

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. We are delighted that you have been offered a place at our school and we are very much looking forward to meeting you.

Transition into school is an important time for children and parents. We aim to work in partnership with parents to ensure that over the next few months you and your child become familiar with Park Gate Primary School and that as parents you receive all the necessary information.

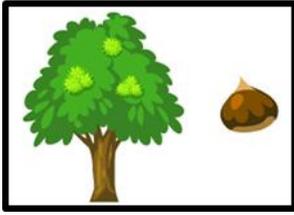
Our Starting School in September 2022 Booklet aims to provide some answers to questions you may have, provide an overview of the transition arrangements in place and provide you with some information which will hopefully be helpful in those first few weeks of school.

You may also find our website helpful in providing further information. Please visit;

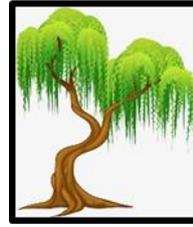
www.parkgateprimary.co.uk .

Welcome to Early Years!

There are two classes in Year R:



Chestnut Tree Class



Willow Tree Class

Preparing for School

Communicating with Pre-Schools

Getting to know the children before they start school is an important part of our transition arrangements. During the summer term the Early Years staff contact pre-schools to discuss the children. They talk to your child's keyworker in the setting and meet the children. We try to go and meet the children in their setting at their pre-school. We will also be offering pre-schools the chance to come and use our library for story time. If your child does not attend a pre-school, we will contact you in June to arrange a time your child might like to visit the library.

Letter to Confirm Classes - Week beginning Monday 13th June

The week beginning 13th June we will email parents a letter confirming your child's class. We will also include some photographs of the classrooms and the adults for you to share with your child. Once you know your child's class, you receive a form to sign up for a home visit.

Home Visits - Week beginning 27th June (Willow Class) and 4th July (Chestnut Class)

We are extremely happy to say, we are offering the opportunity for home visits this year. This will be a 20 minute afternoon slot for the class teacher and LSA to meet you on a 1:1 basis in your own home. This is a lovely opportunity for the children to get to know the adults, share the things they enjoy and for parents to ask any addition questions. We will also share our starting school goodie bag with you and your child.

Come and Play Session 4:00 to 4:30 - Willow Class Wednesday 13th July

Chestnut Class Thursday 14th July

This is an opportunity for you and your child to come and play in their new classroom. Your child will meet some of their new friends who will be in the same class as them next year. Our school cook will be offering a sample of some of our favourite dinners for the children to enjoy. Your child will be able to explore all the fun activities our classrooms and outside area has to offer.

Individual School Visits - Week beginning 5th September

To support your child's transition into school we offer a 1:1 visit for parents and children into the classroom. This gives us the opportunity to catch up after the summer and talk about how the first term at school will look like for your child. Whilst the parents and the class teachers chat, the children will be able to take part in a fun activity with their LSA.

Settling in Week - Week beginning 12th September

To help the children settle into the routines of school we have a short, phased approach. All the children will attend either a morning (8.30am - 11.30am) or an afternoon session (1.00pm - 2.55pm) each day during the week beginning 12th September. We will also invite them to stay for lunch on either the Thursday or the Friday of that week and ask that the children are collected at 12.30pm. From Monday 19th September the children are able to start full time. We want to ensure that your child's start to school is successful, so we will work with parents if you feel your child would benefit from a longer phased approach. Please do contact the school if you would like to discuss this further.

This is the first week that your child will need to wear their uniform to school. Please name as much of your child's school uniform as possible, but especially jumpers and cardigans, as these are regularly taken off by the children during the day.

What does my child need to wear to school?



Winter



Summer

Your child may wear a plain navy jumper or cardigan (no hoodies). They may wish to wear a navy jumper or cardigan with the school logo on it. Logoed items are available to purchase at Skoolkit. Due to new Government Statutory Guidance our uniform policy is currently being reviewed. As soon as we have our new policy in place, we will send this to you. The Friends of Park Gate also sell pre-loved school uniform, including jumpers and cardigans, and have stocks available to purchase at very reasonable prices. Please contact the school office if you would like us to pass on a uniform request to the Friends.

Does my child need to bring a PE kit?

For the first two terms of school, our PE lessons will be indoors in the school hall. However, your child will need trainers for any outside games we do in dry weather. They will also need dark shorts and t-shirt in their House colour. Your child will join one of our House Teams and we will let you their house team when you receive your class letter.



What does my child need to bring from home?

Please could they bring a water bottle to school each day and a pair of wellies which could remain in school.

They will also need a book bag clearly labelled with their name. These are available to purchase from the school office. Book bags cost £3.50. They will also need a coat unless it is super sunny as the outdoor space is available throughout the year.

They do not need to bring any other items to school. We suggest toys are not brought into school from home as they are likely to be misplaced during the day.

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 8.45am. 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. During the first week, if your child is attending the afternoon sessions, a member of staff will come and open the gates at 1pm.

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. In line with our Healthy Schools Award 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. Early phonics (letter sounds) is taught through the programme Little Wandle.

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

8.30am	Table top activities and Register 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.
9.30am- 11.15am	Carpet time for whole class input (short and active sessions) 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.
11.15 - 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.

Willow Class...



Chestnut Class...



Outside Area...



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.

What happens if my child is unwell?

If your child is not well enough to come to school please let us know by phoning the school office before 8.30am.

Please note that in line with the Department for Education's guidelines for infection control in schools, your child should not return to school following a bout of vomiting or diarrhoea for 48 hours from the last episode.

If your child becomes unwell during the school day we will contact you by calling the contact numbers provided. Please make sure the home and emergency contact numbers held in the school office, are kept up to date.

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. You will shortly be receiving an email detailing how to complete an on-line form to register for Tapestry. Please ensure that you do this as soon as possible as we will be using this to send videos and photos of the school and staff for the children to see.



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 and will take place in October. We will discuss 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. Information will be sent home regarding how to apply for milk.



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. Please sign the reading diary to show you have read with your child.

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.

We will discuss ideas at your home visit on how to help your child build on their independence over the summer.

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.

We look forward to meeting you soon and if you have any questions please let us know either through the questionnaire or by emailing or telephoning the school office (adminoffice@parkgate.hants.sch.uk).

