

Brandesburton Primary School

Together We Believe, Together We Achieve

Welcome to The Foundation Stage



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The Early Years Foundation Stage focuses on the distinct needs of children aged 3 to 5 years. Hence it includes children of both Nursery (Foundation 1) and Reception (Foundation 2) age.

The Foundation 1 and Foundation 2 children are taught together in the Foundation classroom.

Here at Brandesburton Primary School our staff work closely to provide a rich, stimulating, happy and secure environment which supports the development and learning of each child.

Staff

Miss S McIntyre	Foundation Stage Teacher
Mrs K Gardner	Foundation Stage Teacher
Mrs A Laughton	Nursery Nurse
Mrs J Gell	Teaching Assistant (Part time)

If you have any queries or concerns that you wish to discuss, please contact any member of the Foundation Stage team. If we are unable to speak to you immediately we will always arrange a time when one of us can be available.

We are always happy to help.

Starting Foundation Stage 1

In order to ensure that the children receive the support and attention they need when starting Foundation Stage 1, the intake to their new class will be staggered.

On your child's start date your child will be invited to stay with us for one hour and fifteen minutes.

In the following days we will then aim to build up to the full three hour session.

Please appreciate that we will need your support and flexibility until your child is settled and happy to stay for the full session.

Timings

Foundation 1 (Nursery)

- The children should arrive at school at 8.45am. The Foundation staff will help them to 'self-register' in the Foundation Stage classroom. Please ensure that you arrive on time so that the cloakroom is free for the Foundation Stage 2 children to enter the building at 8.50am.
- The session finishes at 11.45 am when children can be collected from the gate outside the main school reception.

Foundation 2 (Reception)

- The children should arrive at school by 8.50 am and 'self-register' in the Foundation Stage classroom.
- Lunchtime is from 12.10 noon – 1.15 pm.
- The children will leave school from the Foundation Stage playground at 3.15 pm.

Collecting your child

In order to ensure everyone is safe, please inform us if the usual arrangements alter. This can be recorded on a whiteboard located outside the classroom.

If your child is to be collected by an adult unfamiliar to the school staff, a password system will be used.

Essential Information

Each half term we will focus our adult-led activities on specific themes generated by the children's interests. You will receive a newsletter at the beginning of each half term and there is an information board in the classroom which will give you further information regarding news events and ways you can help us.

How will your child learn?

In the early years of a child's life play is crucial to the child's development and learning. Play is a child's work and the means by which a child grows and develops. Playing and talking are the means through which young children learn about themselves and the world around them.

At Brandesburton Primary School, children in the Foundation Stage access areas of learning through all areas of provision, both indoors and outdoors. Activities may include sand, water, construction, computing, art activities and role play. Your child will be able to share books, write or be involved in the maths area.

Your child will learn through both free play and a carefully planned programme of structured play. Each day your child will be encouraged to work with staff on small group "focus" activities and will also participate in some short, whole class activities. Staff work alongside the children and are able to adjust teaching to meet the needs of individuals. As your child progresses through the Foundation Stage the level of focus activities and whole class teaching gradually increases, although learning through play is still central.

Your Child's Progress

Throughout the Foundation Stage your child's progress in all areas of learning will be continually assessed through observation and ongoing record-keeping. Each child's development and achievements will be recorded against Development Matters statements using the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile.

Your child will not be aware that they are being assessed and there will be no formal tasks or tests to be completed. This leads to the final assessment made at the end of the Foundation Stage, called the "Foundation Stage Profile".

All of our ongoing assessments help us to plan to meet your child's needs and to carry them forward in their learning and development. We also welcome any information that you can provide about your child's learning at home.

Parents' Evenings are held throughout the school year and provide an opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their class teacher as well as share these ongoing assessments.

Foundation Stage staff see parents on a daily basis and are pleased to talk about any celebrations/issues concerning your child. Informal discussions about your child's progress can be easily arranged either before or after sessions. If you have any concerns or questions please come and ask and we will do our best to help.

Parents as Partners

A strong partnership with parents is vital. We build on the learning that has taken place at home with you and by working together we can ensure your child becomes a successful learner.

Special Needs

It is important that we identify each child's specific needs as soon as possible in order to develop a programme of support. For a small number of children our provision may need to be adapted. We liaise with other agencies such as speech and language therapists, health visitors and pre-school support teachers, to help us do this. We will always work together with you to help your child and keep you informed of any changes to provision.

