

Giffards Primary School

Queen Elizabeth Drive Corringham Essex SS17 7TG

Headteacher
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'Valuing Everyone As Learners'

25th July 2024

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF PUPILS IN FOUNDATION STAGE

Autumn 2024

At Giffards Primary School we have a 'staggered' induction period for our EYFS children. This allows for a gentler start and avoids children being overwhelmed. This has proved to be very successful in the past and is in place in many other local schools. The induction period is below:

**Wed 4th/Thur 5th/Fri 6th
September**

All Reception children in from 8:50am – 12 noon
(please note – children will not be staying for lunch)

**Week commencing
Monday 9th September**

All Reception children in from 8:50am – 1.00pm
(children are able to stay for a hot school meal – this is funded for all children in KS1. You may send your child in with a packed lunch if you prefer)

**Week commencing
Monday 16th September**

All Reception children stay all day 8:50am – 3:10pm
(unless it is felt individual children would benefit from a longer period of induction. This will be raised nearer the time with parents if it is felt necessary)

The School Day – Once the staggered induction is completed

The school day begins at 8.50am and ends at 3.10pm. A member of staff will be on duty to greet the children at the gate from 8.40am. Please ensure your child is in school by 8.50am. The morning session ends at 12.00 midday. The afternoon session begins at 1.00pm and ends at 3.10pm.

Please ensure your child arrives on time for school, with all they need, book bag, coat, water bottle (filled with water only and no ice). Late arrival leads to missed learning time.

The parents of Foundation Stage children must wait at the gate until a member of staff opens it, parents will then be able to collect their children directly outside their classrooms.

Passwords/collection of pupils

A password system is used – please ensure you have completed the paperwork and given it to the office. Children are collected from their classroom. Please ring the office if you are held up and may be late.

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Coats

The children go outside every day. As we approach winter could we remind you that children will need a coat in order to play outside.

PE Kits

We will be dressing for PE in September so a PE bag will be required. Please could you ensure that your child does not wear jewellery especially earrings and that long hair is tied back in order to comply with health and safety guidelines. PLEASE ENSURE ALL ITEMS ARE CLEARLY NAMED SO LOST ITEMS CAN BE RETURNED.

The School Office

The main school office is located in the KS2 building and this is the first point of call should parents need to arrange an appointment with the class teacher.

Breakfast Club and After School Provision

Pupils in Foundation stage are welcome to attend Breakfast Club and After School club from **Monday 16th September 2024. Please see the attached letter.**

Free School Meals for KS1

All children starting school, and up to and including year 2, have an automatic qualification to receive universal free school meals (UFSM). Whilst dinners will be provided free of charge for all KS1 children, it is vital for us that children entitled to a means tested Free School Meal (FSM) are registered. Your child may be entitled to Free School Meals if you are in receipt of benefits or if your income is below the threshold. All children who have this entitlement need to be registered in order for the school to be able to claim the Pupil Premium funding for each child that this applies to. As you can imagine this funding is essential for us in order to be able to provide resources for our children. In order for the school to qualify for this additional funding, please can you check entitlement for Free School Meals by logging in to your Thurrock Resident Account or by creating an account. 'My Account' is a new way to access a range of services provided by Thurrock Council. To sign up go to: <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/account>

If you don't want your child to have a free school lunch but think you might be entitled, **please** still apply as even if the meals are not claimed, the school still receives the additional funding which will be used within the school for the benefit of your child. Children who are in receipt of means tested FSM are able to access school clubs for free – for EYFS pupils there will be some clubs open to them from the Spring term.

Snack

Foundation Stage children will be having a snack in the morning which may be linked to their learning such as food from the Hungry Caterpillar Book, for which there is a small charge of £7.00 for each half term. They have the option of choosing between milk (this is free for children under the age of 5 years old) or water with their morning snack. The children will have the opportunity to visit a class snack bar in the afternoon, where fruit is freely available.

Water Bottles

Every Foundation Stage child needs a water bottle in class every day. These should go home every night to be washed and re-filled and then brought back in the following morning. They can be re-filled during the school day as necessary. Please note that only plain water should be supplied, flavoured water or fruit juices / squash is not allowed.

