



**Grange View C.E. First School**

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***Grange View C.E. First School***

***We aim to SPARKLE!***



**The Early Years: Information for  
Nursery and Reception Parents  
2023 / 2024**

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Grange View C of E First School. We would like to take this opportunity to introduce the Early Year's team to those of you who do not yet know us and to give you some details about our Early Years Unit.

It's a big step in a child's life to start school. We're here to ensure that your child goes into Nursery and Reception feeling as safe and secure as possible. Our aim is to make the Early Year's a child centred and happy learning environment. One of our main advantages of having an Early Years Unit is that the staff and children all work together. The children become familiar with Nursery routines before they move into Reception.

## Staffing

### The Early Year's Team this term is:

- ❖ Mrs L Waters - Reception Class Teacher & Early Years Co-ordinator  
(Maternity Leave)
- ❖ Mrs L Henderson - Reception Class Teacher
  - ❖ Mrs L Tait - Teaching Assistant
- ❖ Mrs V Swordy - Teaching Assistant (Maternity Leave)
  - ❖ Miss C Bell - SEN Teaching Assistant
  - ❖ Miss D Gutherson - Teaching Assistant
  - ❖ Mrs Cryer - Teaching Assistant
- ❖ Miss Clapperton - SEN Teaching Assistant

## Class Organisation

Our Nursery offers 5 morning sessions (15 hrs per week) to all children and also 5 full day sessions (30 hrs per week) to those who are eligible. If you wish to access the 30hrs free childcare please access the website by following this link <https://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare>

Once you have received your 30hrs eligibility code, you will need to provide your details to the office. The staff work closely together aiming to provide a high quality, balanced curriculum. The classes are located in two adjoining rooms - Oak Classroom being where Reception are based and Acorn Classroom where Nursery are based. Both classes access the Early Years Unit.

## The Aims of Foundation Stage

Our aim in Nursery is to provide the children with a happy and secure environment where they will gain confidence and learn to play and develop with other children, joining in with all the activities provided.

We provide a wide and varied curriculum, which carefully follows guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage as set out by the Department for Education. We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Aims and Principles to develop the whole child, believing the following:

### A Unique Child

Every child is a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.

### Positive Relationships

Children learn to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with parents and/or a key person.

### Enabling Environments

The environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning.

### Learning and Development

Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates and all areas of Learning and Development are equally important and inter-connected.

## The Foundation Stage

Nursery is the beginning of the Early Years Foundation Stage progressing to Reception in the school year your child is 5. The aim of the Early Years Foundation Stage is to build on the early learning that begins at home. Throughout the Early Years Unit the staff help the children to develop their skills and knowledge further. It also prepares them for more formal learning in Key Stage 1.

Encouraging young children to learn through play is what the best Early Years providers have always done. Every child who goes to a school or Ofsted registered childcare provider will be able to take advantage of this approach, wherever they live. It's not about introducing a curriculum for young children, or making them read or write before they are ready. It means being sure each individual child is learning through high quality play, that's tailored to them. It means they develop at their own pace, having fun, making friends and learning as they play. This will enable them to become confident, happy children who, when the time comes, are well prepared to progress through school. Not pushed, not pressured but ready to reach their potential.



## The Curriculum

The Early Years Curriculum is split into seven areas of learning:

The three prime areas being;

- Communication and Language
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development

The specific areas being



- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding of the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Whether children are in Nursery or Reception, the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum is firmly based on practical activities where children can explore new concepts and make links with their existing knowledge. Class teaching, small group work and individual work will be part of the day.

Our planning is based on the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and the Early Learning Goals. The staff build up a record of children's achievements during their time in the Nursery and Reception through observations and the use of School 360, an on-line learning journal which can be accessed by parents as well as staff. The children are assessed throughout their time in early years, building up an individual Foundation Stage Profile. All children are assessed on entry to Reception to give a baseline.

The statutory Early Learning Goals establish the expected level of development for children to reach by the end of the EYFS. They provide the basis for planning throughout the EYFS, so laying secure foundations from birth for future learning. By the end of the EYFS, most children will have reached the expected level of development and some children may still be emerging into this, while some will have exceeded this. Development very much depends on the individual child and his/her needs.



# Nursery Class Organisation



Our Nursery is called Acorn Class.

