

Hainford VC Primary School  
Foundation Stage Unit



# Welcome



# Welcome

## Our Foundation Stage Unit

Welcome to the Hainford VC Primary School Foundation Stage Unit.

From the very start of their school life children at our school are encouraged to be independent. The classroom allows children opportunities to make choices and decisions in a safe environment with adult support and encouragement. Children enter their classroom from the playground every day. Teachers greet the children at 8:45am. At this time parents say goodbye and children come into the classroom to hang their coats and book bags **independently**.

Throughout each day the children access all the areas of the curriculum through both adult directed and independent activities. The school day begins with a short activity time before the children and teachers come together to introduce the day and discuss the activities they can enjoy. The rest of the day consists of a mixture of time for the children to develop their learning either individually, within a small group, with a teacher or as a whole class. The children are encouraged to use the indoor and outdoor classroom to develop their learning independently through play.

Each day the children will take part in short carpet sessions focusing on the maths topic of the week, phonic skills for reading and writing and a learning review to provide the children the opportunity to reflect on the skills they have been developing through their play. Later on the day is ended by bringing the children together once again for a story before they go home.



At lunch time the children can choose between having a hot dinner or packed lunch in the hall. When the children have finished their lunch they will join the rest of the school on the large playground, this gives them the opportunity to mix with other children and experience a range of play equipment and games.

At home time parents wait outside their child's classroom and children will be dismissed at 3:00pm when the teacher can see the parent has arrived.



## Home Visits

Every child is offered the chance to have a home visit. We feel it is important to meet with parents and carers before the school term begins. By visiting you in the home environment we are able to talk to and interact with your child in their most comfortable surroundings. Please note that the home visit is optional. The Foundation Stage staff will visit your home and give you all the information you require before your child begins school. This will be an opportunity for us to find out more about your child and for you to make us aware of any issues regarding your child's progress or needs.

Each visit lasts around fifteen minutes and you will be given time to talk to the teacher and ask any questions you have about your child starting school. We want to ensure that you and your child have plenty of time to talk to and become familiar with us before school begins. We want your child's start at school to be as smooth as possible, we recognise that as parents you know your child best and any information we can gain from you to help us to settle them will benefit everyone involved.

## What should you expect in your child's first week at school?



The most important thing you must remember during your child's first week at school is that there are lots of other children and their parents going through the same experience. This is a big step in your child's development and a significant shift in their routine. We understand that every parent worries about their child's first week at school. It is our aim to support you and your child as much as we possibly can during this time and in the future.

Below are some tips that will help you support your child during their first week at school.

Have a morning routine at home.

Speak confidently and positively about school.

Get to school promptly.

Reassure them they will have lots of fun

Tell them that all the parents/carers have to go home.

Say goodbye quickly and reassure them that they will have a good day.

Don't give in to refusals before school, if you can get them to school they will be fine.

If your child holds on to you allow their teacher or teaching assistant to take them from you.

## **What will your child need to bring to school?**

We take pride in our uniform. All items can be ordered using the school order form (see leaflet in the welcome pack for details). Please consider buying elastic or Velcro fastening school shoes, these should be flat shoes.

**Please ensure ALL items of clothing are named, even coats and shoes!**



**Waterproofs and Wellies** We have a wonderful outdoor classroom for the children to learn in and we like to get out there in all weathers. If your child has waterproof clothing and wellies in school then it will enable them to make the most of these opportunities. We also have a fully functioning mud kitchen which the children love to use!

**P.E Kit** P.E bag, containing shorts and a T-shirt. Spare clothes can also be placed in this bag, (socks, pants, trousers/skirt, T-shirt) within a plastic bag.

**Book Bag** Your child will be given the opportunity to choose a book during your home visit, keep this and any other school books in this bag for easy access when they are needed in school. Any letters from school will also be placed in here.

**Hot Dinners/ Packed lunch** School meals are available for free every day. A menu for the term is available in the entrance area of the school. Your child may have a school dinner every day or may choose to eat when their favourite food features on the menu.

Some children choose to have packed lunch, parents sometimes find it easier to monitor how much their child is eating and know they can provide some of their child's favourite foods. Please ensure that lunch boxes are named and not over filled as this can prove too much for some children to manage.

As we are trying to promote healthy eating within school we ask that lunchboxes do not contain any of the following items

Sweets

Chocolate

Fizzy drinks

**Nuts, Peanut Butter or Chocolate Spread products - these are not allowed due to allergies.**

Fruit snacks and water are available throughout the day but we do advise that children bring their own named water bottle that they can access at any time. Tuckshop is available every day, so your child can purchase a healthy snack for a nominal charge of 20p.



## **The Curriculum**

Throughout their time in school the children learn a wide range of skills. Activities are planned in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

The curriculum is split into **seven** main areas of learning, these are:

### **Personal Social and Emotional Development**

Talking about personal experiences, getting to know ourselves and the people around us. An introduction to Religion and Religious festivals.

