



Exeter
a learning community

Welcome to Foundation Stage 2

2020-2021

Introducing your child to school

Welcome to Exeter. We are really looking forward to meeting you and your child and being part of this exciting time in their lives. We know how important it is for you and your child that they settle happily into school, so we hope you find this information helpful. We also hope that you will share it with your child and find it reassuring.

Starting school is both an exciting and nervous time for both children and parents. You may have many questions to ask? We hope that this booklet will tell you something about our school and help you to feel part of the group of adults that are committed to giving your child the best education possible.

If you feel that your child is worried about starting school, please let us know and we will discuss possible ways of helping to overcome this.

To find out more about our school, why not visit our website? www.exeteralc.com

Admission Information



Before your child's first day, make sure you fill out a registration form with your address and phone numbers. This can be done during your home visit.

We also need at least **two emergency contacts** that we can get hold of during the school day should we be unable to get hold of you.



Please ensure you inform the office if you change your home phone or mobile number during the year.



Please also let us have an email address, if you have one.

In Northamptonshire, children have the opportunity to start school in the September following their fourth birthday. All children must be four on or before 31st August 2020.

Children become of statutory school age at the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday. Parents who do not wish their child to start school early can wait until they are of statutory school age. Contact the school office if you are considering this possibility. Some children are very anxious about starting school and find separating from their parents difficult. Other children get very tired and struggle to complete full weeks. Each child is unique and different so we are happy to consider a more gradual start to being in school should your child require it. Please speak to your child's class teacher.

Starting School

For the first two days of the new term, (school week beginning 4th September), the class teacher and class early year's practitioner will continue to undergo 'virtual' home visits via Zoom. This will be for about 30 minutes and is an invaluable opportunity for you to ask questions and share any concerns.

During week beginning 7th September, we operate a part-time attendance. They can help your child to get to know the routines, especially lunchtimes.

Attendance will be as follows.

8:40 a.m. – 11:45a.m. Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th September 2019.

8:40 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th September 2019

8:40 a.m. – 3:15 p.m. Friday 11th September 2019

From Wednesday, your child will be staying for lunch. School meals must be pre-ordered through Kingswood Caterers.

Full time attendance will start from Friday 11th September, unless you or school feel your child is not ready.



The School Day

When your child starts full time the school day is organised as follows:

Morning **8:40 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.**

You are expected to bring your child into the classroom, where the children will find activities available for them to start.

Lunchtime **11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.**

Afternoon **12:45 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.**

Children are dropped off and picked up at their own classroom door.



Home Time

It is really important that you are there to collect your child at 3.15pm. It can be very distressing for the children if they see everyone else going home. If for any reason you are going to be late picking your child up, it is really important to phone the School Office (01536 204765) and let us know.

If you are not going to collect your child yourself, we need to know who to expect at home time. Please inform the class teacher in the morning. We will only allow children to be collected by the named people you nominate on the admission's form.

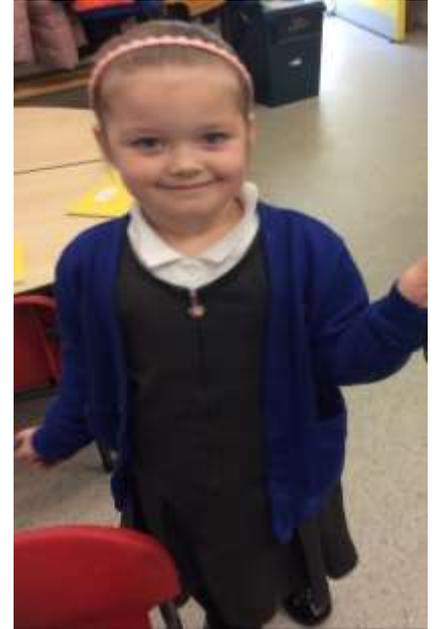
Children in Foundation Stage 2 must be collected by a responsible adult **over the age of 16**.



Uniform

We encourage children to wear school uniform.

We require children to wear a blue jumper/ cardigan preferably with the school logo on. These can be bought from the school office.



Our Uniform consists of: a blue jumper/cardigan/sweatshirt, grey trousers/skirt/shorts, and a white, red or blue polo shirt. Sun dresses can be

worn when the weather is hot.

Stud earrings and watches are the only items of jewellery allowed. This is for health and safety reasons. If your child cannot take his/her own earrings out, we will ask that you ensure they are removed on P.E. days for safety reasons.



