



The Early Years Foundation Stage

Reception



Starting School Information Booklet

We are pleased to welcome your child into our Reception classes at Sharley Park Community Primary School. This is your child's first step into school life and we hope that together we can make it a happy and successful one. This short booklet will tell you lots of things about our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), what we do and how you can help at home to prepare your child for their first year at school. Our aim is to work together in partnership to make this transition into school a smooth, pleasant and happy experience for you and your child.

Our Early Years Foundation Stage is made up of two classes. The EYFS follows its own curriculum and places learning and achievement firmly within a context of play and practical, experiential learning.



The School Day

School gates open 8.40am
Classroom doors open at 8.45am
Registration 8.55am
Lunchtime is 11.40 – 12.40pm
End of day 3.15pm

We ask all of our families to wait on the EYFS outdoor learning area before and after school. **Please keep your children with you as this area will be set up ready for the day's learning, do not allow them to play on the equipment.**

When the classroom doors open the children will be greeted by the staff member on the door and should then come into the classroom and begin to put their belongings away and get ready for the day's learning. Your child will then be encouraged and supported, using the 'Morning Checklist', to independently find their name for the self-registration system, put their book bag in their drawer, put their water bottle in the correct place, hang up their coat, and if appropriate put their lunch box in the correct place and collect their writing pack. Please try and help your child at the beginning of the day by being on time, so there is a smooth, anxiety-free start to the day.



School Meals

Our daily lunch menu offers three choices: a cooked school meal (including vegetarian option), a sandwich (fillings change daily) or a jacket potato (fillings change daily). Menus are posted on ClassDojo for you to look at with your child and help them to choose something they would enjoy. Alternatively, children may bring with them a packed lunch prepared at home. **Since September 2014, all children of infant school age receive a free school meal.** You may wish your child to have a free school meal every day or just sometimes, your child will just need to tell the teacher in the morning during registration.

Children are encouraged and praised for eating well at lunchtimes but they are never forced. We operate on a **'no news is good news'** policy meaning that unless the class teacher has concerns over your child's eating then you can assume that your child is both confident and happy with their lunchtime eating habits. If your child brings a packed lunch, we encourage your child to return all uneaten food in their lunch box, so you can monitor what they have eaten. To ensure the safety of children in the school with nut allergies, please do not include any food that may contain nuts in packed lunches. We also discourage children from bringing sweets, chocolate and fizzy drinks.

At Sharley Park, we promote healthy eating. All children should bring a named bottle containing **water** to school each day. These are kept in class to ensure that children have regular access to a drink throughout the day. At snack time children will also have access to a piece of fresh fruit or vegetable, provided by the school and a drink of milk until their 5th birthday.



School Uniform

Children should wear sensible clothing and shoes and **should be able to dress and undress themselves**. We like to see our pupils wearing uniform and having a clear Sharley Park identity. It is important for your child's Personal, Social and Emotional Development that they both feel and understand that they belong to our school family.

Children in the reception class adopt the school uniform policy of the main school. Full details are given in the school prospectus but it primarily consists of:

- ❖ Red sweatshirt or cardigan.
- ❖ White or red polo shirt.
- ❖ Black or dark grey trousers or shorts.
- ❖ Gingham dresses are also available if your child prefers.

Children are not allowed to wear any items of clothing with designer labels and this includes sportswear in school. School uniform is available from several online providers which can be found on the school website at

<https://www.sharleypark.derbyshire.sch.uk/page/?title=Uniform+Orders&pid=57>

Buying uniform with the school LOGO is not compulsory and parents may choose to buy school wear from the high street. Please stick to the school colours of red and white with dark trousers.

We actively encourage children come to school in clothes that are suitable for school life, i.e. glue, paint and mud!



Physical Development

All reception children complete weekly sessions of Physical Development.

The school P.E. kit consists of:

- ❖ Black shorts
- ❖ Red or white T-shirt
- ❖ Plimsolls or trainers

Please ensure all items of clothing are clearly name labelled

All kits should be contained in a labelled drawstring P.E. bag and kept in school.

For your child's safety and protection please ensure that they do not wear necklaces, watches, rings, earrings or bracelets to school.

Things your Child Needs to Bring to School Every Day

- ❖ Book bag (for reading books, newsletters and home/school book. Please encourage your child to bring every day); Ruck sacks are not suitable as they do not fit in the children's drawers provided, so a book bag is easier for your child to manage independently.
- ❖ Water bottle (named and kept in classroom) – taken home each day for refilling.
- ❖ Outdoor coat, suitable to the weather and season. A raincoat, jacket, wellies and sunhat may be kept in school for outdoor learning opportunities.