Key Person

A Key Person is a named member of staff with responsibility for a small group of children, giving them the reassurance to feel safe and cared for and to build relationships with their parents.

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For the first half term in Reception the Key Person is your child's class teacher, closely supported by all of the EYFS staff to develop positive relationships with all the children. Your child will be assigned a Key Person in the second half term of school, a letter will be sent to parents. This will give the children time to settle into school life and give staff the opportunity to identify each child's individual needs and make informed judgements around how they will interact socially in a group.

The role of the Key Person at Giffards is to liaise with the parents on a regular basis and to set aside time for your child each day, to ensure their needs are met.

The Key Person system is flexible and if we feel a child would benefit from a change in Key Person this will be discussed with the parent/carer.

Learning Updates

Parents receive a weekly learning update sent via Groupcall, to let you know what the children have been learning and how you can support learning at home.

On-Line Payment System

We are a cashless school and all money must be paid via our on-line payment system Scopay; it is quick, easy and secure. Parents will be issued with online payment registration letters in September.

Bags

There is very little room in cloak areas so we request that children only bring in a school book bag as we just do not have the space to store larger bags. We understand that for some clubs an extra bag is needed on that day – if this can be kept to a small string type PE bag that would be appreciated. We will continue to monitor this and may have to inform you personally if your child's bag is causing a hazard! Please may we request that you do not put key rings on your child's book bag as this can hinder the children learning to recognise their own name.

Reading at Home

Reading is your child's main activity each day. We ask you to sign the reading record booklet when you have read with your child including the book title (even if they are reading their own books!)

Behaviour - Giffards Goals, Values and Aims

Our values are represented by our four Giffards Goals, these are matched to associated values and are clearly understood and shared by every member of the school community.

Our Giffards Goals and Values underpin the school's curriculum; these are embedded and celebrated within the school's assembly themes as well as part of the 'soft curriculum' of adult role modelling and consistent reinforcement and referencing in lessons.

Our values are intrinsically woven into our 4 Giffards Goals of:

- Be Responsible
- Be Respectful
- Be Safe
- Be Aspirational

Our Giffards Goals are displayed prominently and referred to regularly in class, lessons and assemblies. We use stickers and leaf points to reward individual pupils who follow the Giffards Goals rules. We actively "catch the good" and praise positive behaviour to reinforce our expectations.

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GIFFARDS GOALS

Giffards is committed to creating a welcoming, caring environment where positive relationships and exemplary behaviour are at the heart of productive learning and in which everyone feels happy, safe and secure.

We have identified four school expectations/rules that encompass our values and promote our culture as a community as well as supporting individual pupils to develop all the necessary knowledge and skills for them to become successful independent, well behaved learners.

BE RESPECTFUL

We care for and value people, things and differences.



- We are kind and caring
- We listen carefully
- We use our manners
- We consider others
- We value everyone
- We take care of people and property

BE SAFE

We follow rules, look after ourselves and others.



- We are kind to others
- We act calmly and sensibly
- We use equipment safely
- We are proud of our school
- We tell an adult if there is a problem
- We behave safely online

BE ASPIRATIONAL

We aim high, give 100% and are always determined to succeed.



- We always work hard
- We always try our best
- We never give up
- We focus on learning
- We make mistakes and try again
- We show resilience

BE RESPONSIBLE

We do what we are supposed to and take responsibility for our actions.



- We are on time
- We are ready to learn
- We work hard
- We use the 4B's
- We tell the truth
- We are polite

Curriculum Information

Topic

Our topic in the first term is 'All About Me.' Most subjects are taught through cross curricular themes as far as possible.

Within the new foundation stage curriculum there are seven areas of learning, split into **PRIME** and **SPECIFIC**.

Prime Areas of learning

These areas are key to children's development and are considered time limited. If not securely in place by the end of Foundation they will be more difficult to acquire and their absence may hold a child back in other areas of learning.