The school follows the National Code of Practice for Special Educational Needs and a copy of the school's Special Educational Needs policy is available to any parent who requests to see it. The school's Special Education Needs coordinator is Mrs K Platten.

Equal Opportunities

In the Foundation Stage we provide equal access to the Early Years Curriculum irrespective of their gender, ethnic and social background, religious affiliation, physical or academic ability. A copy of the school's Equal Opportunity policy is available to any parent on request.

Attendance

If your child is unable to attend school for any reason please contact the school office as soon as possible so that their absence can be authorised.

Contact Details

Telephone – 01964 542472 point of contact Miss K Tomlinson
e-mail – brands@eastriding.gov.uk

Authorised and Unauthorised Absence – From Reception Onwards

Children in FS2 - Absences may only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. The Headteacher is not able to authorise absences for children in FS2 due to holidays. We ask that our FS1 parents follow these procedures in preparation for routines once your child reaches statutory school age.

Health

If your child has any medical problems, such as asthma or allergies, please inform the school and advise us of any special arrangements.

If your child becomes ill or is injured at school, a member of staff will inform you or a pre-arranged adult carer. Please remember to let us know if any contact details change.

Any child who suffers from vomiting and/or diarrhoea should remain absent from school for a full 48 hours from the time of the last episode. If your child has an illness such as measles or chicken pox, please inform the school office.

The Foundation Stage uniform

Winter	Red/white polo or shirt Black/grey joggers, trousers or skirt Red sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan
Summer	As for winter or: Red/white dress Grey/black shorts Cap

On entry into school your child will be given a red book bag which should be brought to school every day. Any letters that need to be sent home will be put inside your child's bag along with a yellow home/school links book. We do not encourage children to bring toys from home.

Outdoor play

Children are involved in outdoor play activities on a daily basis whatever the weather. It is therefore important that your child has a suitable coat and appropriate footwear.

In wet or wintry weather please send your child to school in named wellies, with a spare pair of shoes that they can change in to for indoor activities. In sunny weather please send your child in a hat and apply sun cream before school. FS2 (Reception) children can bring additional sun cream to apply at lunchtime themselves. We recommend that children do not wear open toe sandals/crocs for health and safety reasons.

PE – FS2 (Reception) Pupils only

Your child will need a change of clothes for P.E.

PE Kit

Black Shorts

White/red t-shirt

Plimsolls/trainers (summer term only)

We also request that long hair is tied back and earrings are removed.

Please ensure that clothes are marked with your child's name.



School Meals for FS2 Pupils (Reception)

With effect from September 2014 school lunches have been offered free of charge to all children in FS2. All school meals are prepared on site and details of the menus are sent home on a regular basis.

If you would prefer your child may bring a packed lunch. We do not allow glass bottles, fizzy drinks or sweets. We ask that children continue with the same lunch arrangement throughout the course of a week. Children may be collected at 12.05pm and taken home for lunch, to be returned at 1.10 pm, if you prefer.

All children staying for lunch are sympathetically supervised by experienced supervisors. Children are encouraged to eat a balanced meal and use good table manners.

Snack time

As part of a Government scheme to encourage healthy eating, the children will receive a piece of fruit each day. Milk is available to all children on a daily basis. Water is available as an alternative if requested by parents/carers.

Helping your child

You are your child's first and most important teacher. Talking and playing with your child as much as possible is the best way that you can help him/her to learn and develop. Activities such as drawing, jigsaws, ball games, helping around the house, counting, playing with play dough or Lego are all ideal ways to learn. Singing nursery rhymes and enjoying books together are crucial to the all-important first steps in reading and writing.

Have fun learning together!

Helping your child at home

We recognise that you are your child's most enduring educator and welcome your support in helping your child at home. We will regularly inform you of the activities your child has been involved in so that you can follow these up at home if you wish. Below is a list of some of the ways you could help your child at home.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Practice dressing and undressing, for example taking off and putting on shoes and socks, putting on and fastening own coat.
- Use the toilet independently and wash own hands.
- Practice taking turns and sharing.
- Talk about personal experiences and feelings.

Communication and Language

- Practice taking turns in conversation and using 'please' and 'thank you'
- Recall, sequence and role play stories.
- Join in with rhymes and songs.
- Talk about the world around you.

Literacy

- Identify the initial sound in words, Play 'I spy'.
- Use a range of non-fiction and fiction books.
- Talk about characters and events in stories.
- Engage in activities requiring control and co-ordination such as threading, puzzles and using scissors and glue.
- Encourage your child to draw/paint pictures and talk about their pictures and mark making.

Mathematical Development

- