

Welcome to the Foundation Stage 2015-2016

We hope you have a very happy
time at school



Mrs Hetherington, Miss Mahoney,
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are the

Foundation Stage Teachers

Contents

What is the Foundation Stage	- Page 3
Aims of the Early Years Foundation Stage	- Page 4
Learning Through Play	- Page 5
Curriculum	- Page 6
Uniform	- Page 7- 8
Lunch time / snack time	- Page 9
Absences	- Page 10
Things we need to remember	- Page 11-12
Helping at home	- Page 13
Reading	- Page 14-15
Writing	- Page 16-18
Number	- Page 19
Home Learning	- Page 20
Parent partnerships	- Page 21

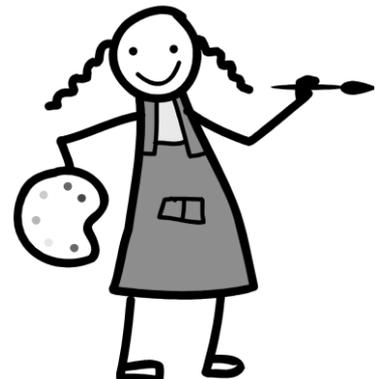
What is the Foundation Stage?

The Foundation Stage is the beginning of your child's time at school and covers the time spent in both FS1 (Nursery) and FS2 (Reception) classes, which work very closely together. The children will learn through well planned, high quality, play activities. The children are encouraged to learn through -

First hand experiences

- Investigating
- Exploring
- Discovering
- Creating
- Consolidating

Children are supported to become independent learners, actively involved in all aspects of their education. For this purpose the classroom environment is clearly labelled to encourage the children to resource themselves and tidy away when they have finished. The staff work hard to create an environment fit for learning, providing stimulation, structure and excitement.



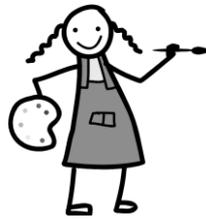
Aims of the Early Years Foundation Stage

A Unique Child

Every child is treated as an individual

Positive Relationships

Building secure relationships with adults and children



Learning and Development

A curriculum which allows children to develop their own learning style through carefully planned activities

Enabling Environments

Encouraging independent access of a well planned environment both indoors and outdoors

Learning through Play

Research shows that play is the way young children learn successfully. Through play children explore materials, create, construct, discover, investigate, challenge and make sense of the world around them. During play children learn to co-operate with others, conform to social rules and work collaboratively with peers and adults.

The adults work with the children, providing them with support, challenge, encouragement, differentiating (changing to suit individual children) activities to allow access to all.

During each day the children have specific 'Whole Group' teaching sessions allowing time for the adults to support / teach the development of literacy and numeracy skills but also provide activities linked to the world around us and personal and social skills.



Curriculum

Both classes follow the same curriculum. This stage in their education is called the Foundation Stage. It aims to foster, promote and develop children's:

Prime Areas

- ❖ Personal, social and emotional development
- ❖ Communication and language
- ❖ Physical development

Specific Areas

- ❖ Literacy
- ❖ Numeracy
- ❖ Understanding the world
- ❖ Expressive Art and Design

It recognises that different children in the same class will be at different stages of learning.

It recognises and encourages parents as partners and as their child's first educators.

Uniform

Children in FS2 wear school uniform, FS1 pupils are encouraged to wear the school sweatshirt and polo top. These can be purchased through the FOLLS shop. The shop is usually held once a month in the school hall at the end of the school day. Please watch the school newsletter for up to date information regarding this.

The wearing of jewellery (except watches and small stud earrings) is not permitted. All jewellery should be removed or taped for swimming and PE.

Please ensure all uniform is clearly named.

Girls

Winter Uniform

- Grey/Black pinafore dress
or
- Grey/Black skirt
or
- Grey/Black trousers
- White blouse / white
or royal blue polo top
- Royal blue sweatshirt
or
- Cardigan
or
- Jumper
- Black / navy blue
sensible shoes

Summer Uniform

- Blue and white checked summer dress.
- Royal blue jumper / cardigan / sweatshirt.
- Black / navy blue sensible shoes.



Boys

Winter Uniform

- Grey/Black long trousers.
- White shirt / polo shirt or royal blue polo shirt
- Royal blue jumper/ sweatshirt.
- Sensible black / navy shoes.

Summer Uniform

- Grey/Black shorts
- White shirt / polo shirt
- Royal blue jumper/ sweatshirt.
- Sensible black / navy shoes.

The children spend a lot of time in the outside classroom therefore it is very important to have a sensible washable coat at school.

We encourage FS1 parents to purchase a waterproof coat for outside activities from the school shop.

Uniform is available from the school at very competitive prices.