### **Communication and Language**

Speaking and listening skills, understanding of language.

### **Literacy**

Letter recognition, reading, writing, letter formation, pencil control, knowledge of books.

### **Mathematics**

Number, counting, shape, pattern, money, measure and estimation.

### **Understanding the World**

Life processes, understanding of living things and how to care for them, our environment, life in the past, designing and constructing and using ICT in everyday life.

### **Physical Development**

Understanding how the body develops and changes, ball skills, balancing, following instructions, sequencing actions and controlling movements.

### **Expressive Arts and Design**

Pencil control, drawing, pattern, colour, paint, colour mixing, using powder paints, texture, collage, 3d construction and modelling, music and role-play.



# **The Foundation Stage Profile**

The Foundation Stage Profile focuses on your child's achievements in the seven areas of learning. In order to keep track of what your child has achieved during the year we will make observations, take photos and keep notes on what they are doing. When your child has achieved something in one of the seven areas of learning we will record their achievement on their Foundation Stage Profile. Each child is taught according to their own learning style and needs. All children are individual and we recognise that they each have their own strengths and areas for development. By keeping a record of what your child is achieving we are able to focus our teaching to your child's individual next steps, it is our aim to ensure that they get exactly what they need to enthuse, encourage and move them on.

## **Whole School Routines**

### **Class Assemblies**

The Reception Unit performs a class assembly once each term. Parents are invited to come along and find out what their child has been doing during that time.

### **Special Assemblies**

Every Friday we have a whole school assembly where selected children are awarded a certificate. Each week we have a pupil of the week from each class. We also have our Christian values certificate, a child receiving this certificate will have shown a particular value we are learning about that half term.

### **Assertive Mentoring**

Teachers are available and happy to speak with parents after school most days. If you have something that you would like to discuss with them please make an appointment. During the year there are a few formal occasions where you can meet with your child's teacher to find out how your child is progressing and how you can support them at home. Towards the end of the Summer term you and your child will have final assertive mentoring meeting and a report will be sent home which records their progress and achievements for the year.

### **Monday Reading**

Every Monday morning parents are invited into school to read a book with their child in the classroom. Children really enjoy this time and it is a chance for parents to look at displays in the classroom and get a feel for where their child spends their day. This begins after the first term.

## **Partner Reading**

Once a week your child will get an opportunity to read with their school reading partner. This will be an older child in the school. This scheme has been very successful in past years.



## **Helping in Class**

All parents and carers are encouraged to come into their child's class during the year to help and join in with activities. Parents are welcome to come into school from Term Two (Spring Term) onwards, as this allows children time to settle in. If you would like to help in school or on school trips you must complete a DBS check form which are available from Mrs Pamment in the school office.

## **Class Routines**

### **P.E**

From the start of the second term your child will take part in regular PE sessions. Please ensure your child brings their P.E kit on a Monday and takes it home during the holidays.

### **Playtimes**

The children have two set playtimes each day.

Morning playtime 10.20am 10:35am

Lunchtime eating/playtime 12pm 1pm

Playtimes are also an opportunity for children to go to the toilet. These facilities are available throughout the day and children are encouraged to go as and when they need to.

### **Library**

Children are able to choose one library book each week. They will have a specific day which you will be notified of. Children do not need to carry their library book in their book bag on any other day except exchange day.

### **Class Books**

Children will have their reading books changed once a week by their class teacher. Children must bring their reading book to school everyday. They will also be able to choose a choosing book as often as they like. Parents are welcome to come into the classroom after school to help their child obtain a new choosing book.



## **Supporting your child**

Throughout your child's time at school the teachers will work hard to ensure that they make the most amount of progress possible. It is important that this is reflected at home also with the support parents and carers provide. Here at Hainford VC Primary School we provide many opportunities for parents to come into school to find out what the children are doing. Each week we send home information about our weekly theme with ideas for parents to be able to support their child at home alongside school.

### **Reading and Key Words**

Each child is given a reading diary to keep in their book bag. Parents are encouraged to write positive comments in this book when they have heard their child read. Teachers and Teaching Assistants will also do this weekly when they hear your child read.

Throughout the year there are 'words of the week'. The words are the focus words for the week in school. These are displayed in the classroom windows for parents to see. This is a good opportunity for parents to continue their child's learning at home.



### **Stay and Play**

During the first term of school you will be invited into the unit to join the children for a few afternoon sessions. During these sessions you will be given the opportunity to listen to a short talk about each of the areas of the curriculum, how they are taught at Hainford C of E Primary School and how you can support your child at home. After the talk you can spend the rest of the afternoon exploring the activities available with your child.



## Secret Reader



In 2015 we introduced a new scheme whereby parents sign up to come in and share their favourite story with the children, the best part is that it is a secret!

Secret Readers will be invited to come and read their book in term two (Spring term) once the children are settled.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this pack, we hope it has given you all the information you need before your child begins their education journey! If you have any additional queries please do not hesitate to contact the school. We are very excited to have your child joining Hainford in September!

