



Foundation Stage Newsletter

Welcome to Foundation Stage! At the beginning of each term, we send you a newsletter outlining the themes we will cover, dates for the diary and other general information. This term there is some information about classroom routines and the activities that we will be introducing as the term progresses. Hopefully it will answer any questions that you may have but feel free to see us for any further information at the beginning or end of the school day. We are thrilled with how well the children are settling in.

Beginning and end of day routines

The children are already entering the unit calmly and confidently for which we thank you for your support. Towards half term we will be asking the children to enter school unaccompanied by parents, so in preparation for this, please encourage your child to start organising their belongings independently. Well done to all those children who have already begun coming into school completely independently, we are amazed!

We dismiss children one-by-one at the end of the day to ensure their safe return to you. In order for this to run as smoothly as possible we ask that you stand roughly in the same place each day, so that your child knows where to locate you, and that you wave **only** when your child is at the front of the line. Whilst we appreciate that this is a good time to converse with other parents, it is essential that your child has made eye contact with you before leaving our side. If you are waiting to see a member of staff at the end of the day, please wait until every child has been dismissed before approaching to ensure that all children have a clear view to their parents. Whilst we do our utmost to ensure that every child has all their belongings at the end of a day, there may be times when they need to re-enter the building to collect a forgotten item. Again, please wait until every child has been dismissed to avoid congestion at the door. You will appreciate that organising and dismissing 60 four-year-olds can take some time, and although we understand many children will be going on to other activities after school, we cannot guarantee which child or class will be first out. The classes will come out one at a time and the children will have joined their class lines in a fair and orderly fashion.

Whilst most school correspondence is sent out electronically, we still do send some information home in your child's book bag so please check this daily. All letters can also be downloaded from the website. Please ensure that any communication about your child (i.e. changes in collection arrangements) is handed directly to their teacher on the door as book bags are only checked once a week. We ask that drinks and snacks are not transported in the book bags as liquids can escape and ruin the contents. Children are to place book bags in boxes in the classroom.

Snack and lunch

Fruit is available daily for every child in the unit and milk is provided if you requested it for your child. In addition to this we ask that every child brings a reusable, non-spill bottle of water or diluted fruit squash to school. This should be placed in the box in your child's class as they are allowed access to this throughout the day and also take it into lunch with them. They are also welcome to bring their own healthy snack to school if preferred (no crisps or confectionary). This could be a fruit or vegetable snack, a cereal bar or a yogurt, but one item a day is sufficient. No nut-based products or kiwis are allowed due to allergies amongst children and staff; this includes peanut butter and nut-based chocolate spreads. This should also be placed in the classroom box. Please ensure all bottles and snacks are named and if children are bringing their own fruit that it is in a named bag or pot. Snack should be provided in a small Tupperware style container (named) and not in lunch boxes or lunch bags as all 30 need to be stored in one box and we do not have space for lunch boxes or bags in the classroom.

Please keep all items for lunch in a separate box, which should be stored on the bottom bench below your child's peg. It is essential that all bottles and containers are named.

All children will eat their lunch in the hall. We have reserved tables for each class to sit together regardless of the type of lunch they are having. Children having a hot lunch are served the meal that you have ordered to their table. All children have as much time as they need to eat their lunch followed by a playtime. Please remember to order lunches even though they are provided free of charge.

P.E.

Girls	Boys
Black shorts	Black shorts
White T-shirt	White T-shirt
Black plimsolls (not black soles please)	Black plimsolls (not black soles please)
Black tracksuit	Black tracksuit
Trainers for outdoor use (Velcro fastened)	Trainers for outdoor use (Velcro fastened)
Drawstring PE Bag (any colour)	Drawstring PE Bag (any colour)

Please ensure that children have their full indoor P.E. kit in school at all times (black shorts, white t-shirt, black plimsolls). Later in the year, the children will also take part in outdoor PE. For these outdoor sessions the children will also need their tracksuit and trainers (Velcro fastened), as well as their indoor kit. Don't forget to put a spare pair of socks into the P.E bag if your child wears tights. Timetabled P.E. will be on Tuesday and Friday. We sometimes have opportunities to work with external coaches in addition to this. Your child's clothes and footwear must be named and in a bag that can be hung on their peg. We will send P.E. kits home at the end of each half term so that they can be washed. Long hair will need to be tied up and if your child has pierced ears, please could they not wear earrings on P.E days especially if they are unable to remove them and put them back in themselves. If your child has had their ears pierced less than six weeks, so are therefore not allowed to remove their earrings, they must have their earrings covered by tape.

Forest School

Forest School will take place every Thursday and alternate between morning and afternoon sessions. Further information about Forest School and what your child will need on those days will be sent out in a separate letter.

Hair and Jewellery

Hair should be in a style which is smart, safe and suitable for school. Long hair for both girls and boys must be tied back with appropriate bobbles or hair bands. Jewellery is not suitable for school. Children who have pierced ears are permitted to wear a single set of studs. Multiple earrings, hoops or earrings that dangle are not permitted. Earrings need to be removed or taped during PE sessions. To ease this, we suggest that parents book ear piercing appointments for early in the summer holidays so that earrings can be removed for PE/swimming when school starts in September. Children are not permitted to wear nail varnish or make-up. Children may wear a simple watch, however smart watches are only permitted in Years 5 and 6 with written parental consent.