P.E. kit

All FS2 children need black or navy shorts, a white t-shirt and pumps. These should be kept in a pump bag and left at school. [The staff will send it home to be washed when necessary].

All jewellery is to be removed or taped for PE and swimming especially earrings. On PE days earrings are best left at home.

Lunch

At lunch time the FS2 children can choose between a hot meal prepared in the school kitchen or a packed lunch brought from home. The children eat their lunch in the school hall. We encourage children to eat healthily, therefore, suggesting that sugary treats are kept to a minimum and that **fizzy drinks and sweets are not permitted**.

Since September 2014 all children in Reception are eligible for a school meal provided by the Government. However, if you are / may be entitled to free school meals please continue to make this claim to ensure other benefits are not missed.

Snack time



Under the Government scheme children are provided with a piece of fresh fruit everyday. The children can choose between milk or water to drink. Milk is free until children are 5 years of age but you do need to register your child for this. Registration forms are available from the school office or online at www.coolmilk.com

Water is an essential ingredient of learning; with this in mind the children can use the snack area to help themselves to a drink throughout the day. Children do



not need to bring a water bottle as requested in years 1 - 6.



Absences

Attendance

We believe that attendance at school is vital not only for a child's ability to learn and achieve, but also for the social skills they learn interacting with their peers and adults; for learning habits that will last into later life and for equipping them to compete in employment and the working world. Research also shows the positive impact that good school attendance has on the academic achievement of pupils.

We expect all children to attend every day on time, unless there are exceptional circumstances such as illness. As a school we do all we can to encourage the children to attend, and to put in place appropriate procedures.

If for any reason your child is absent from school please let us know on the day they are absent before 9.30 am.

We especially need to know about any infectious illnesses e.g. Chickenpox, mumps, German measles etc.

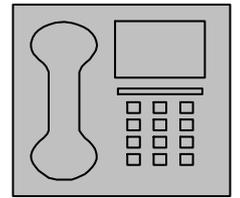
Please keep your child at home for at least 48 hours following diarrhoea or sickness.

To ensure we can always contact you, please keep emergency telephone information up to date.

Every effort should be made to arrange medical appointments outside school hours.

Please ensure your child is in school on time. Lateness severely disrupts your child's education. School begins at 8.50am.

Leave for holidays during term time will not be granted.

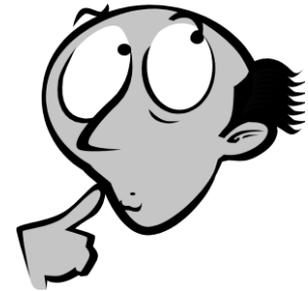


WHEN WE ARE IN FS1 THINGS WE NEED TO REMEMBER

Morning Session

School starts at 8.30 am

School ends at 11.30 am



Afternoon Session

School starts at 12.15 pm

School ends at 3.15 pm

Your child needs:-

Sensible Clothing- Items that the children can easily manage themselves. **Remember the children will get messy.**

Wellies- for use in the outside classroom (as required)

Waterproof coat- for use in the outside classroom.

Book Bag - Each child is provided with a book bag, they use this to bring link books, homework, letters etc to and from school daily. If these get lost or damaged they can be replaced at a cost of **£5.00** from the school office. Please do not send other bags into school.

Jewellery - Should not be worn in school except watches and small stud earrings. These need to be removed or taped for PE.

WHEN WE ARE IN FS2 THINGS WE NEED TO REMEMBER

School opens at 8.40am

School starts at 8.50am

School end at 2.55pm



Your child needs:-

PE CLOTHES - Navy or black shorts, white t- shirt and pumps all named in a bag.

SWIMMING - Towel and swimsuit in a bag (a plastic carrier is the easiest as children need to put their outdoor clothes in it so they do not get lost). Children do not need goggles or armbands. The children will begin swimming during October

Book Bag - Each child is provided with a book bag, they use this to bring link books, homework, letters etc to and from school daily. If these get lost or damaged they can be replaced at a cost of £5.00 from the school office. No other bags please!

Jewellery - Should not be worn in school except watches and small stud earrings. These need to be removed or taped for PE.

Helping at Home

In the first few weeks of term many children get tired and irritable at the end of the day, this is quite normal.

You can help by -

- Ensuring they go to bed early and get plenty of rest.
- Sharing their day with them, when they are ready to share.
- Ensuring they have PE kits etc in school when necessary.

Many parents want to help their child with reading and writing.

- A bedtime story is the most valuable way to start your child 'on the road to reading'.
- Being interested in your child's 'writing', any marks made on paper represent writing to your child and should be encouraged
- Be interested and assist with 'home learning' sent home from school.
- Read regularly with your child

The following pages tell you about the reading scheme and our writing style.



