



Welcome to Early Years at The Grove Primary School

Every Child, Every Challenge, Every Day



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Here at The Grove, we understand that starting school is a huge milestone in yours and your child's life. We aim to make that transition as smooth as possible. We also understand that these past years have been very uncertain, and want to take this opportunity to reassure you that everything we put in place to ensure the children have a safe, happy and fun start to their school experience.

While we seem to be finding our way through the pandemic now, guidance given to schools is still subject to change and we will endeavour to keep you updated with any plans or changes that we make as soon as we possibly can.

We are committed to ensuring that all children feel happy, confident and valued while they are in school and look forward to meeting you and your child.

We hope that this booklet will provide some useful information that will answer any practical questions you may have and will enable you to start preparing your child for September.

The Early Years Team

Miss Amy Taylor - Phase Leader

Dragons Class

Miss Amy Taylor – Class Teacher

Unicorns Class

Mrs Wendy Darmanin – Class Teacher

Miss Jessica Busby - Learning Support Assistant

Mrs Nikki Jones – Learning Support Assistant



What is the EYFS?

The early years foundation stage (EYFS) sets standards for the learning, development and care of your child from birth to 5 years old.

All schools and Ofsted-registered early years providers must follow the EYFS, including childminders, preschools, nurseries and school reception classes.

In Reception, the EYFS is comprised of seven areas of learning. These are divided into Prime and Specific.

The Prime areas are the key foundation that underpins a child's ability to learn. We know that when children are happy, safe and settled they thrive and by ensuring all of our planning and teaching builds on these areas we ensure success for all of our children.

The Prime areas are listed below.

Communication and Language

- Listening and Attention
- Understanding

Personal, Social and Emotional Education

- Self Regulation
- Managing Self
- Building Relationships

Physical Development

- Gross motor skills
- Fine motor skills

The Specific areas are the building blocks that can be added once the Prime skills are in place.

Literacy

- Comprehension
- Word reading
- Writing

Maths

- Number
- Numerical patterns

Understanding of the world

- Past and present
- People, culture and communities
- The natural world

Expressive arts and design

- Creating with materials
- Being imaginative and expressive

We plan and deliver learning experiences that encompass all of these areas helping your child to become a well-rounded, kind and conscientious learner.



A day in the Life of a Reception Child

At present, we don't know what the Government guidance will look like for September as this hasn't been released so we don't know whether we will need to stagger the timings and gates that children come into school or not. Below you can see the outline for a day in Reception, this is how our day will run and we fit the timings to the school day.

We will inform you of drop off and pick up times as soon as we are able.

Start of the day	Children will be welcomed by their teacher at the classroom door. Then they will start their early morning routine such as hanging their things up and self-registering.
Morning session Timings TBC depending on Government guidance	Funky Fingers There will a selection of activities around the classroom that the children can select to help develop fine motor skills.
	Phonics The children will be introduced to new sounds using games songs and actions.
	Introduction to the day's learning – this might be learning about a story, thinking about how we can solve a problem or being given a challenge. For example helping Woody and Buzz Lightyear rescue some lost toys or making maps for Going on a Bear Hunt.
	Independent Learning This will be linked to the learning above, the children will be encouraged to undertake activities that are engaging and collaborative, both inside and outside. The adults will be working with small groups, observing play and supporting with challenge and encouragement where needed.
	Snack time An opportunity to come together, talk about the learning that has happened so far and refuel with a healthy snack.
	Tidy up and review/celebration of learning.
Lunch and playtime	The children will get an opportunity to socialise with children from across Key Stage 1.
Afternoon session Timings TBC depending on Government guidance	Regulation station - during this time we may do yoga, mindfulness or stretches to help us get ready to learn again.
	Introduce afternoon learning This may be a continuation of the morning or something new!
	Independent Learning Adults will use this opportunity to spend time with the children, joining in and extending their play.
End of day	Story time Home time!



School Uniform

Our school uniform is designed to be comfortable, practical and distinctive. We hope that children will be proud of their school and happy to wear our uniform. Although we know that uniform, in itself, does not set high standards, we do feel that it is one of a number of factors that contribute to a sense of community and belonging in the school. At The Grove, we are highly inclusive and we recognise that school uniform fabrics can be tricky for some children. If you have any concerns, please contact us and we will happy to help.

Reception and Key Stage 1 Uniform

All year round

Grey skirt/pinafore dress or grey school trousers
Pale blue collared polo shirt
Royal blue sweatshirt/cardigan with school logo
Grey tights or grey socks
Black shoes (with an ankle strap or support)

Optional Summer Uniform

Blue and white striped or check dress
Sandals with closed in toes
Grey shorts



PE Kit

Our PE uniform is the same for all children.

PE is a key part of our curriculum and to ensure all of the children can use equipment safely, we ask that they have the following PE kit.

Summer

House t-shirt (printed with the school logo)
Navy blue shorts
White socks
Trainers

Winter

House t-shirt (printed with the school logo)
Navy blue joggers
Navy sweatshirt (no hood)
White socks
Trainers

All logoed uniform items, PE bags, tracksuits and water bottles are available from Brenda's Schoolwear but these are not compulsory.

Our Reception PE day is Friday. On that day, children can come in ready in their PE kits.



