new book and song each week, our Maths focus changes each week and you will also be able to see what we are working on within each area of our curriculum. You may even be able to do some at home.

Reading books

When we are settled, we will start to send home reading books. These books may be wordless. This is about looking at the images and encouraging your child to point, hold the book correctly and turn pages. They may have some phonics sounds in the book that we have been working on. Or they may be a story book you can read and share with your child. Looking through a book together can be very powerful for development of language and book skills.

Communication with us

We are available on the door every morning, please let us know how your child is and how their day has started as it really helps us to settle them into their school day. We are also available at pick up time on the door too, we will pass on any messages and let you know how their day has been. Please feel welcome to ask us anything. If you feel it requires a phone call, this can be requested on the door too.

The whole Sunshine Team are looking forward to working with you all this year.

Thank you, Mrs Whitehouse 😊