Communication and Language

- **Listening, attention and understanding**

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- **Speaking**

Communication and language underpins all aspects of the Foundation Stage Curriculum. We encourage the children to develop their speaking and listening skills through storytelling, role play using puppets and imaginative play inside and outside. A focus on reading, discussing and sharing a wide variety of stories, develops their understanding and speaking. It is crucial that children learn to express themselves fluently in full sentences and have a wide vocabulary.

PSHE (Personal, Social and Emotional Development)

- **Self-regulation**
- **Managing-Self**
- **Building Relationships**

It is important that children learn to manage their feelings and can express themselves verbally. Much of our learning in Foundation Stage is fun, hands on and play-based, through this children develop the confidence to take part in child-initiated and teacher led tasks. They learn to play and communicate with each other and build good relationships. We teach children good social skills and support children in taking turns, sharing and expressing needs and feelings in an appropriate manner. We encourage children to be independent in school, so please encourage your child to dress and undress independently and put on their coat, hat, gloves and shoes for themselves at home.

Physical Development

- **Gross Motor**
- **Fine Motor**

We will be introducing basic skill games and dance during this term. The children will be developing gross motor skills (running, jumping, kicking, hopping etc) during PE sessions. Many activities in class develop fine motor skills such as using peg boards, colouring, painting and threading. Developing good motor skills (fine and gross) is essential to build muscle control which is necessary for handwriting etc. We would like to remind parents that a PE kit is needed in school at all times. These get sent home every half term to be washed.

We would also ask you to check that all items of clothing, including PE kit, are named and that plimsolls fit correctly. **Please could you ensure that your child does not wear jewellery especially earrings and that long hair is tied back in order to comply with health and safety guidelines.**

Specific areas of learning

These will be taught alongside the Prime areas.

Literacy

- **Comprehension**
- **Word Reading**
- **Writing**

The children will have a planned approach to learning their letters and sounds. They will have a daily 30min session which consists of learning a new sound and practicing those already learnt. This will provide the children with the skills they need to read and write. Children will bring home a book to share with an adult and will start to bring home a book from our monster phonics, structured reading scheme, to read every night at home, this starts from when they are secure with their initial sounds. It is important that your child reads every day. The children will be encouraged to write independently throughout their day which will be linked to a variety of activities, such as writing a parking ticket dressed up as a traffic warden.

A Reading meeting will be held on 1st October in the KS1 main hall at 2pm.

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After the meeting you will be invited back to class to take part in phonics activities which you could use at home. We expect the whole session to last until 3.10pm.

Mathematics

- **Numbers**
- **Numerical Patterns**

This term we will be concentrating on number recognition, patterns and 2D shapes. The children will have a daily mathematics session and have the opportunity to access an aspect of mathematics throughout the day. It is important that your child learns to write numbers to 10 correctly.

We will also be running a Phonics / Maths workshop on the **22nd October** in the Key Stage 1 hall at **2pm**.

Understanding of the World

- **Past and Present**
- **People, Culture and Communities**
- **The Natural World**

A lot of our learning is taught through exploring the world around us. We encourage children to investigate places, objects, materials and living things using all of their senses as appropriate.

We celebrate many occasions in school - Birthdays, Harvest, Christmas, Chinese New Year etc. Children in the Foundation Stage attend celebration assembly once a week where two children from each class are rewarded with a celebration certificate.

Expressive Arts and Design

- **Creating with Materials**
- **Being Imaginative and Expressive**

We will build upon cutting, sticking, drawing and painting skills. The children will have opportunities to explore colour mixing, collage and a variety of different media. They can access a variety of creative activities throughout the day as well as a directed creative task once a week. This area of the curriculum covers art, music, movement and dance.

AOB

As part of our daily routine your child will have the opportunity to go outside every day. As we approach winter could we remind you to send in outdoor clothing every day such as a waterproof coat, gloves, scarf and a hat. Please ensure that all your child's belongings are clearly labelled with your child's full name. It would be very helpful if your child had a spare set of clothes, including underwear, in their PE bags in case of any accidents.

We look forward to working with you in a partnership to make your child's time in Foundation Stage a happy and productive learning experience.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Timothy
Class Teacher

Mrs D Davis
Class Teacher and Foundation Stage Lead

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