You **must** provide your child with **spare clothes** to keep in school. Children sometimes get wet or dirty during their play as well as the occasional toileting accident. Please can you **name** all items of clothing and footwear.

Children play outside in all weathers.

Therefore, it is important that your child has a warm, waterproof coat in school every day. You may also wish to provide waterproof trousers.



Footwear

We ask that children wear **flat** school shoes so that they can play safely. This enables them to run and climb more easily. We do not recommend lace up shoes for children in Foundation Stage 2. All children need a pair of **wellies** to keep in school every day, as well as their normal shoes.

This is so they can take part in water play.

P.E Kit



We encourage children to wear the red Exeter P.E top.

Children can wear black shorts or tracksuit pants. Plimsoles should be worn during P.E lessons.



You will also need:



- A bottle filled with fresh drinking water (NOT juice), refilled each day.
- A change of spare clothes, socks, trousers/ leggings, top which are replaced when used.



- In warm weather, a sun hat (clearly names) should be worn. We ask that you provide sun cream to stay in school. Adults will help children apply this when necessary. If the weather is too hot children will be kept indoors to prevent exposure to the sun.

- A school book bag; children will be responsible for looking after their own belongings, therefore it is important that they know where their name is on their clothes. You can also help them to recognise their bag by adding a sticker or key ring.

It is important for all clothing to be clearly **named** in case items are mislaid. We recommend iron-on labels such as those available from www.mynamelabel.co.uk. You can help your child prepare for school by encouraging them to take ownership of their belongings, e.g. hanging their coat on a peg or putting their jumper on the right way round.

Lost property is kept in a container in the school hall. You are encouraged to check this at the end of the school day if necessary.

Parents are strongly advised not to send children to school with any items of value. We will not take responsibility for any items lost, damaged or stolen.



Snacks and Lunchtimes



We offer children a healthy snack during the day. We ask that parents contribute **£2.00** per week towards this.

parents

In the snack area, children are encouraged to develop independence and self-help skills. They are taught to pour and spread, and learn about healthy eating.

Fruit is available for the children each day.

All children under five are entitled to free **milk** every day. Drinking water is always available.

At lunchtime, children may have a **free school meal** or bring their own **packed lunch**.

If you wish your child to have a free school meal, you must **register** and **order in advance**. You must order meals for the forthcoming week by Wednesday of the previous week. You should register at www.kingswoodcatering.co.uk. Here, you can view menus and pre-order meals.

It will not be possible to provide free school meals unless your child has registered and pre-ordered. Please ask the office for more information. They can help you with ordering if required.



If your child brings a packed lunch, food should be brought in a suitable container **clearly marked with your child's name**.

Please remember we are a nut free zone. This contains NO chocolate spread is yummy and nuts!



zone. This contains NO

 **Foods suitable for packed lunches**



Bread, rice, potatoes and pasta

Meat, Fish and Non-Dairy Protein

Milk and Dairy Foods

Fruit and Vegetables

 **Foods not to be included in a packed lunch**



Chocolate, chocolate biscuits/cookies, cake bars, crisps and nuts



Sweets, fruit juice and fizzy drinks

Medical Care



At Exeter a learning community, we provide a caring environment and everything possible is done to ensure your child's safety.

To help us do this, you need to make sure that staff are aware of any allergies or medical conditions, including asthma. Information can be supplied on the admissions form and we can be updated at any time.



If your child uses an inhaler, please ensure they have a spare one to be kept in school. It is your responsibility to ensure it is in date and to replace it as necessary.

It is not our policy to administer medicines other than inhalers and prescribed medication. There is a separate consent form to ensure we have all the correct details. If your child has an ongoing need for medication during the day you should speak to the class teacher about this.

If a child becomes unwell it is our policy to contact a parent or a named emergency contact so that he or she can be taken home. Please ensure that you keep us up to date with phone numbers.

If a child has **diarrhoea and/or vomiting**, the school requires that children should be kept off school for 24 hours after their symptoms disappear, even if they seem well. This is to reduce the spread of infection.

Further advice about whether to bring your child to school if you think he or she may be unwell can be found at

<http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Yourchildatschool/Pages/Illness.aspx>

During their first school year children will be seen by the School Nurse for a screening examination. A health questionnaire and consent form will be sent to parents. A hearing and vision test will be performed, together with a measurement of growth.

From time to time, we also have visits from dentist and oral hygienist. You will be given details of this at the appropriate time.