Spare clothing

From time-to-time children will have unavoidable accidents. We endeavour to deal with these as calmly and discreetly as possible. In order to do this, it is really helpful if each child has a full set of spare clothes and a plastic bag in their bag on their peg (including underwear and socks). Whilst we have a small stock of spare clothing it is more comforting for your child to be wearing their own clothes. If they are more used to using flushable wipes at home you are welcome to also put these into their bag for them to access as required.

Clothing

Please ensure all clothes are named so that they find their way home again. As you can imagine it is very difficult for your children to find their belongings when they all look the same.

Birthdays

Children are welcome to bring in sweets on their birthdays which can be given out at the end of the day to their friends. They are told they can only eat them when their parent or carer gives them permission to do so. Please do not send in a large birthday cake as we do not have the time or resources to cut this up into smaller pieces.

Classroom routines

The main focus for us this half term is ensuring that your child has a smooth transition into school. During the part-time weeks, we have introduced them to the routines and systems used within the unit. These are outlined below so that you understand them when your child brings them up in conversation.

- **Self-registration** – every morning we ask the children to find their name card and add it to our whole class display. We then take an official register later in the morning.
- **King and Queen** – every day two children from each class are chosen to be the special helpers for the day. They hand out the milk, are first in the line and so on. Every child has a turn before all names are returned to be selected again.
- **Class rules** – both classrooms have the rules on display. These focus on being kind and polite to each other, listening, taking turns and sharing, looking after the toys and being friends with everyone.
- **Zone board** – This is part of our whole school positive behaviour and relationships policy. Every child begins the day on the 'Sunshine'. When they are spotted doing the right thing, such as following instructions or being kind to others, they are rewarded by moving up to the rocket, and subsequently up to the stars. If they have reached the stars by the end of the day, the children are given a star sticker which they stick onto their collection card - in EYFS these are flowers. Once a child has earned 10 star stickers, they receive a 'Star Voucher' which will be kept safely for them by the class teacher in the 'Star Bank'. Children can then trade their vouchers for items from Mrs Thorp's/Mr Groves' 'Star Shop'. Children are encouraged to consider whether they wish to 'spend' or 'save' their vouchers. If a child is struggling to make the right choices, they will be moved to the grey 'Choice Cloud' where they will be reminded of the choices they can make regarding their behaviour. As soon as they make the right choice, they move back to wherever they had already reached on the zone board. If they continue to struggle to make the right choice or find themselves in a 'stormy moment', they will be moved to the Storm Cloud where they will be supported by an adult to return to the sunshine. All Storm Cloud incidents are recorded; if they become a cause for concern, we will contact you so that we can work in partnership to support your child with their choices.
- **Rewards** - When children achieve something for the very first time or do their very best work they are put onto 'gold'. They then receive a special mention and a sticker in 'Congratulations' assembly which takes place on a Friday afternoon at 3pm. From each class an individual child's success is also celebrated. Parents can attend these assemblies. You will be notified via an email when your child is being individually celebrated by the school office. When your child is receiving a 'gold' sticker, we will notify you with a note in your child's book bag. EYFS will begin attending assemblies **after half term**.
- **Class mascots** – 'Colin the crocodile' and 'Edward the elephant' take part in many of the daily games and activities at school. In addition to this they love to go on holiday with the children. They have their bags ready, containing their diary. All we ask is that your child records their time with 'Colin' or 'Edward' in the diary, adding photos, writing and drawings. We will ensure that every child has a turn with the class mascot during the year, but please let us know in advance if you are doing something (special day out, birthday, visiting Grandparents/relatives) or going somewhere exciting (party invite, day out, holiday, wedding) and we will do our utmost to arrange for them to go with you.

- **Marvellous Me** – each week a child from each class will be selected to bring home the ‘Marvellous Me’ box. They are invited to fill the box with items of interest and importance to them, for example, a favourite toy, a special book, a first lock of hair, clothing from an important occasion... They will then be invited to show their objects to the class and answer questions from the other children.

Themes

All of our teaching is approached through themes. To support the children’s transition into school we have chosen the themes of “**Julia Donaldson- Rhyme**” and “**Festivals and Seasons**” that we hope they will be familiar with! We will be singing lots of rhymes and songs and telling a range of stories, and planning all of our teaching around these in liaison with the children. Further information detailing our daily activities can be found on the notice board to the left of our Foundation Stage entrance.

We have lots of ideas for themes after Christmas but in line with good early years practice we will be ‘going’ with the children, however this is our thinking currently:

Autumn A	Autumn B	Spring A	Spring B	Summer A	Summer B
Julia Donaldson and Rhyme	Festivals and Seasons	Dinosaurs	On the Farm	Minibeasts	Pirates

Please keep these ideas a secret from the children as many of our topics have surprise elements and we wish to make them as exciting and real for the children as we can.

