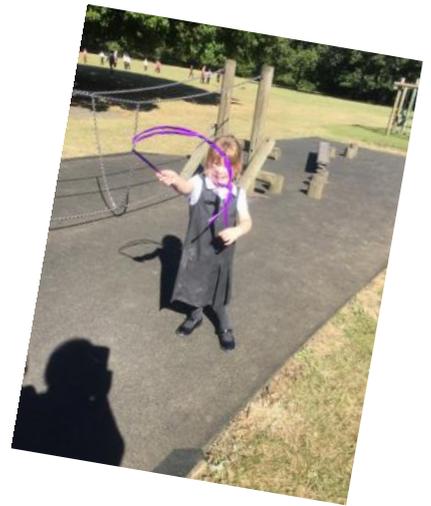


Come and Join Us!

September 2021



Dear Parents / Carers

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.

Alex Moir — Headteacher

Starting School

Starting school is an exciting time. At Parkwood Primary School, we try to make the transition easy and enjoyable, for both parents and children. We understand the need for preparation and we will plan a programme of integration in September to help your child cope with their new surroundings.

The School Day

The current school day times are staggered as a result of Government guidance around Coronavirus. These are the current times:

Day starts at: 9.10am

Lunch: 11.45am – 12.45pm

Day Ends: 2.45pm

Our normal daily times will be 9am until 3.05pm.

Throughout the morning the children have the opportunity to have a drink, use the toilet and enjoy a piece of fruit at snack time. At lunchtime the children will enjoy a balanced meal and spend time playing with our older children.



Top Tips to Help Your Child

1. Arrive as near to 9am as possible, so that if your child is anxious they do not have too much time to worry about going in and can walk in with their new friends.
2. Help your child to become independent. Velcro shoes are great! They could practice getting dressed and putting on a coat.
3. Please name everything! We have lots of school jumpers, coats and many lunchboxes 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 and self-aware
- ◆ Make and build relationships
- ◆ Know what their own needs are
- ◆ Dress and undress independently
- ◆ 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

Retelling Stories



Physical Development

Developing learning in this area enables your child to:

- ◆ Understand about healthy development
- ◆ 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 skills



Literacy

Developing learning in this area enables your child to:

<p>Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Link sounds and letters ◆ Continue a rhyming string ◆ Segment sounds in words and blend them ◆ Read words and simple sentences ◆ Develop a love of books and language 	
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<p>Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Encourages children to develop pencil control and to begin to draw and make patterns on paper ◆ Communicate meaning through clearly identifiable cursive, joined letters ◆ Write for a wide range of purpose - name, labels 	
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Mathematical Development

Developing learning in this area enables your child to:

<p>Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Count read and write numbers up to twenty and beyond. ◆ Order numbers to 20 ◆ Understand Simple addition subtraction and sharing and doubling in a practical context. 	
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<p>Shape, Space and Measure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Use and understand mathematical words such as greater, smaller heavier, lighter, more, less etc. ◆ Develop skills in comparing and sorting objects ◆ Develop understanding of shape and size including 2D and 3D shapes 	
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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 (History)
- ◆ To explore, observe and investigate their environment (Science)
- ◆ To develop designing and making skills
- ◆ Have the opportunity to understand and use information and communication technology and understand how it is used in homes and schools (ICT)



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 reception year staff will be using observation, small group and 1-1 assessments to monitor your child's development. These will be recorded in your child's foundation stage profile, which covers the seven areas of learning. The profile will be shared with you at regular intervals throughout the year.

When your child starts with us we will carry out an on-entry assessment known as Baseline. 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 of the nature of the way that it is administered.

Handwriting

We spend the first two terms 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 begin reading by developing the children's 'phonic' skills – 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 Reception year will begin to learn about numbers and how to work with them in basic calculations. They will use a range of manipulatives to help they solve problems, such as Numicon, number squares, number lines and cubes. Your child will also be taught to describe and recognise 2D and 3D shapes, the location of objects and how to form patterns. They will use and understand mathematical words such as greater, smaller, heavier, lighter, more, less etc and develop skills in comparing and sorting objects.

Further Information

Chair of Governors

Mr T Wildman

Staff Structure

Head Teacher: Mr A Moir

Deputy Head Teacher: Mrs C Cairns

Head of Foundation Stage: Mrs C Baker

[Parkwood Primary Staff List](#)



Keeping You Informed

We keep you informed via emails, newsletters, texts and the school website. Class pages on the website will allow you to see pictures of the children enjoying their learning, read announcements about forthcoming activities, access links to curriculum websites and curriculum newsletters.

Regular school newsletters are emailed to you and will be placed on the school website. We use Tapestry to help communicate and share your child's learning journey at home and school.

Breakfast and After School Club

[Sunshine Club](#)

School Meals

Your child will be entitled to a free school meal due to the new Government initiative. 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 anything that

Contains nuts in their lunch, this includes Nutella and cereal bars



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. No medication is allowed in school with the exception of Inhalers for children that are asthmatic and Piriton for children that have diagnosed allergies. A medication form will need to be completed and signed with times and dosage.

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 phone call if your child bumps their head.

We are following the Government's guidelines to keep our children, staff and community safe during COVID-19. We take our responsibility very seriously and have clear risk assessments in place. Please do ask if you would like further information before your child starts at our school.



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

Should you have any further questions please do contact us:

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