Communication with parents

As a school we use an app called 'ClassDojo', this helps you to stay in touch with what is happening both in school and in your child's particular class. As staff we post news and messages on the 'blog' to make sure you have the latest information about upcoming events and what your child has been learning, with tips on how to help them at home. We award children dojo points throughout the week and you can choose to be notified when your child gets any dojos. The children gather points over the week and the weekly winner gets a small prize from the 'Dojo Shop'. It also has a messaging function so that you can directly message a member of staff in your child's class team, the office staff or a member of the wider school team, such as our Headteacher, Deputy Head, SENDCo or Pastoral manager if the need should arise. It is really important to get yourself logged into your child's account, you will be given a sign-up sheet in the pack of information, please ensure you return this asap to school. If you have more than one child in school you will need to toggle between their accounts within the app to ensure you keep up to date with both class' information.

Induction Period

In September, all children at Sharley Park start school on a part-time basis for 2 weeks. This is to support your child with settling into the school routine and enabling them to get to know all the practitioners in the early years setting (Teachers, Teaching Assistants and Dinner Ladies).

Our starting school process gives a greater opportunity for your child to feel secure and the practitioners to get to know your child well.

Settling into School

Remember all children respond differently to starting school. As the practitioners working with your children, we endeavour to make their experience of school fun, familiar and secure. As a parent/carer you can help us by reassuring your child, being positive about school and being careful that your own anxieties do not influence your child. Remember some children will tell you every detail of their school day. Other children tell you nothing!

If you or your child have particular worries or concerns, just have a chat with the teacher (out of earshot of your child may be appropriate). The best time to do this is at the end of the school day once the teacher has safely handed over all the children to their parents/carers. You could also send a private message to staff on dojo.

Remember your child is only four years old and may have 'misread' situations. Set your mind at rest and chat to the practitioners. On the other hand, you'll be surprised how independent your four year-old can be, when allowed.

The Outside Classroom

Our outside area is used daily as a learning area and we would appreciate parents fully supervising their children at the start and end of each session as this is usually prepared for morning learning.

Children are **not permitted** to access the equipment or facilities in the outside learning area at this time



Learning Through Play

In Reception at Sharley Park your child will be in the final year of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). This is the ages and stages that cover birth to age 5. This very special time for your child at Sharley Park continues the journey from home and preschool and is the foundation of future learning and success.

Information about <https://www.sharleypark.derbyshire.sch.uk/page/?title=Reception&pid=39>

The EYFS Framework (2021) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2> explains how and what your child will be learning to support their healthy development. Your child will be learning through play and learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development.

The curriculum covers 3 **prime areas** of learning:

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

Alongside 4 **specific areas**;

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World;
- Expressive Arts and Design.

The Early Years Foundation Stage team work alongside one another to offer children the highest quality early years' experience in a welcoming, safe and secure environment. We strive to make a positive contribution to children's early development and to help them develop skills which will form the basis for lifelong learning. We aim to give all children an enthusiasm for learning and ensure that all children achieve their full potential.

At Sharley Park Community Primary School, we place immense value on partnerships with parents and carers, everyone working together for the benefit of each individual child.

What is it Like?

Within the reception class children continue to follow EYFS curriculum. Classroom organisation and teaching activities are very similar in design and implementation to those in Nursery and Pre-school settings. However, in Reception greater emphasis is placed on the development of specific skills such as reading, writing and mathematics. Children work in larger groupings and for more sustained periods of time, as well as engaging in opportunities to develop their play as part of well planned, purposeful 'Mighty Mouse Learning' time.



A visit to our reception class will reveal a bright and stimulating learning environment with key organisational features. Areas of learning are used and children are typically given regular access to areas such as:

- Role play
- Sand and water play
- Creative activities - modelling, paint, drawing, collage
- Making Marks and Writing
- Maths activities
- Phonics development
- Large and small scale construction
- Funky Fingers Station
- Imaginative play
- Quiet reading area
- ICT and Technology
- Small equipment play - jigsaws, games
- Outdoor Play and Learning
- Exploration and Investigation

Assessment

Within the first 6 weeks of Reception the children will all complete the statutory National Reception Baseline Assessment, the children will sit with a staff member and complete a range of activities, from 2025 this will be completed using an electronic tablet. Staff will also complete other activities with the children to get a clear sense of where each child is socially, emotionally and academically and these with the Reception Baseline activities will form the basis of the school's initial assessment.

