

Welcome to the Foundation Class!



Our aim is to create a happy, safe and stimulating environment, where children can develop their skills, become more independent, and learn to work, play and share with others.

We are very pleased to welcome your child and you to our class. We hope your child will make a lot of progress and be very happy here.

Monday to Friday 9.05am - 12.05pm

Optional Sessions: Early Bird Club 8am or 8.30am till 9.05am

Lunch Club 12.05pm - 1.20pm

30 Hour Offer available: please see inside for more details.



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Foundation Stage Class General Information

Our Staff

Class Teacher: Miss Bellew

Early Years Supervisor : Mrs Clare Heard

Early Years Assistant : Miss Stacey Weeks



Foundation Class Sessions

The morning session is for both Nursery and Reception age children with Reception children staying for a whole day, till 3.30pm. Activities are set out for the children to do as soon as they arrive. As the parents leave, the children are brought together to talk about and plan their work and play activities. The Nursery and Reception pupils work together at a variety of activities including small group Literacy and Maths work, creative activities, physical education, snack time and outdoor play. The children are split according to educational need for specific learning activities



The staff are available at the start of the morning and all are happy to answer any questions, talk about concerns or chat about the children.

The Nursery children leave at lunchtime whilst the Reception children stay for lunch and in the afternoon session have the opportunity to extend their topic work, reading and creative play activities (sometimes alongside Class One). Involvement in Assemblies, break times and other whole school activities is gradually phased in for these full-time pupils, which allows for a gradual transition for pupils from Foundation Stage to Key Stage One.

We offer two optional sessions each day; an **Early Bird Club** which runs from 8am or 8.30am and a **Lunch Club** which runs till 1.20pm. There is a charge for these clubs so, if you are interested in making use of them, please ask any member of staff for more information or visit our website. For the 8am session, we ask that bookings are made in advance just to be sure we have enough staff to cover. Forms, including Registration Forms for first-time Early Birds, are available from the school office. The cost per session is £2.00 per child. A 'Drop and Go' session from 8.30am on a daily basis with a charge of £1 per child is also offered as this has proved to be very popular. For these sessions, please do not arrive before 8.30am. **Nursery Lunch Club:** an opportunity for your Nursery child to stay with us over lunch, enjoying a school meal from our kitchen (£5.20 including lunch) or a packed lunch from home (£3.00), and playtime too. Please book and pay at the School Office for any of these extended facilities.



30-Hour Extended Childcare Offer We are happy to be able to offer eligible families the opportunity to use their preferred hours from 8 am till 3.30pm each day. Parents can make up their 30 hour entitlement in a variety of ways between these hours and are

welcome to share their entitlement between our class and another provider if required. Please come and speak to us about how you might access these hours or to complete a form to record the hours you wish to claim, or for more information. Alternatively, visit online at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/ for guidance.

The Foundation Stage

The Early Years Foundation Stage lasts until the children enter Key Stage 1 at the end of the Reception year. The children have Early Learning Goals which they are working towards throughout the Foundation Stage. The Early Learning Goals are divided up into seven overlapping areas which cover all aspects of the curriculum. The learning takes place through structured play activities.

This Early Years Foundation Stage sets the standards for Learning, Development and Care for children aged 0 - 5 years. It aims to help young children achieve the five Every Child Matters outcomes of staying safe, being healthy, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and achieving economic wellbeing. Our Foundation Stage Class was established in September 2007 to offer Nursery and Reception age children a play based indoor and outdoor learning environment which best meets their needs. We provide high quality education based on the principles of the Foundation Stage Curriculum.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

The revised Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, effective from September 2012, now consists of three prime areas and four specific areas of learning:

Prime Areas: these areas cover the knowledge and skills which are the foundations for children's school readiness and future progress:

1. Communication and language;
2. Physical development;
3. Personal, social and emotional development.



Specific Areas: through these, the Prime Areas are applied and re-enforced. The Specific Areas are:

4. Literacy;
5. Maths;
6. Understanding the world; and
7. Expressive Arts and Design.

The curriculum is designed to give the children a wide variety of learning experiences and includes a mixture of activities initiated by the children or led/initiated by adults. We plan our work round a termly topic with plenty of opportunity for active learning. Details of the topic and the work due to be covered that week are displayed on the Parents' Notice Board in the cloakroom and we also plan a range of play activities led by children's interests and by our assessments. This is known as *Continuous Provision*. The children are grouped according to ability for many mathematical and language activities. The play based experiences we make available to the nursery age children are just as valuable to the reception age children. Evidence shows that young children learn best through play.



Helping Your Child

There are many useful things you can do to help your children. Encourage them to:

- go to the toilet by themselves;
 - wash and dry their hands;
 - put on a coat and shoes, and do them up;
 - use a hanky or tissue;
 - say both their names;
 - hold a pencil correctly using thumb and two fingers (we call it holding with your 'pecking' fingers);
 - recognise and name colours;
 - use scissors to cut pictures out of old cards etc;
- sort objects according to colour, shape or size;
 - recognise their name with a capital letter to start, followed by lower case letters.

Admission Policy

Children are usually admitted into the foundation class at the start of the term following their third birthday, although if their birthday falls in the first half of the term and space permits, we can offer a place from the half term break. In this case a fee is payable until the free entitlement comes into effect. A place in nursery will not necessarily mean you can have a full time place in this school once your child reaches reception age, although we do try to admit if we can. All parents have to apply to the Education Authority for a full time school place. We will let you know when it is time for you to apply. An offer of a place will be made for the September of the school year in which your child turns five, although you have some flexibility about when your child takes up a full time place. Please ask us about this nearer the time as we are happy to work with you to ensure that your child's start to full time schooling is as smooth as possible.

