



Foundation Stage Information Booklet

Welcome

Welcome to Kates Hill Community Primary School, Foundation Stage.

A Foundation Stage where;

- Happiness is a priority
- Children learn through practical, challenging activities
- Respect for the child as an individual is of paramount importance
- The individual child is catered for, both in the planning of the curriculum and assessment
- Each child's progress is carefully monitored, recorded and passed on to the next teacher.
- Strong links are formed between home, school and the wider community.

What is the Foundation Stage?

The Foundation Stage is the period of education from age three to five.

During the first year, the children may be in a range of settings such as Local Authority nursery schools or classes, private day nurseries, playgroups or child-minder provision.

The second year of Foundation Stage is often called the Reception year, as the majority of children join a school Reception class during this time.

Children at Kates Hill join the Reception class in the September of the academic year when they become five.

Why is it Important?

The Foundation Stage claims its name and importance from the fact it gives children secure foundations for later learning.

Early experiences affect children's attitude to learning so it is vitally important we get it right.

All children learn best from experiences that are suitable for their stage of development.

Play is key to the way young children learn. Through play, children can develop, for example: the confidence needed for learning; the social skills needed for personal development and the skills need for reading and writing.

We encourage independence from an early stage to aid problem solving skills.

Taking all this into account, the children will be given the opportunity to learn through a carefully planned, well-balanced, topic based curriculum.

What does it involve?

There are seven areas of learning in the Foundation Stage.

1. **Personal, Social and Emotional Development** relates to developing confidence and independence, building

good relationships and to enjoy sharing as part of a group.

2. **Communication and Language** helps communication with one another by developing skills in listening, understanding and speaking.
3. **Physical Development** relates to improving control and coordination of parts of the body while learning to move and handle different types of equipment efficiently.
4. **Literacy** builds on conversation, language and physical skills to develop ideas and skills for early reading and writing.
5. **Mathematics** involves problem solving, using number, quantity, measurement, shape and space.
6. **Understanding the World** covers investigating and beginning to understand the things, places and people around them.
7. **Expressive Arts and Design** involves finding ways to communicate by using colour, shape, sound, texture, movement and stories.

During the Foundation Stage, these areas of learning will be introduced in ways that are suitable for young children, through practical, fun, stimulating and challenging activities. The children will be given opportunities to build upon their existing skills and interests to aid their development.

How Will the Children be assessed?

Within the seven areas of learning are sets of Early Learning Goals (ELGs).

Most children are expected to reach these ELGs by the end of the Foundation Stage.

The Foundation Stage profile shows stepping stones that progress children towards these goals.

Children are assessed and monitored through their play and observations are recorded in their own personal Learning Journey. These Learning Journeys are available for you to view at parents' evenings and will be given to you at the end of the year.

During the year the children are continually monitored and their progress is recorded. This enables learning opportunities to be designed so that children can reach their full potential as individuals.

Health Matters

If you have any concerns about your child's health or if he/she has a medical condition that we should be aware of, please let us know before he/she starts school. We can then discuss the matter with you and be fully aware of and prepared for any possible difficulties.

The staff are not allowed to administer general medicines such as antibiotics unless a doctor has prescribed the

medication to be administered four times a day. If this is the case, you will be required to complete some paperwork at the main School Office.

Those children with asthma will need an inhaler in school at all times.

Children with ongoing medical conditions such as diabetes, allergies and anaphylaxis are allowed to have emergency medication in school. In these cases you will be required to speak to a member of staff to complete a care plan.

If your child has a bout of sickness or diarrhoea you will need to keep him/her off school for 48 hours **after** the symptoms have stopped. This type of illness spreads so quickly and easily among children and staff!

Dinners

Children in Foundation Stage stay for a free school lunch. The kitchen provides a healthy, well balanced meal for the children and there is plenty of choice, so even the pickiest of eaters will find something they enjoy at lunchtime.

Water and milk is provided for Reception children, but your child can bring in a drink of their own if they prefer. Should you choose to send your child in with a drink, please note that no fizzy pop or juice are allowed.

Milk and Fruit

Milk and fruit is available for all children in Nursery and Reception. This is usually offered during the morning session.

Water

As we are a health promoting school, children will be provided with water throughout the day.