On the Road to Reading

Sharing Books

I am sure you have read stories to your child every since they were tiny. Children learn so much about books by sharing them with adults. They learn the right way up, front and back, turn over and THE END, to name but a few. Children need many skills before they are ready to read and we develop these in school.

You can help by:

- ❖ Sharing a book together daily
- ❖ In sharing books children learn to turn pages, talk about the story and pictures and to join in the parts they know well.
- ❖ Try to read a variety of books, traditional stories like Cinderella, rhymes and poetry and information books
- ❖ Through reading aloud your child will become familiar with the individual rhythms and 'tunes' of each story and learn to tell the stories in their own way.
- ❖ Encourage your child to choose books for you to read to them. Many children will want the story read over and over

again, this does not matter, a well loved story is sometimes the first story your child will read independently.

Ready for Reading in FS2

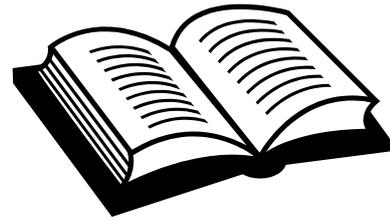
When your child is ready to start on the reading scheme, we will send home a few key words to practise. Our reading scheme is called 'Oxford Reading Tree'.

This is a phonic reading scheme that means you can build lots of words by saying the letter sounds.

We hope that you will support your child by listening and sharing books from school at home.

- ❖ When appropriate we send home the words for the next reading book. Please try to find five minutes each day to practise them, this is much better than one long session.
- ❖ Keep the words at home in a box or a folder and practise previous words frequently. Use these words to make sentences.
- ❖ Children who do regular home reading usually read well by the end of their year in FS2.

If you have any questions about helping your child with reading, just pop in and discuss issues with their teacher.



Learning to Write

Before children start to do formal writing, it is essential they have developed the correct pencil grip.

Some children can use both hands when writing, this is nothing to be worried about. Most children have developed a preference for left or right handedness by the end of their year in FS2.

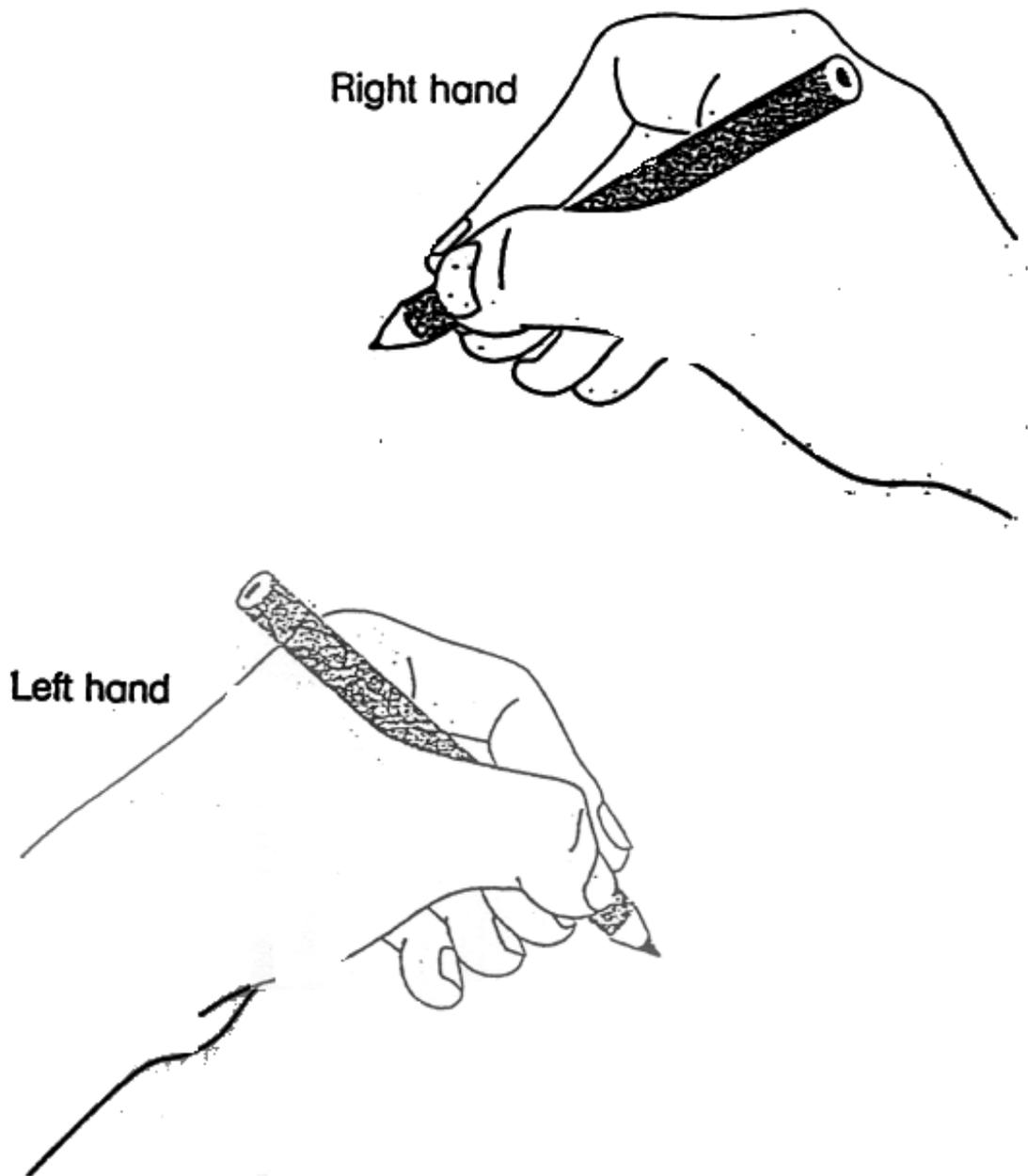
Before children start to write formally, they have lots of opportunity for mark marking in all areas of the classroom. They have free use of a variety of tools for writing. We always value even the simplest 'scribble' as this is the beginning of writing.

