

Welcome to Elf Class



Gateford Park Primary School
FS1

Gateford Park Primary School
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FS1 Staff

Class Teacher:
Teaching Assistant:

Mrs Alison Spencer
Mrs Xephni Butler

Welcome to Foundation 1

Starting school is an important step in every young child's life and at Gateford Park Primary School we place great emphasis on these early years. We will do everything we can to make sure your child feels secure and happy with all aspects of school life.

We believe the key to every child's success is a strong partnership that we can build between parents and the school, within the early stages of your child's school career.

Your involvement and support remains vital to your child's development.

In order to make it an exciting and happy time for you and your child we have designed this booklet to provide you with useful information about Foundation 1.

The Aims of Foundation 1

We aim to provide a safe, secure and stimulating atmosphere with a well-organised and attractive environment that will encourage all children to be happy, confident and independent with a positive attitude to learning.

We provide a broad, balanced curriculum through carefully planned activities and experiences that follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and have a strong emphasis on structured learning through play and child-initiated activities.

We strive to meet the needs of individuals through a flexible approach to teaching and learning.

Application for sessions:

We are an educational setting, rather than a childcare provider and we are keen to ensure that your child experiences the widest range of experiences possible.

To secure your session choices, please let us know, as soon as possible, whether you would prefer mornings or afternoons or full days. We will do our very best to accommodate your preference. Allocation of sessions will be on a first come, first served basis.

Home Visits

Prior to your child starting school we will be offering you the opportunity to have a home visit. This will allow you to meet the staff on an individual, friendly basis in a familiar environment. If you would prefer, this meeting can take place at school instead.

In your information pack you will find an admission form. Please complete this form and hand to the staff on your home visit. DURING THE HOME VISIT OUR STAFF WILL ALSO NEED TO SEE YOUR CHILD'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE OR PASSPORT.



Starting Arrangements

Starting school may be the first time you have left your child in another person's care. The most important thing is to ensure your child's first steps in Foundation 1 are positive and happy.

When your child starts in Foundation 1 you are welcome to stay with them for a short while. Some children will settle very quickly, others will take longer or may become unsettled when class numbers increase or after an absence.

Organisation

Our day is structured as follows:

Morning:	8.40am until 11.40am
Lunch club:	11.40am until 12.20pm
Afternoon:	12.20pm until 3.20pm



Each session is staffed by a teacher and a Level 3 teaching assistant. From time to time there may be other adults present, such as students.

You can also access our breakfast club and after school clubs. Please see our prospectus for further details.

Lunch Club

We offer a daily lunch club for all full time children. Children can choose whether to bring their own lunch and drink or can order a hot school dinner from the kitchen. The cost of lunch club is £2.10 per day for all children. If you also choose for your child to purchase a school dinner there is an additional cost of £2.70 per meal, totalling £4.80 per day.

If you owe for 4 weeks of lunch club, your child will no longer be able to stay and will have to go home for the lunch club session until payment is made. Please note this is **only** available for children who are attending for full days.

What will your child do?

Daily opportunities address the seven areas of learning and development within the Early Years Foundation Stage.

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Physical Development
- Expressive Arts and Design



Our Foundation 1 classroom contains areas for reading, writing and mark making, role-play, construction, maths activities, sand, water creative outdoor learning, and many more!

Each session consists of:

- a variety of teacher led and self-directed activities
- learning both indoors and outdoors
- snack time
- physical activities and games
- story, music, singing and circle time
- phonics

Children will experience working individually, in small groups, or within the whole class. They may work independently or with adult support.



Clothing

We have a school dress code which consists of a selection of garments. They are a blue cardigan or blue sweatshirt embroidered with our school logo, a white polo shirt and grey or black trousers, dress or skirt. Alternatively, children can wear black or grey jogging bottoms or leggings if this will enable them to be more independent with toileting.

In summer girls can wear blue gingham dresses and boys can wear grey or black shorts.

School uniform can be purchased at L&O Stitch in Worksop OR at 'Pixie Stitch' - 07743535570.

