

Welcome to Parkwood Primary School September 2022



Dear Parents.

What an exciting time it is in any child's life, to start school and continue their journey into learning. We know that Parkwood will give your child so many exciting opportunities and we encourage your child to come to our school as we feel it's a really special place.

Parkwood Primary School provides a broad and balanced set of learning opportunities to our fantastic pupils. We wish them to leave a lesson, a classroom, a year group, or the school, having built up skills, knowledge and experiences that give them greater understanding and confidence to contribute to the wider world.

We implement this through the quality first teaching of a wide range of subjects, topics and opportunities. We want all our learners to be the key drivers of their own learning, building up resilience and independence. Our staff are also life long learners and partners on the children's learning journey.

At Parkwood we believe that an inspired child, who has been immersed in a subject is better able to learn and articulate their thoughts and feelings. We want our children to step into their learning and gain knowledge through the way they feel as well as developing their thoughts.

Every child is an individual and our inclusion of all children in their learning means that lessons are personalised and built around the needs, talents and uniqueness of each pupil. This is so that all children achieve well, feel challenged to make the next steps and make good progress.

The impact of the curriculum as well as extra curricular opportunities is that we will have young people who are always eager to learn, able to make the most of their potential and ready for exciting and successful futures. The future belongs to those who are inspired today.

Our three rules are: BE RESPECTFUL, BE SAFE, BE READY.

We understand the move from nursery or playgroup to school can feel like a huge step, for you as well as your child. It can also be a very exciting time too. To reassure you both we have compiled this booklet to give you information about our school, the curriculum and how you can help your child settle in. I hope you find the information in this booklet helpful. However, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

We look forward to welcoming you in September and working together in partnership with you.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Moir
Headteacher

Top Tips to Help Your Child

1. Arrive as near to the start of school day as possible, so that if your child is anxious they do not have too much time to worry about going in.
2. Help your child to become independent. Velcro shoes are great! They could practice getting dressed and putting on a coat.
3. Name everything! We have lots of school jumpers, coats and many lunch-boxes that are identical.
4. Please let us know if you will not be collecting your child from school. It is our policy not to release a child to anyone if we do not know about it.
5. Try to ensure that your child can cope with visits to the toilet. Please let us know if they are likely to encounter any problems and reassure your child that nobody will be cross if accidents do happen.
6. Try to teach your child to use a knife and fork, even if they do have a packed lunch, it is a useful skill and helps them to feel grown up.
7. It also helps if your child can recognise his/her own name.
8. We also encourage good manners and praise courtesy so it may be worthwhile to remind them at home of this.
9. It is also a good idea to encourage your child to share and be prepared to take turns.
10. Finally, and most important of all talk to your child about starting school so that they look forward to coming!

The Early Years Foundation Stage

The current Foundation Stage Curriculum consists of the following areas of learning.

PRIME AREAS

1. Personal, Social and Emotional Development
2. Communication and Language
3. Physical Development

These are crucial for developing children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning.

SPECIFIC AREAS

4. Literacy
5. Mathematics
6. Understanding the world
7. Expressive arts and design

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Developing learning in this area enables your child to:

- ⇒ Become self-confident, develop a positive sense of self and set themselves simple goals.
- ⇒ Make and build relationships .
- ⇒ Manage personal needs, look after their bodies and understand what “healthy eating” means.
- ⇒ Become independent
- ⇒ Manage feelings and behaviour - tell the difference between right and wrong.

Working Together



Communication and Language

Developing learning in this area enables your child to:

- ⇒ Develop conversational skills in a rich language environment and in a range of situations.
- ⇒ Develop listening and concentration skills.
- ⇒ Express themselves and understand and act on instructions given to them.
- ⇒ Develop their conversational skills and develop a desire to ask questions and enquire.

Retelling Stories



Physical Development

Developing learning in this area enables your child to:

- ⇒ Provides opportunities for using a range of large and small equipment.
- ⇒ Develop a sense of space around themselves and others.
- ⇒ Encourages balance.
- ⇒ Develop practical skills such as dressing, undressing etc.
- ⇒ Handle equipment and tools effectively including pencils for writing.
- ⇒ Develop fine motor and gross motor skills.



Literacy

Developing learning in this area enables your child to:

Reading and comprehension

- ⇒ Develop language comprehension and word reading.
- ⇒ Predict key events within a story.
- ⇒ Segment sounds in words and blend them.
- ⇒ Speedy working out of unfamiliar words.
- ⇒ Speeding reading of familiar words.
- ⇒ Read words and simple sentences.
- ⇒ Develop a life long love of reading.



Writing

- ⇒ Develop pencil control.
- ⇒ Communicate meaning through clearly identifiable cursive letters.
- ⇒ Spell words by identifying sounds in them.
- ⇒ Write simple phrases and sentences than can be read by others.



Mathematical Development

Developing learning in this area enables your child to:

Number

- ⇒ Develop a deep understanding of numbers up to 10.
- ⇒ Recall number bonds up to 5 and beyond.
- ⇒ Recognise quantities of numbers without counting.
- ⇒ Develop a positive attitude and interest with in Mathematics.



