

## WELCOME TO GOREFIELD SCHOOL



This booklet is designed to help you to prepare yourself and your child for starting school.

Starting school is a big step for parent and child and we try to make it as smooth and happy as possible.

It will be quite normal for you both to feel anxious at the parting. One consolation for you is that your child will soon be playing happily with the other children whilst you may be worrying at home.

If it helps, you may phone at 10.45 for an update.

If you or your child have any worries about school please do come in to discuss them. Usually we can reassure you quickly with explanations, suggestions or practical help.

You are welcome to come into school at anytime, though if you want to talk to the teacher it is advisable to make an appointment.

## **WHAT YOUR CHILD NEEDS: CLOTHES**

### **UNIFORM**

Boys usually wear grey trousers and a white/burgundy polo shirt and in the summer grey shorts.

Girls usually wear grey skirts or pinafores and a white/burgundy polo shirt and in the summer red gingham dresses.

Uniform, school coats and book bags can be purchased from [www.pgmschoolwear.co.uk](http://www.pgmschoolwear.co.uk) there are examples of sizes in the office

**All clothes should be clearly named please - all sweatshirts look the same!**

### **P.E.**

Burgundy shorts, white T-shirts and plimsolls are required by all the children.

### **Swimming**

Costume, trunks, flip flops and towel in a named bag please. Swimming hats can be purchased from the office (May - July only)

## **TOYS**

At first your child may need a secure link with home by bringing a familiar toy or comforter to school.

Once your child is settled, please **discourage** bringing in toys since their loss or accidental breakage can cause even greater distress.

## **FOR LUNCH**

All children in reception, year 1 and year 2 are entitled to a free hot school meal or a cold school meal every day.

However, they can bring a packed lunch if you prefer.

There is no booking needed, just make sure your child knows on the day what they are having.

## **FOR MORNING BREAK**

The school is involved with the school fruit and vegetable scheme. This provides each child with a piece of fruit everyday therefore your child will not need a snack in school.

## **PARENTS AND SCHOOL WORKING TOGETHER**

The education of your child is through a partnership between home and school.

We welcome your help and support.

Learning begins long before your child starts school and there are many ways that you can help.

### **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

Always take an interest in your child's activities, encourage him/her to become independent and to build confidence.

Your child will feel more confident without you if:-  
she/he can:

- dress/undress self
- fasten and unfasten shoes
- go to the toilet unaided
- open lunch box/flask
- use a knife and fork
- She/he is used to being away from you for short periods.

We hold parent's evening in the autumn, spring and summer term giving you an opportunity to discuss your child's progress and to let us know what your child has been doing at home and what their interests are.

If you have any information about your child that you feel will be useful then please let us know about it either in the reading record book or in the morning.

If you would like to help in school once your child has settled in please ask a member of staff for details. A DBS form will need to be completed.

## WHAT IS THE EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE (EYFS)?

- The EYFS is a play-based framework for children's development from birth to the end of their first (reception) year in school acknowledging that every child is unique and that they learn and develop in different ways and at different rates.
- The EYFS Framework describes how all early years' practitioners should work with children and their families to support their development and learning.
- The EYFS describes how your child should be kept safe and cared for and how all concerned can make sure that every child achieves the most that they can in their earliest years of life.

The EYFS is based on four important principles.

### Theme: A Unique Child

Every child is a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.

### Theme: Positive Relationships

Children learn to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with parents and/ or a key person.

### Theme: Enabling Environments

The environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning.

### Theme: Learning and Development

Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates and all areas of Learning and Development are equally important and interconnected.

How do we do this?

- Children learn best through play and play is at the heart of the EYFS, children need play in order to have fun and to start to understand the world around them.
- We aim to provide your child with a range of appropriate play and learning experiences for their stage of development, with help and encouragement to develop new skills.
- We provide activities that cover the three prime areas and the four specific areas of learning in the EYFS, these

## Assessment

We use a digital system to record, monitor and assess the children in Reception against the EYFS framework to create a well rounded view of their learning journey over the year. This system is called 'Tapestry' and provides a strong link between school and home. As well as allowing parents and carers to upload photos, videos and information about their children's learning at home via the Tapestry app and website, it allows parents and carers to view what their children have been learning at school. Please see the letter included for more information.

## **OUR SCHOOL DAY**

We start the day with the register, the children self register by finding their photograph and name and moving it to the 'in school' side of the board. So that the children know what they are having for lunch, we also ask the children to move their penguin shaped name and place it on the post under the lunch box sign or the hot dinner sign.

We have a daily 20 minute phonics session where we learn sounds of letters and begin blending and segmenting them to make and read words.

We have guided group sessions over the morning where we teach the children a specific skill or develop and build on what they already know. During the morning we focus on Literacy and Maths. Whilst we have our guided group the other children take part in independent play through self initiated activities and planned activities. We observe the children noting what they are doing, what their interests are and plan their next steps. The children are free to work inside or outside in our enclosed area running alongside the classroom. We provide activities that cover the areas of learning both inside and outside.

There is a 15 minute break time at 10.30, where the children join the Year 1 and 2 children in the playground. Lunch is at 12.00 until 1.00. The children go into the hall first to eat and then go onto the playground when they have finished.

We always have 2 structured sessions of PE. We will let you know the day once the time table has been set as we have outside providers that teach dance and games.

The afternoons again have a mixture of guided group work and independent self initiated activities with the focus on topic learning and an ICT session.

Home time is at 3.15.

You can bring in a drink of water for your child to have over the day which can be left in the classroom in a named bottle, or we provide fresh water and a cup for your child to use each day. As mentioned earlier we provide a piece of fruit for your child in the morning so no other snacks are to be brought in.

## **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

If your child is going home with someone else other than you, it is very important that you let the teacher or teaching assistants know in the morning. You can also phone the office and they will let the class teacher know of the arrangements.

If for any reason you fail to collect your child from school, your child will remain supervised by a school adult and we will phone and contact you.

The schools policies and procedures are constantly updated and reviewed and can be made available upon request to Mr Finney the head teacher.

If you have any worries or concerns about school then our school policy in the first instance is to contact the class teacher and discuss your worries which we will try to sort out. If the issue remains unresolved then a meeting with the head teacher can be arranged. The head teacher can then help to resolve the issue or guide you through the next steps to take.

## **POLICY FOR UNDER-FIVES**

### **ADMISSION**

The admission of under-fives at Gorefield is in line with the Local Authority's policy, which allows children to start school in the September of the school year in which they become five.

**We look forward to meeting you and your child.**