Coats and Wellingtons

Please send your child to school in clothing suitable for the weather. Remember the children play and learn outside all the year round. Your child should bring a coat with them each session to ensure they are suitably dressed for outdoor learning.

At the start of the year please provide a pair of clearly named Wellingtons which your child can leave at school. This will ensure that your child has appropriate footwear for outdoor learning opportunities during bad weather.



Please ensure that all clothing, shoes and belongings are clearly labelled with your child's name and check the size of their wellingtons regularly.

Spare Clothes

Please bring a bag of spare clothes for your child to leave on their peg in case of any accidents.

Applying for a School Place

Admission to our Foundation 1 Unit **does not** guarantee a place in school. You will need to apply separately for a school place. The Local Authority will send out Admission forms.

Meeting children

We ask that your child is brought to and collected from school by a responsible adult. For the safety of your child, please inform us if he/she is to be collected by anyone other than a parent or guardian.

Illness

If your child is too ill to come to school please telephone school to let us know about your child's absence, every day of their absence. You should still bring your child to school if their illness is minor and we will contact you to collect your child if necessary.

Inhalers

If your child suffers with asthma please ensure that they have a clearly named inhaler at school at all times. It is your responsibility to check the inhaler regularly to make sure it is full enough and within date. Please see the school office for the relevant forms.

Change of details

It is important that the school office is informed **immediately** of any change in contact details, change of address or any medical conditions which may arise.

Please ensure all mobile numbers are kept up to date.

Snack Money

Each day your child will have a drink and snack at school. We use snack time as an opportunity to encourage socialisation with emphasis on sharing and conversation.

Every child under the age of five is entitled to a free 189ml serving of milk whilst in attendance at a registered day care provider for two or more hours a day. Please complete the form in your pack if you would like your child to have milk or register at www.coolmilk.com

We ask that you make a contribution of £10.00 per half term (children attending for 30hours) or £5.00 per half term (children attending for 15hours) towards the cost of snacks.



How can you help?

We acknowledge that you have been your child's first educator and have taught them a great deal whilst at home. Here are some ways you can prepare them for starting school and ensure that this is a happy time:

- talk to your child and listen to them
- share books together – join the library
- encourage your child to make marks and draw
- spend time singing nursery rhymes and songs
- encourage him/her to mix with other children
- let your child help around the house – setting the table, dusting, baking, etc.
- play games like Snap and Dominoes
- encourage your child to be as independent as possible by encouraging them to dress and undress, manage the toilet by themselves and put on and fasten their coat.



Above all, make the time you spend with your child fun and remember that children develop at different rates and will be interested in different things.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the staff to children ratio? As stated in the Statutory Framework for the early years foundation stage, the ratio in a school nursery is 1 adult to 13 children and the provision must be led by a school teacher. In our setting this is Mrs Spencer. Our teaching assistant, Mrs Butler, holds a relevant Level 3 qualification.

Will my child get help going to the toilet if needed? Of course! During their time in our setting we encourage children to use the toilet independently, however we are always available to support them as necessary.

Are school nursery staff trained in first aid? All teachers and teaching assistants working in FS1 and FS2 have their Paediatric First Aid certificate. This is renewed every 3 years as per EYFS guidelines.

Does the school nursery have a suitable environment, resources and equipment for three- and four-year-old children? Our setting has both indoor and outdoor learning environments, equipped with a variety of resources to aid and stimulate children's natural curiosity for learning. Our planning ensures we provide a wide variety of learning opportunities which both match the children's interests and their academic abilities.

Will starting at your school nursery ensure my child gets a full-time school place in FS2 reception year? Unfortunately this decision is made by the Local Authority and not our school. We will always advise parents as to their catchment school and ensure they understand that we cannot guarantee a place in our FS2.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child into Foundation 1 and hope that this is an exciting and enjoyable experience for you.

Please remember – your child comes first and if you ever have any worries, no matter how small, please do not hesitate to have a word with Foundation 1 staff, who will be only too willing to talk to you. *Remember we can only deal with problems if we know about them!*

We trust that you will find this booklet helpful and hope that your child's time in Foundation 1 at Gateford Park Primary School will be a happy one!

