

Park Gate Primary School

Starting School in September 2022



Success for All

Partnership

Achievement

Resilience

Kindness

Growth

Aspiration

Trust

Excellence



Welcome

Welcome to Park Gate Primary School. I am delighted that you are interested in our school and we are very much looking forward to meeting you. We hope that you will be able to join us on a tour and ask that you telephone the school office (01489 575444) to make an appointment.

Transition into school is an important time for children and parents. We aim to work in partnership with parents (albeit in a slightly different way at the moment) to ensure that you and your child become familiar with Park Gate Primary School and that as parents you receive all the necessary information.

Our Starting School in September 2022 Booklet aims to provide some answers to questions that you may have, provide a summary of the transition arrangements in place (subject to amendments in light of any changes relating to Covid-19) and provide you with some additional information which will hopefully be helpful.

We will provide further information once your child joins Park Gate, including a Welcome Letter once places have been allocated by the Local Authority.

You may also find our website helpful in providing further information. Please visit; www.parkgateprimary.co.uk .

Kind regards

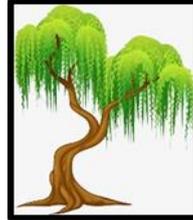
Lindsay McCarthy Headteacher

Welcome to Early Years!

There are two classes in Year R:



Chestnut Tree Class



Willow Tree Class

Preparing for School

It is important that we get to know the children before they start school and our transition arrangements include;

- Communicating with and visiting Pre-Schools
- Stay and Play Sessions (July before starting school)
- Home Visits (arranged at school during Covid restrictions)
- Settling in Week (where children attend part-time)
- Welcome Meeting for Parents
- Written communication including confirmation of classes.

What does my child need to wear to school?



Winter



Summer

What is the system for dropping off and collecting my child?

The gates to the playground open at 8.30am each day and close at 8.40am. A member of the leadership team will be on hand if you have any questions each day. We then ask you to walk your child to the outdoor play area, in the gate and to the classroom doors where the adults will be waiting for you. The gates to the playground will open at 2.50pm daily and again, we ask you to walk to the Early Years outside area ready to collect your child at 2.55pm.

At the end of the day, please be aware that children will only be handed over to other adults if consent has been given (written or verbal) to either the class teacher/LSA or the school office, who will inform us of the arrangements.

Tell me about lunchtimes....



Our lunches are cooked on site by HC3S. Parents receive a copy of the menu and we encourage you to discuss the options with your child each day. They will have a choice of a red (meat/fish), green (vegetarian) lunch or a jacket potato. HC3S Education Catering Facebook shows photographs of the daily meals. You can also choose to send your child to school with a packed lunch. We are a nut free school so do not allow peanut butter or

chocolate spread sandwiches or any snacks that (may) contain nuts. Fizzy drinks and pure chocolate bars are also not allowed. We like to encourage children to have a healthy, balanced packed lunch. All lunch boxes should be clearly named. Selecting their lunch colour choice is the first job of the day when they arrive at school. Our caterers can arrange menus for children with specific medical requirements or allergies and we ask that you provide details through our questionnaire.

Our Reception children always go into lunch first and their lunchtime is from 11.45pm - 1.00pm. We do not expect them to queue up for their lunches. The children sit down and their lunch is delivered to the table.

The School Day

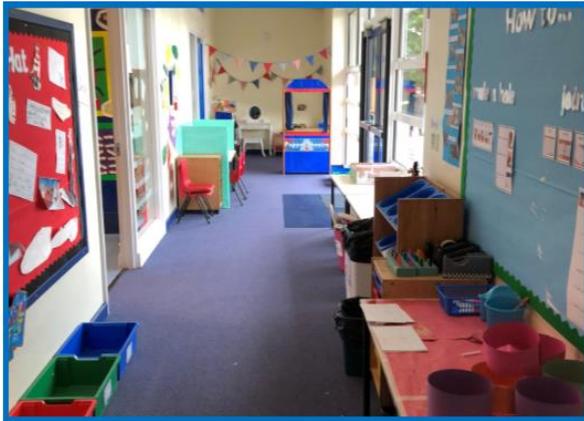
During the first year in school it is vital that we capture the natural enthusiasm and inquisitiveness of the children to ensure they develop independence and interest in learning.