As part of our provision children will be continually assessed as part of their everyday activities during the Reception Year. This will be achieved using observation of children at play and their responses to adult led activities. Ongoing observations are documented using photographs and videos which are collated and saved using a secure online Learning Journal which is part of our assessment package Target Tracker.

We share your child's progress and learning with you in a variety of ways as well as providing an opportunity for you as parents to become actively involved in the learning and assessment process by sharing your knowledge of your child's progress using our 'Mighty Mice' notes.

At the end of the Reception Year all children are assessed against national expectations using the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and the results reported to parents as their child leaves EYFS. Children will be assessed as being at Age Related Expectation (ARE) or working towards ARE for each Early Learning Goal. Parents are informed of their child's progress during consultation evenings held twice yearly and a written report indicating progress in each of the areas of learning is sent home at the end of the summer term.

Reading at Home

In reception all children will be allocated a reading book and reading record. Research shows that the skill of learning to read is maximised when children practise 'little and often'. We ask that children in Reception spend 5 -10 minutes daily practising reading by sharing the book with an adult, trying to use their phonic skills and pictures to decode the words and sharing their thoughts about the story. **It is a school expectation that children should read at home at least 4 times a week, and record this in their reading diary.** Reading diaries are checked weekly, and children awarded 'Dojo' points for each time they have read. Children will start with a 'no word' book and guidance will be provided to help parents support their child at all stages of their phonic and reading development. All children will have a 'Reading for pleasure' book, the children choose these weekly, this book is for you to read to your child and talk to your child about the characters and the events in the story – it is not intended for your child to read to you.



Phonics

At Sharley Park we use the Read Write Inc scheme as a means of developing children's early phonics and reading skills. The systematic teaching of phonics is designed to assist the development of early reading and writing skills through 'units of sound'. During the autumn term, we will hopefully organise a reading and phonics workshop for all Reception parents so that we can provide you with essential information and further guidance on supporting your child's reading and phonics development. Once your child knows a number of sounds they will be given a RWInc phonic book, these book match exactly to the sounds you child knows and therefore they should be able to read these books independently.

Letter and Number Formation

When your child is drawing, colouring or mark making, please try to support the use of a tripod pencil grip whenever possible.

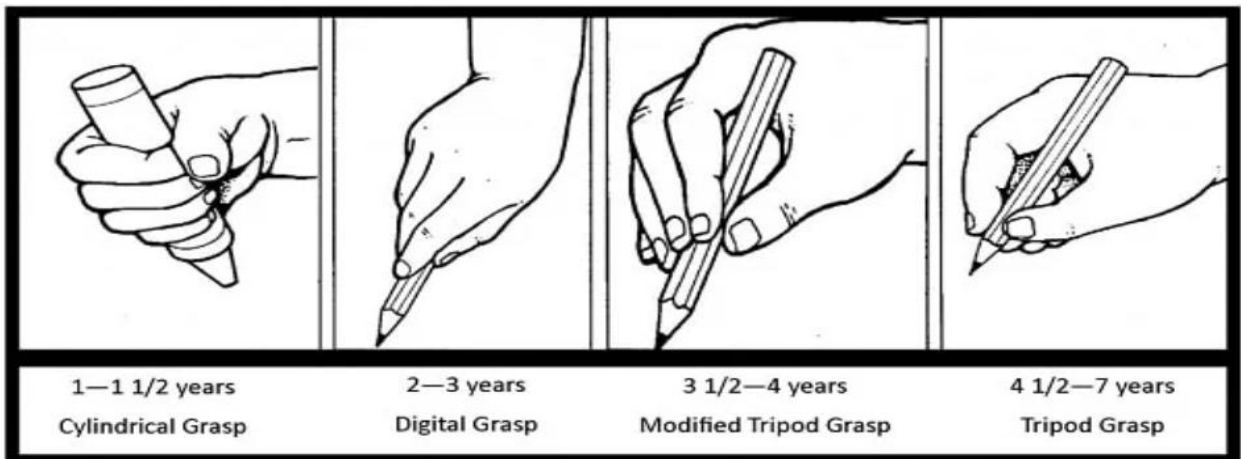
Writing

As part of their development children will be practising and extending their fine motor co-ordination and control. Their abilities to hold a pencil correctly and control the movements made in order to begin writing. Motor movement and letter formation skills are very important once a child begins to mark-make, so that 'bad habits' are not acquired letter formation is taught

a b c d e
 f g h i j
 k l m n o
 p q r s t
 u v w x y
 z

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

using simple movement sequences and letter familiarise referred to.