Breakfast Club

We offer a breakfast club which starts at 8.00 am. Children are given cereal or toast and are able to take part in a variety of fun, supervised activities.

Please note: if you would like your child to have breakfast with us, they will need to be in school by 8.15 am.

Reception children are taken directly to their class at the morning bell.

School uniform is very important, and we want the children to take a pride in themselves and to be proud of being at our school. The following uniform information is also available via the school website under Parents & Carers > Uniform & Suppliers.

<p>Girls' Uniform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dark grey skirt/dress/trousers. • Dark grey salwar and kameez. • White blouse/polo shirt. • Royal blue sweatshirt/cardigan (waist length, no hood). • White, black or grey socks/tights. • Royal blue headscarf (no longer than shoulder length). • Summer: Blue and white gingham dress (optional). • Summer: White leggings/tights (optional). 	<p>Boys' Uniform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dark grey trousers. • White shirt/polo shirt. • Royal blue sweatshirt/jumper. • White, black or grey socks. • Summer: Dark grey shorts (optional).
<p>Boys & Girls PE Kit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black shorts/jogging bottoms. • Plain royal blue polo shirt. • Black pumps. • Black trainers for outdoor PE. 	<p>Boys & Girls Shoes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plain, flat black shoes. No heels/platforms. Must cover toes and be secured to the foot.

Notes

- All items of clothing must be plain, i.e., with no embellishment, patterns or branding. The only exception is the school logo.
- No jewellery or personal items are allowed to be worn apart from stud earrings and a watch. For safety, such items MUST be removed for PE.
- No make-up, including nail varnish, is allowed.
- Please note children do not need large bags (no bigger than a book bag). Storage is limited, so please only send what is necessary.
- For health and safety reasons all footwear should be flat. No heels or platforms are allowed and all footwear must cover toes and be secured to the foot.
- Items of uniform can be purchased from Crested Schoolwear, however please speak to us in school if families experience any barriers in obtaining uniform.
- It is expected that logoed jumpers are worn to school by all pupils, however plain polo shirts and PE kits are acceptable.

Useful Information

School Times

Morning session 8.40 am – 12.15 am

Afternoon session 1.15 pm – 3.10 pm

Arrival

The doors open at 8.40 am for children and all children should be in school by 8.55 am when the gates are locked.

We hope children will be here on time, but understand there are occasions where a late arrival is unavoidable. If your child arrives after the bell, they will need to report to the main school office where they will be registered as late.

Home Time

Children are collected from school at 3.10 pm each day. The class teachers will help the children to be dressed and ready to go home. (They will be dismissed from the classroom to the waiting parents). The children will not be allowed to go unless there is a known adult waiting for them.

Please inform the class teacher and /or the school office if a different adult will be collecting your child.

Getting Ready for School

It is very important to us that the children feel comfortable about starting school. Therefore, we provide the following to help prepare your child for school;

- New parents meetings (information for the grown-ups)
- Picnic in our playground to meet the staff

First Day Arrangements

In order to make the move into school as smooth and as happy as possible, your child will be introduced gradually for half day sessions initially.

Parents are welcome to bring their children into class for the first few days but the teachers will gradually encourage the children to say 'goodbye' to their parents at the door then walk into class independently and organise themselves for the day.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to provide the best possible start for your children's education.

If you have any further questions or queries please do not hesitate to ask. The Reception staff can be contacted via the School Office on 01384 818700.

How Can You Help at Home?

Sharing Books and Early Reading

It's important that we work together in partnership with you as parents and carers.

At school we can provide the building blocks for your child to start their journey towards reading, but we can be more successful with your help.

School Library

Children may borrow books from our Reception library to enjoy at home. Your child will be given a day and time in which their library book can be changed each week. Please remember to return the books so that other children may enjoy them too.

Your child will bring home books from their first days in school. Sharing these books with your child will take only a few minutes each day, but makes a huge difference in their development in listening and communication. This, in turn, develops their ability to read and enjoy stories, rhymes and real life information.

Along with the books to share, we send home a home/school reading record. We will ask you to sign and comment in this record, each time you share a book at home.

To start with the books will have no words, but talking through the story is an important starting point.

We will monitor the reading and change books accordingly, so support from home is vital.