Records of Children's Work

During the year, we will share records of the children's progress with you. We use the app 'Class Dojo' where you can see our weekly newsfeed, and send and receive messages. All children have a record of their skills, interests and knowledge in all seven learning areas which is collected in their log books and you will also see the dated observations we make of the children at work. From time to time you will be invited to talk through your child's progress with either Miss Mellody, Miss Bellew or Mrs Heard and in July, if your child is either moving on to full time education elsewhere or has reached the end of the Foundation Stage, you will receive a written record of your child's achievements. We complete the Foundation Stage Profile for reception aged children. The profile is a means of tracking and showing progress and provides us with valuable assessment material so that we can plan to meet the children's learning needs appropriately both in Reception and on into Class 1.



Settling In

We want your child to feel secure and happy in the Foundation Class. We invite you to bring your child to visit once or twice before they start so you and they get an idea of what goes on, and so that you can ask any questions you may have. We also have regular monthly 'Stay and Play' sessions where anyone with young children can come along and share some of our activities. Once they start in the class, a familiar adult (which might be Mum, Dad, Gran, childminder etc) is welcome to stay with the child until they are able to cope on their own. This may take seconds or weeks! It may be necessary to build up the time they are left. Young children often get 'clingy' as you are about to leave, but within minutes of your going are playing happily. (Peep in after a few minutes if you want to make sure.) Please tell us about any problems your child has, and any changes to family life we should know about. Feel free to discuss with us any queries or concerns that you have.



Parents/Carers

As well as giving you formal updates on your child's progress, from time to time we will tell you about any amusing moments, work achievements or problems relating to your child. We hope you will do the same for us. Parents are welcome in our class. Some parents and carers like to come in with their child at the start of the session to do a puzzle, read a story or look at the children's work on display. Parents are welcome to help in the class too; just tell us when you would like to come. You may like to join us for outings or share skills with the children. Perhaps you would find it easier to help from home by mending or washing dressing up clothes, or collecting scrap materials. We hope you will feel as relaxed in our classroom as the children are.

Useful Information.....

Children do not come to school if they are ill and we appreciate a quick phone call in the morning if your child is not going to be joining us that day. Under some circumstances, we are able to administer medication and of course, any child with asthma will have easy access to theirs. Please ask us for details. If your child has an accident or is poorly whilst at school, we will attempt to contact you. Please make sure we have the name and number of someone to contact if you are not available.

On or near to each child's birthday, we sing 'Happy Birthday' and they blow out candles on a pretend cake, which contains a lolly for the birthday child. We sometimes do cooking or food activities with the children and eat what they make. A snack of milk or water and fruit or vegetables is available for the children every day. It is therefore important that you tell us about any food allergies or dietary requirements your child has. Many parents generously give us a donation each term which enables us to provide cooking ingredients, treats such as Christmas parties and many useful resources for the class.

.....and Some More Useful Information

We prefer children not to bring a precious toy to school in case it gets lost, broken or dirty. Favourite cuddly toys for comfort are welcome whilst the child is settling in. We would ask, however, that these are small enough to fit into a tray or bag.

We encourage parents to toilet train their children before they start in Class F, but if your child is not ready in this area or is at the early stages of training, please talk to any of our Early Years staff who are happy to help. If necessary we accompany children to the toilet, and spare clothes are kept for accidents! There is an excellent website - www.eric.org.uk - which gives a lot of useful advice. If you need further support, we can help by coming up with a Toilet Management Plan or giving you contact details of relevant health personnel, such as our school nurse, who could advise.

Please send your child in clothes that they feel free to do messy activities in, without worrying about spills or dirt. We do provide overalls but sometimes they fail to cover the right bits! Some parents like their children to wear a red 'Langtree Nursery' sweatshirt. These are available locally - please ask us for details.

We provide little cloth bags for the children to take books, pictures and newsletters to and from school. Each child has their own symbol to identify their bag and coat peg. Reception age children are provided with a school book bag to carry their reading book and reading diary.



Books are very important and we encourage all children to borrow two library books each week to take home and read with you. The title of each book is written down by one of the nursery staff. Books returned are placed in the Book Box to be crossed off the list by staff. You are welcome to ask for any library books that your child wants to take home on other days.

Every term we go out into the local environment on walks, sometimes around the school and sometimes further afield or we may make visits which link with our work, as the children really benefit from such real-life experiences.



Discipline Policy and Shaping Behaviour

In the foundation class children are learning to work, play and co-operate with others. They begin to establish effective relationships with children and adults outside their family. They learn to share, take turns and show respect for the feelings of others and for the environment. They begin to understand what is right and what is wrong and why. Generally the children are very well behaved. When a problem occurs we deal with it promptly. If the behaviour persists, the child sits away from others for a few minutes and then gives an apology. Any significant problems are discussed with the parents. We support good behaviour by using praise and encouragement. We help the children to become increasingly independent and to become more confident and assured thereby developing their self-esteem. Our aim is to make our class an interesting, safe and welcoming place.



We hope your child will have a very happy time in our Foundation Class. Please come and talk to us if you have any questions.