Supporting Your Child's Learning at Home

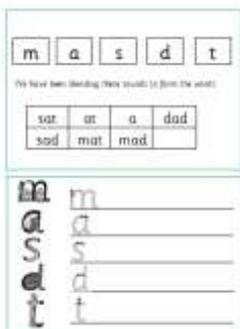
Parents often ask how they can help their child. Below are some suggestions:

- **Before your child starts full time school**, help your child to be independent by letting your child go to the toilet, wipe his/her own bottom and wash hands. It's also useful for your child to practise blowing his/her own nose and dressing him/herself.
- Prepare children for school routines by regular bedtimes and getting up times.
- Give simple instructions and check to see that he/she understands. If you are concerned about his/her language development, speak to your health visitor or doctor as soon as possible.
- Sing nursery rhymes together.
- Play simple counting games.
- Encourage writing using lower case letters, **not** capitals.
- Encourage exploration of the world around him or her.
- Share stories at bedtime or other times during the day.



- **Once your child starts school**, practise reading and number recognition at home and make sure your child brings his/her book bag to school **every day**.

Homework



In FS2 we have a Reading Ramble book where we set our homework. He/she will be bringing a book, a reading record book and weekly words to learn. Homework will include the RWI phonic sounds your child has learnt that week. It is vital you help your child with their reading and homework at home. The reading record is for parents and teachers to use and comment on progress. Please sign this book when you hear your child read.

Early Years Foundation Stage

Foundation Stage 2 is the final year of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The curriculum in Foundation Stage 2 follows the Statutory EYFS Framework.

The EYFS Framework explains how and what your child will be learning to support their healthy development. Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through seven areas of learning and development.

Children should mostly develop the three prime areas first. These are:

- Communication and language;
- Physical development; and
- Personal, social and emotional development.



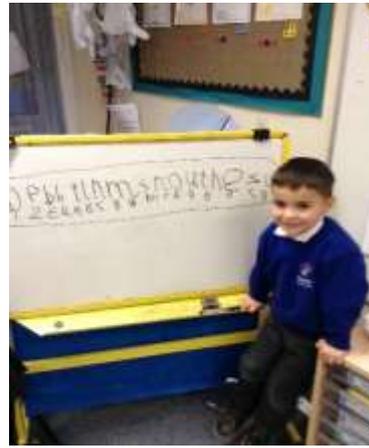
These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning.

As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in four specific areas. These are:

- Literacy;
- Mathematics;
- Understanding the world; and
- Expressive arts and design.

Play is a natural activity for children, so, in Foundation Stage 2 classes, most activities are play based. This may be different from your own memories of school! Situations and equipment are presented to the children to stimulate their thinking and introduce new areas for exploration, discovery and learning.

You can be sure that activities are planned with specific objectives in mind. We undertake a 'baseline assessment' of every child in the first term in order to help us to plan the next steps in learning for each individual.



How do I find out how my child is doing?



Throughout the year, teachers will build up a profile of your child's learning and development presented in his/her own 'Learning Journey' created on an APP called 'EExAT'.

There is a parent App available for parents. We believe that parents and carers are a child's first and prime educators and we value your knowledge about your child. Please contribute to your child's Learning Journey by using EExAT which allows you to upload photos and text information about your child's achievements at home, to your child's evidence base. We will also send you pictures showing your child's learning in school. Permission forms will be given in the Autumn Term.

During the course of the year, you will be invited to at least two **Parents' Consultation meetings**. However, you are always welcome to make an appointment to talk to your child's class teacher. Teachers may be available before and after school for informal chats. You can also write messages to the teacher in your child's reading record book.

You will be invited to several '**Stay and Play**' sessions during the course of the year. These sessions are opportunities for you to get involved with your child's learning in school.

We invite parents to attend information workshops throughout the year with the children so you are aware of how your child will learn different aspects like reading and writing. We will run a phonics workshop which explains how children acquire letter names and sounds and starts to put sounds together to read words. We use a scheme called 'Read, Write, Inc' (RWI). You are also invited to take part in our Book and Biscuit sessions where adults can share how we support children to develop their reading skills.

The rate at which children develop depends upon individuals. **Don't** worry if your child appears to learn at a different rate in reading, writing or number work - this is not unusual. **Do** come and talk to the class teacher if you have any concerns.

At the end of the academic year, you will receive a written report telling you about your child's progress over the year. This report will also give you information about how your child has achieved in relation to national expectations.

You can find more information about the **Early Years Foundation Stage** which includes the Early Learning Goals at www.foundationyears.org.uk.