Numerical Patterns

- ⇒ Verbally counting numbers beyond 20.
- ⇒ Recognising patterns within the number system and spot connections.
- ⇒ Develop their spatial reasoning skills across number, shape, space and measures .



Understanding of the World

Developing learning in this area enables your child to:

- ⇒ Gain an understanding of their world and the people in it.
- ⇒ To look at changes over time and compare the past and present.
- ⇒ Explore the natural world around and make observations of animals and plants.
- ⇒ Understand some important processes and changes in the natural World.



Expressive Arts and Design

Developing learning in this area enables your child to:

- ⇒ Inspires children to explore colour and colour changes.
- ⇒ Helps them to explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques
- ⇒ Experiment with colour, design, and textures.
- ⇒ Develop an interest in music, singing, music-making and dancing.
- ⇒ Develop confidence and imagination.



The Early Years Environment

The classrooms are carefully organised into areas which support the Foundation Stage Curriculum and so that the children can organise their work and play. Materials and resources are arranged so that they are accessible to the children and encourage them to become independent in following everyday classroom routines. Teachers also work upon a “theme” and role-play areas are adapted to suit the topics. These help to encourage the children to consolidate their learning and explore their own ideas through play i.e. café, post office, doctors’ surgery, vets, a shop etc.

We have designated ‘Early Years Areas’ outside the classroom so that there are opportunities for learning both inside and outside. PE lessons are a combination of playground games, ball skills, dance sessions and body awareness lessons through gymnastics.



The Foundation Stage Profile

Throughout your child's time in Foundation Stage, staff will be using observation, small group and 1-1 assessments to monitor your child's development. In Foundation Stage we use **Tapestry**, an online learning journal. Each child will be given their own account and this is a great way for us to share your child's learning journey with you.

When your child starts with us we will carry out a "Baseline Assessment." A baseline assessment is a collection of data that correlates a child's needs, abilities and potential. It highlights strengths and areas for improvement so teachers are aware of every individual's requirements. It is done with the teacher and is a selection of fun games and tasks. The children are not aware that this is an assessment due to the nature of the way that it is administered.

Handwriting

We spend at least the first term in school developing the children's fine motor skills through patterning and working on correct pencil grip, before moving on to letter formation. When letter formation is introduced the children are taught 'pre-cursive' script.

Reading

The children will have a variety of opportunities to develop their love of reading throughout the day. Reading skills are taught on a whole class, small group and individual basis every day. We use the "**Read, Write Inc**" programme which helps them develop their phonic skills.

We begin reading by developing their understanding of the sounds/phonemes that letters and groups of letters represent. We also develop the children's 'sight' vocabulary of key words that they will encounter a lot in their reading but are tricky to decode using phonic skills e.g. the, was.

We provide you with a variety of reading material to share at home, this will help you to reinforce and develop the skills they are learning at school. When you read with your child we ask that you record this in their reading record book.

Mathematics

Children in Foundation Stage will follow "**The White Rose Maths**" programme of study. This will help them develop a strong grounding in number and allow them to notice patterns and spot connections within our number system. They will use a range of manipulatives to help they solve problems, such as Numicon, number squares, number lines and cubes.

Further Information

Chair of Governors

Mr T. Wildman

Staff Structure

Head Teacher: Mr A. Moir

Deputy Head Teacher: Mrs McCormack

Head of Foundation Stage: Mrs C. Baker



Keeping You Informed

We keep you informed via Tapestry, emails and Parent mail.

We use Tapestry to help communicate and share your child's learning journey at home and school.

Wrap Around Care

Parkwood Pre-school is on the school site and can offer care from 9am to 3pm during the first few weeks.

They also offer 'Breakfast Club' throughout the school year from 7.30am onwards.

For costs and more information please contact the parkwoodpreschool@btconnect.com
or call 01634 231415

School Meals

Your child will be entitled to a free school meal in Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2. However, you can choose to provide your child with a packed lunch if you would prefer.

Please note we are a nut free school.

Please avoid giving your child nuts in their lunch.

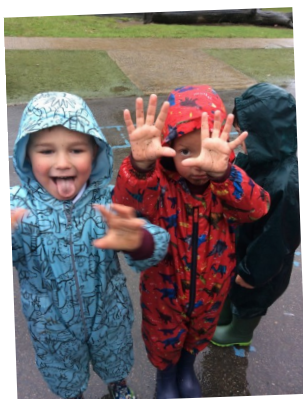


Absence from School

If you feel that your child is genuinely unwell, please keep them at home until they are fully fit and let us know by telephone. Should a child become ill during the school day, we will of course endeavour to contact you. Please do let us know if your child has any allergies or special difficulties, so that we can cater for their needs immediately.

If your child has been sick, had diarrhoea, or both please keep them at home for 48 hours before returning to school so that illness does not spread through the class. If your child need medication given but is well enough to be in school, please see the school secretary and sign a permission slip for the medication to be given. The medication must be named and given to the school office with times and dosage to be given.

If your child has a minor injury that requires first aid, a member of staff will inform you at the end of the day and your child will be given a first aid sticker to wear. You will receive a curtesy text or phone call if your child bangs their head.



Should you have any further questions please do contact us at school.

We all look forward to working with you and your child and hope you will be extremely happy at Parkwood Primary School

Parkwood Primary School

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