Our Learning Environment

We know the most important element of your child's Reception year is the relationships they build along the way. That will start with the teacher and adults in the classroom and then later those they build with their friends.

With that in mind, our learning environment at The Grove has been developed to be inclusive, exciting and engaging. We want the children to have space to be creative and imaginative and ensure they have all of the resources that support this.

Our outdoor environment is as important as indoor, we have an excellent outdoor area that we use to develop skills such as scooting, gardening and gymnastics to name a few!

Please see the photos below for some of the ways the children use our learning environment. We look forward to welcoming the children into the classrooms and giving them a chance to explore. We want your children to be as prepared for this transition as possible, if you feel your child might benefit from additional photos, explanation or social stories please email the office FAO Miss Taylor and we can discuss anything that might help.





Settling your child into School

What information we will provide

You will receive a survey via email from Microsoft Forms. This will ask some key questions about your child and how we can best help them to settle.

June	
Thursday 17 th June	Introduction to EYFS lead via Teams
Thurs 24 th June 6pm	New to Reception Parent Information Evening via Teams
July	
Weds 14 th July	2pm Virtual whole class story Invite to follow

September				
Thurs 2 Fri 3 Mon 6th	1:1 visits with parents In school – timetable to follow			
W/C 7th September	Tuesday 7 th	Wednesday 8 th	Thursday 9 th	Friday 10 th
September – February born	9-12	9-1 + lunch	All day	All day
March – August born	1-3	1-3	9-1 + lunch	All day
Monday 14th September	All in all day			





Communication

Seesaw

Seesaw is a secure, online learning journal, used to record observations of children's learning and development. School staff or parents can add to the journal. Parents can access their child's journal with their own password. Only password holders can access the features.

Parents can only see their own child's learning journal. In order to access your child's learning journal we need to add you to our system and link you to your child. To do this we just need your email address.

We ask everyone to give permission for their children to appear in photographs with others. Because of this we also ask you to agree that you will not download or copy any photographs or videos, and that you do not share them to social media or any other platform.

Seesaw also enables you to send messages to the teacher directly. It is also what we use to communicate with you and set home learning challenges.

All you need to do, is download the Seesaw Classroom app (for home learning and announcements) and the Seesaw Family app (for direct messaging). Then we will send you an introductory email and you'll be ready to go!





Communication Continued

How will I find out how my child is getting on?

It is important that you and the professionals caring for your child work together. You need to feel comfortable about exchanging information and discussing things that will benefit your child. In a school, your child's key person will be their class teacher.

This is the person who:

- Is your main point of contact within the setting
- Helps your child to become settled, happy and safe
- Is responsible for your child's care, development and learning
- Takes a careful note of your child's progress, sharing this with you and giving you ideas as to how to help your child at home.

You should be able to get information about your child's development at any time and there are two stages (at age 2, and again at age 5) when the professionals caring for your child must give you written information about how he or she is doing.

Building Relationships

As well as meeting you before your child starts, we are happy to talk to you at any time should queries or questions arise, and we encourage you to keep close contact with us, particularly during your child's first year at school. The Early Years team encourage a close relationship with parents in order to fully support your child.

Parents' evenings will be held in the Autumn, Spring and Summer term. At these meetings we will discuss with you how your child is getting on in class, what they excel at and anything they may be finding tricky and ways we can help.

We will also publish End of Year reports which will be given to you in the Summer Term.





How to prepare your child for school

What do they need?

- A named water bottle (that they recognise)
- A book bag or backpack
- Packed lunch (if required)
- Weather appropriate kit e.g. coat, wellies, sun hat
- A spare set of named clothes

Usually, children are best prepared when they are well informed. We would encourage you to discuss school with your children, what they are excited about and any concerns they may have.

Other things that are really helpful if the children can do are;

- Dress themselves
- Use the toilet independently
- Use cutlery
- Know how to ask for what they want/need (we try to not pre-empt requests in school and encourage independence)
- Being used to tidying up when an activity is finished – we use the phrase 'choose it, use it and put it away'
- Being able to wash their hands

Top tips for a smooth transition

- Ensure your child knows who will be picking them up each day
- If they have a favourite toy or blanket that they take everywhere, gradually get them used to being without it
- If your child has a particular worry – perhaps about wetting themselves, not liking the food, or feeling ill – talk about these concerns with your child and with the class teacher. Provide reassurance by discussing what to do and who to tell.

Things to avoid

- It's natural to feel nervous about your child starting school, but remember that your child can easily pick up on your emotions. Try to be relaxed and positive, rather than showing your own nerves.
- Try not to make comments such as "I hated school" or "I was rubbish at school", which might give your child a negative perception of school.
- Try not to bombard your child with endless talk about school – treating it in a matter-of-fact way rather than focusing on the "big step ahead" will help soothe an anxious child.

Your child doesn't need to be able to read, write or do sums before they start school. Children start school with a wide range of abilities and their teacher will be skilled at helping children progress at their own level. What's most important is that you and your child have fun together in those preschool months and years – sharing stories, singing songs, playing games and talking about anything and everything.



We look forward to meeting you all soon!

If you do have any questions, worries or concerns please get in touch with the school office, or email FAO Miss Taylor and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