Children can start Nursery in the term of their third birthday if a place is available. The children must be accompanied to and from the nursery by a responsible adult, and, for safety reasons, the class teacher must be informed of any changes to these arrangements. Children will be dropped off at Acorn entrance and collected from there.

**Morning Session - 8.45am - 11.45am**

**Doors open at 8.45am and collection will begin at 11.40am (15 hrs per week) or 3.10 (30 hrs per week)**

## Drop Off & Collection

Bringing and collecting your child promptly helps Nursery staff and prevents your child feeling that he/she has been forgotten and worrying about where you are. If you arrive after the above times please enter school via the Main entrance.

If your child finds it difficult to settle, the staff will speak to you privately and put in place strategies to ease this process.

## Milk

As the Nursery class is run by Northumberland County Council and supported by Newcastle Diocese there is no fee. Milk is provided free of charge for all children under the age of five. A piece of fruit is also given to each child at snack time.

Children accessing the 30 hrs provision will need to bring a packed lunch or pay for a school lunch.

## Clothing

Accidents happen and we sometimes have to change children, so please can you provide spare clothes to keep on your child's coat peg. If we have used nursery clothes a speedy return of these clothes helps us greatly.

We go outside in all weathers, so please can you make sure your child always has a named coat, hat and wellies at school.

## Illness and Absence

If your child has any kind of infectious illness please keep him/her away from Nursery for a few days, and inform school about the reason for absence as soon as possible. For vomiting and /or diarrhoea you should observe our 48hour ruling whereby your child must be clear of symptoms for 48 hours before they return to

school. Your cooperation with this is greatly appreciated to prevent any germs etc being passed around the unit.

Children's toys from home may get broken or lost so please leave them at home.

Please let staff know of any changes at home that will affect your child, and any changes of address and contact telephone numbers so that you can always be contacted if needed.

For safety reasons we adopt a no jewellery policy in Nursery and Main School. However if you choose to have your child's ears pierced this is at your own risk. In order to reduce the risk we suggest you tape the earrings for every session.

### **Some Practical Suggestions for our smallest school members:**

- Help children to be independent by ensuring that they wear the sort of clothes that they can manage themselves.
- Name all clothes including coats, hats, gloves and wellies.
- Re-enforce toilet procedures ensuring that children can manage themselves.
- Encourage your child to share books with you (a love of books will help your child to learn to read). In Nursery and Reception your child will visit the library every week and bring home a book of their choice to share with you. Book bags, can be purchased from the main school office to carry their books.
- Give your child confidence - praise his/her effort and be prepared to answer all questions.
- Talk about experiences and listen when he/she talks.
- Talk about colour, shape, size, positions (in front behind) how things look and feel etc.
- Let him/her help at home.



If at any time you are worried about any aspects of your child's Nursery Education do not hesitate to have a chat with the teacher. All staff will do their best to help.

## **Transition to Reception**



Our Reception Class is called Oak Class.

Starting school can be a daunting experience with many new activities. We aim to strike a balance that enables your child to enjoy school and to arrive home with enough energy to share their experiences with you.

Milk is free for children under five years old. During the term in which your child reaches his/her 5<sup>th</sup> birthday you will be required pay for milk if this is required, the cost of which varies according to the number of days in a term. If you wish your child to have milk please confirm this with the class teacher when your child starts Reception.

### **School Lunches**

Universal Free School Meals are available to all children from Reception to Year 2 and it is a general expectation that all children who are eligible take up these from September. If you want your child to opt out of this entitlement and for you to provide a packed lunch, please confirm this with the class teacher. If you opt for Packed lunches, these must be healthy and not contain chocolate or fizzy drinks and follow our packed lunch policy. If you are in receipt of benefits you must apply for pupil premium as once your child is 5 you will get free milk and other help. Information is available from the school office.

### **Illness and Absence**

If your child has any kind of infectious illness please keep him/her away from school for a few days and inform school about the reason for absence. For vomiting and /or diarrhoea you should observe our 48hour ruling whereby your child must be clear of symptoms for 48 hours before they return to school. Your cooperation with this is greatly appreciated to prevent any germs etc being passed around the unit.

Please let staff know of any changes that will affect your child, as well as any change of address, telephone/mobile numbers and emergency contacts. These numbers are very important as we communicate with parents via a text messaging service and you may miss out on important information if mobile numbers are not kept up to date.