We do lots of tracing, joining dots and pencil control exercises. However, the only words/letters we trace are those in the child's name.

When children are ready to learn to form letters we teach lower case, not capitals i.e. small letters. Each letter has a special place to start and finish. In September we will send information to support this.

In school we are developing the use of cursive handwriting to aid the children to join their writing successfully as they progress through school. We will provide support for you and your child as necessary.





Grip the pencil lightly between the first finger and thumb, the second finger being used as a 'cushion' underneath the pencil. Rest hand-and arm on the table. Let the pencil rest on the hand between the base of the first finger and thumb.



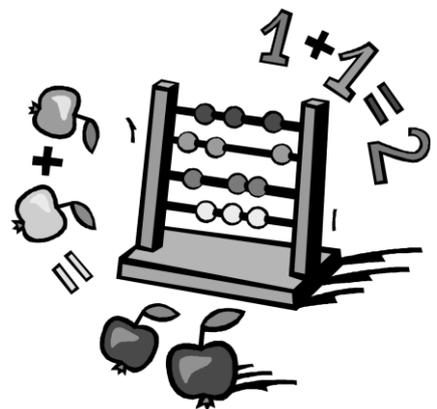
Sit facing table with elbows and arms resting on the table. Use 'free' hand to hold paper steady. Sit close to the table with knees underneath. The pencil end should point over the shoulder on the same side.

Keep all fingers, apart from the first finger, underneath the pencil.

Maths is fun!

Children have a natural interest in numbers, measuring and shapes. You can do lots of fun things to encourage their knowledge and skills at home. Here are a few ideas.

- ❖ Say number rhymes like 1,2,3,4,5. Ten in a bed etc.
- ❖ Let children help to lay the table, counting out spoons etc.
- ❖ Put magnetic numbers on the fridge door, children will learn to recognise, copy and then write them from memory.
- ❖ Play simple board and card games
- ❖ Let them help with cooking, this helps develop weighing, measuring and counting skills.
- ❖ Writing numbers on shopping lists
- ❖ Spotting numbers all around - house numbers etc
- ❖ Play with pretend telephones



Home Learning

Home learning tasks give you the opportunity to support what your child has learnt in school.

FS1

In Nursery, home learning tasks are sent out when the class teacher knows the children have enough knowledge to share at home, possibly 2 or 3 times per half term. (You need to look out for these in your Childs book bag!)

FS2

In Reception, home learning is a weekly task which is sent out on a Tuesday to be returned the following Monday. Initially this will be sent out as a letter in their book bag. After October half term the children will be provided with a home learning book and plastic folder. Stickers will be put inside the front cover informing you of that week's task. Home learning is an activity for your child which we encourage parents to support, not do for them.

Please note:

Home learning books should be kept in the folder provided to ensure they are not damaged.

We hope that starting their educational journey will be a fantastic experience for all children and parents / guardians. We realise that from time to time issues arise and parents / guardians need to discuss these with the class teacher. We operate an Open Door Policy. This means that the class teacher will always endeavour to speak to you as soon as possible. Most days they will be available at the beginning or end of the day. However, it may be necessary to arrange an appointment through the school office.

During the year the FS2 parents will have opportunities to discuss their child's learning at formal Parents Meetings. These currently take place in -

July/September - an individual introductory meeting between teacher and parents

Autumn Term - whole school parents meeting

Spring Term - whole school Parents meeting

Summer Term - Written reports.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child to our school and hope that it will be a happy and rewarding experience for all.