Other Important Information

Absence

If you feel your child is too unwell to attend school then please let the office know. Keep him/her at home until you feel they are well enough to be back at school, however, please be aware that your child may pick up several cough/cold type illnesses particularly during the first few weeks and can still manage at school. If we find that your child is not well enough to be in school we will contact you to collect them. If your child is sick or has had diarrhoea please keep them at home until 48 hours after the last time they vomit/have a loose motion. Please let us know about any illness by telephoning the school office on the first day of absence before 9am and each day after.

Telephone Number 01246 864833

If you wish to take leave of absence during term time, an application form can be obtained from the main school office.

Child Safety

The safety of our children is of utmost importance to us. The Reception class and outside learning area is secure to outside visitors and access is made through locked gates, which are secured after morning registration is complete.

Reception children must only be collected by someone over the age of 16 years and staff are not permitted to allow a Reception child to leave with someone unfamiliar to either themselves or the child. If your child's collection arrangements are altered for any reason please inform staff as soon as possible either by telephoning the school office or via a private message using Class Dojo. We ask that you use a password system, should someone unfamiliar to staff be collecting your child.

Emergency Contact Details

On occasion we may need to contact parents during the school day as a result of illness or accident. All parents are required to complete a personal information form prior to starting school which gives details of emergency contacts. These pupil details and emergency contact numbers are filed electronically using a secure system. If you have any changes to address and emergency contact numbers please inform the school office as soon as possible.

We also operate a text messaging service for parents which provides details of events, school changes and other information directly to a parent's mobile phone. Please ensure you numbers are kept up to date.

Parental Concerns

We want parents and the community to show an interest in and care about the work we do. We operate an open door policy, so if you have any questions or concerns about your child's education or well-being in Foundation Stage, please make an appointment to speak with the class teacher or Mrs Wass (EYFS Lead). We are strongly committed to working in partnership with parents and staff will do our best to allocate time to discuss any concerns you may have.

Behaviour

In Reception we promote an atmosphere of caring, self-control and cooperation between all children. Throughout the school we adopt a positive behaviour strategy and full details of this is in the school behaviour policy which can be found on the website at

<https://www.sharleypark.derbyshire.sch.uk/page/?title=Policies&pid=20>

Regular circle time activities help to promote positive relationships and develop social skills. Praise and rewards are given to children who display positive behaviour and we have a weekly celebration assembly to promote and praise those children who have shown outstanding progress, effort or manners during the week.

Curriculum Events for Parents of Reception Children

Each week we will update our blog on Class Dojo, so that we can inform you about the learning and activities we have been doing at school and provide you with ideas to imprint this learning at home. We welcome parents to share their child's home learning opportunities through dojo too. We have meetings throughout the year which give you more insight into your child's typical day in the Reception and the Reception curriculum. We will let you know when these events take place. We hope you will be able to attend these meetings. Your enthusiasm and encouragement help to make the teacher's task easier and more manageable.



This booklet, we hope, has provided some information about the Early Years Foundation Stage at Sharley Park Community Primary School. More information regarding the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum can be found at <http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/> or in our EYFS Information booklet and policy on our school website at <https://www.sharleypark.derbyshire.sch.uk/>

A helpful guide to how your child is learning and developing in the first five years can be found here: <https://foundationyears.org.uk/2019/09/resources-for-parents/>

For information on being 'school ready' please see <https://www.pacey.org.uk/working-in-childcare/spotlight-on/being-school-ready/>

Derbyshire has created the 10 keys for school readiness which can be found at <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/site-elements/documents/pdf/education/early-years-childcare/ready-for-school/ready-for-school-leaflet.pdf>

And also small steps to unlocking those keys at <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/early-years-childcare/ready-for-school/working-together/working-together-to-be-ready-for-school.aspx>

The NHS have some useful pages around Learning and development and also sleep patterns (which is essential for growth and development) <https://www.nhs.uk/start-for-life/early-learning-development/> and <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/health/sleep-and-young-children/>

The BBC website Tiny Happy People has lots of great ideas for activities to support your child's development from birth <https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>

Your support and partnership is an essential part in what we do and what we aim to achieve in your child's first year, we hope you and your child will have fond and happy memories of the time they spend in Reception.

We look forward to meeting and working with you and your child.
Kindest regards,

The EYFS Team