For safety reasons we adopt a no jewellery policy in reception and main school. However if you choose to have your child's ears pierced this is at your own risk. In order to reduce the risk we suggest you tape the earrings for every session.

### **Safety and medication**

In order to ensure the safety and security of your child, all visitors to the school must sign in and wear identification badges and the main external doors are locked on closing.

We only administer medication that is prescribed by a doctor and this should be left at the school office once a Parental Request for Medication to be Administered document is completed.



**'Over The Counter' medication cannot be administered by school staff.**

### **Curriculum**



Children in reception continue to learn through practical experiences based on the foundation stage curriculum.

### **Phonics**

At Grange View we begin learning to read by first learning the 44 sounds in the English language using a scheme called Read Write Inc. Once the children are confident with these sounds we begin to blend them to make words.



We have a wide range of books, which we use to develop our children's reading experiences.

These will include structured scheme books and books from our classroom library. We consider every book to be a 'reading book' and part of learning to read. Children will be encouraged to take books home to share with you. Each child will be given a reading record booklet in there we will write about your child's achievements we would also appreciate your comments about how well your child is reading at home.

Often we will use picture books encouraging children to talk about the story portrayed. Then they will have a repetitive text so the children have the satisfaction of 'reading' a whole book and can make decisions about what may happen and remember the story line. Our aim is that children build up a store of words they can read whilst developing the skill of comprehension at the same time. At first children need us to read books to them. Gradually you will find that they can read much of the text themselves but need help with some words. We need to talk to children about their books at all stages of learning and we need your help and time, to make this an enjoyable experience.

### **Mathematical Development**

Mathematical development depends on becoming confident and competent in learning and using key skills. In early years we help the child to learn to count, sort, match, find patterns and work with numbers, shapes, space and measurement. Mathematical understanding is developed through stories, songs, games and imaginative play, so that children enjoy using and experimenting with numbers up to 10 and beyond.



## School Admission Policy

Admissions are currently based on county and school policies.

We welcome any children from within the local community whose parents want a broad education within the family atmosphere of our school with distinctively Christian values.

We wish to make our Nursery provision accessible to three and four year olds and their families throughout the local community.

We will normally expect a child to be toilet trained before admission to the group. Discretion will be exercised by the Head teacher, who will consider each child on an individual basis. We are able to deal with everyday accidents. Should the number of applicants exceed the places available in the year; the following criteria will be applied when allocating children a place.

1. Children whose parents wish them to attend all available sessions
2. Children who have an older brother or sister already attending the school or the Early Year's Unit, and who is expected to be on the role at the time of admission.
3. Children on whose behalf evidence of exceptional medical or social need is presented including looked after children that can be met by the facilities available in this school. This will have to be supported by a professionally involved third party. In such exceptional cases, the age of admission may be different from the norm mentioned above.
4. A child residing within the catchment area of the school, or on whose behalf firm evidence is presented that they will be resident in the catchment area by the appropriate admission date.
5. Children of parents who are members of the Church of England and who are resident in the parish of St. John the Baptist.
6. Children whose parents are members of another Christian Church whose membership is attested by the Minister of that church, with preference given to those residents within the catchment area.

## Catchment Area

- Mile Road
- Ferneybeds
- Chibburn Court
- Lintonburn Park
- The Gables
- Parkside Gardens
- Grainger Homes Estate
- East Acres
- Old Council
- New Council
- Grange Court
- Stobswood and surrounding areas
- Houndalee Farm
- Hemscott Hill

If an application is turned down an explanation will be provided based on the selection criteria. Appeals against decisions on applications for admission should be directed to the Chair of Governors.

In the event of a tie, the child living nearest to the school, as the crow flies will be awarded a place.

A place obtained in the Nursery Class, attached to Grange View First School **does not guarantee admission to this school**. Admission for school entry is administered by Northumberland LEA and the online admission portal opens from the October preceding entry to Reception the following September.

Starting school is a very exciting opportunity for children and their parents. The staff and governors are looking forward to working with you to ensure that your child has the best possible start to his/her school life. We hope that your child's time with us will be happy and successful.

Please contact me to discuss any worries or concerns that you may have or to share any information which we may need to know.

Many thanks,

*Louise Laskey*

**Mrs Louise Laskey**

Head Teacher