The children will have lots of time to 'discover' through well-resourced indoor and outdoor spaces which are shared by all the children across the setting. The curriculum is carefully planned and learning through play is at the heart of our Early Years provision. Early Years Foundation Stage is also a key time that the children learn the skills of reading, writing and number, including Early phonics.

A typical day at school in the first few weeks of the Autumn term will look like this.

8.30am	Table top activities Children will be able to choose from a selection of table top activities in the classroom. These will include looking at books, jigsaws, colourings, fine motor control activities and number games.
9am- 11am	Register Carpet time for whole class input Discovery time The children will select their own child initiated activities, both inside and outside the classroom. The teachers and LSAs will be observing and interacting with the children, including working with individuals and small groups of focus children in child-selected tasks.
11am - 11.30am	Carpet time for whole class input
11.30am	Get ready for lunch
11.45am	Lunch in the hall followed by playtime
1pm	Register and carpet time for whole class input
1.20pm	Discovery time The children will select their own child initiated activities, both inside and outside the classroom. The teachers and LSAs will be observing and interacting with the children, including working with individuals and small groups of focus children in child-selected tasks.
2.30pm	Story time
2.55pm	Home time

A flavour of our Early Years Environment....



Creative Corridor ... the children can dress up, play instruments and create some junk modelling.

Chestnut Class...



Willow Class...

Outside Area



Outside we have a large mud pit and kitchen, sand pit, water play area and painting area.

This is our builder's yard!

We see the outdoor learning environment as a very important part of children's early learning experiences. We have a wide range of quality resources which children can readily and independently access to support all areas of their learning.



How do I receive information about how my child is progressing?

We will ask parents to sign up to Tapestry which is an online learning journal



enabling us to share ongoing achievements and milestones at school and at home.

There will be Parents' Evenings in both the Autumn and Spring Terms. These are 10 minute appointments and an opportunity for you to discuss how your child has settled into school and how they are doing with their learning.

In the summer term you will receive a full report on your child's attainment against the Early Learning Goals.

We hold curriculum evenings for every year group in September. Our Year R meeting will inform you of our expectations, how you can help with reading, how we teach maths and phonics and how we assess the children. It is a very important meeting to attend so that you can fully support your child's success at school.

What will my child have for snack time?

A piece of fresh fruit is provided daily. We also ask that you send your child in with a water bottle every day - it is important that this contains water only (no flavoured water!) and we can refill it from the school tap when empty. The children are also able to access free milk each day until they are 5.

Will my child have homework?

The best way that you can help your child in the early days at school is by listening and talking to them about their experiences.

In September we will be holding a curriculum evening where we will explain how we teach phonics to support reading and writing.

Once the children have started the phonics sessions, they will be bringing home some sounds to practise with you. This will be fully explained at the meeting.

Reading books will be sent home weekly. We set an expectation that you will read with your child three times a week, at the very least.

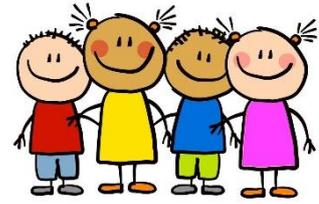


How do we find out what is happening in school?

Our website, www.parkgateprimary.co.uk is a fantastic way to find out what is happening in school. We distribute a newsletter every Friday by email and other letters when required.

How can I help my child prepare for school?

Encouraging your child to be independent with tasks at home will be extremely beneficial to them when they start school. Of course the adults will always be on hand to help the children where necessary.



Some areas to focus on at home would be:

Meal times

If your child is having a school meal they will be expected to be able to use a knife and fork to eat their meal. Of course help will be given if needed, but your child will feel much more confident if this skill has already been mastered.

Practise opening and closing plastic containers in lunchboxes.

Changing independently

It is very beneficial if children are able to change in and out of their uniforms independently. Experience has shown us that jumpers and socks which are slightly larger are helpful and Velcro shoes.

Using the toilet

The two Reception classrooms both have toilets. It is beneficial if your children can use the toilet independently.

Recognising their name

It is also very helpful if the children can recognise their first name when they come to school.

What if I require a place at the Time Out breakfast or after school club?

Please email the school office who will be able to provide details of our Time Out Club which is available from 7.30am in the morning and until 6.00pm in the evening.