Educational Visits

Over the year we aim to enhance the children’s learning through theme related visits. We aim to do one trip or have a visitor come to school per term.

Autumn	Spring	Summer
Christmas themed trip	Farm Trip	Lower Smit Farm Theatre Trip (to be confirmed)

The approximate costs, including admission and transport fees, are likely to be up to £25 per trip. A small fee for insurance will also be added to the first visit. Please note that due to price increases in admission and fuel, these may be subject to change. We will endeavour to send out letters about trips and details of payment at least 6 weeks before the proposed trip date. These visits are only possible if parents/carers meet the cost through ‘voluntary’ contributions. In the event that insufficient contributions are received such visits do not go ahead. We are able to support the cost of visits for children who are eligible for Pupil Premium Funding.

Our Outdoor Classroom

Weather permitting, the children have access to the outdoor classroom and it provides them with another full set of learning opportunities, mirroring the areas inside - role play, writing, number, creative and so on. The children have been using this space over the past few weeks and have been introduced to the rules and expectations. They now all know it has exactly the same rules as the indoor space and is not a “play area.”

The children will have their playtimes on the main school playground with some older children, where they can run around as much as they like.

E-Safety

The internet is an integral part of children’s lives today and opens up many educational and social opportunities, giving them access to, quite literally, a world of information and experience. We take e-safety very seriously and, in line with current e-safety guidelines, we use monitoring software on all school machines to help keep pupils and staff safe when using our computers and the internet. An active Acceptable Use Policy is also in operation, requiring acknowledgment

each time a user logs on to the equipment in school before access is granted. We have a dedicated e-safety section on the school website to provide information on how to keep your children and yourselves safer online. You will also receive monthly e-safety newsletters keeping you updated with current trends and tips for keeping children safe when online outside of school.

Please follow this link to see any past newsletters and other useful E-Safety information.

<https://www.lyppardgrange.worcs.sch.uk/online-safety/>

Supporting your child at home

- **Reading** - Every child will receive a book bag during their home visit. Please bring this to school every day. The children will place it in the box provided in your child's classroom. You will receive further information about how to support your child with reading at home at the Foundation Stage Workshops.
- **Phonics** - Over the next few weeks, we will start to introduce your child to the letters of the alphabet using 'Jolly Phonics', an action and pictorial method of phonics teaching. We would love for you to learn these actions with your child. You will be given a sheet with the action and sound for each letter and we will explain a lot more about the teaching of phonics and how you can support your child at the Foundation Stage Workshops.
- **Evidence from home** - All of the work your children will do over the year and the observations we make of their wonderful progress go into our iPad Learning Journeys. Please send in any evidence from home to contribute to these; it is really useful to us to build a full picture of each and every child to complete their Foundation Stage Profile at the end of the year. These could be photographs, post-it notes, an email or even a scrap of paper with a written note on it. Your contributions are really appreciated and incredibly valuable as the evidence and experiences you and your children will have may be very different to those that they have at school, for example riding their bike without stabilisers for the first time.

You can send evidence to:

Miss Campion at scampion@villagestrust.co.uk

Mrs Fogwill at gfogwill@villagestrust.co.uk

"What did you do today? Nothing much....."

Does this sound familiar? Please look at our parent notice board to the left of the EYFS door. On here we will write up what we have been doing each day so that you have conversation starting points with your children. We will also put up the sounds we have been covering in phonics and any other messages and notices for the week.

Additional staff

Mrs Grindrod teaches the Elephants on Fridays. In addition to this, every teacher is given time out of the classroom for planning, preparation and assessment purposes each week. Mrs Grindrod will cover Mrs Fogwill's release time and Miss Joy will be providing cover for Miss Campion.

Special Educational Needs

As a community school we welcome and provide for all children regardless of their culture, background or special educational needs. If you have any concerns about your child's individual needs please arrange an appointment to discuss these with us and our school SENDCo (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities co-ordinator), Mrs Claire Edwards. We ask that you respect every family and their needs by showing your tolerance and acceptance of every child within our school, especially in front of your own children. If you have any concerns about the behaviour or support given to individual children we would be happy to discuss our policy with you further by appointment.

Nursery records

Thank you to you and your child's pre-school settings for the efficient transfer of the children's records. We are in the process of making our baseline assessments for your child and are making reference to your child's records from nursery to inform our judgements.

Upcoming dates

Tuesday 30th September – Workshops (EYFS Classrooms)

Thursday 2nd October – Workshops (EYFS Classrooms)

Wednesday 24th September – EYFS individual school photo

Our school

Much of the correspondence you receive from school will contain abbreviations. For clarification:

FS is Foundation Stage. We are also referred to as YR (Reception) and EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage)

KS1 is Key Stage One. This encompasses Years 1 and 2

KS2 is Key Stage Two. This encompasses Years 3 to 6

With thanks for your support this term,

Sarah Campion, Gemma Fogwill and Katherine Grindrod (Class Teachers)

Rebecca Godfrey, Katrina Hine and Kerry Horne (Teaching Assistants)

Anna Joy and Katherine Grindrod (Forest School Teachers)

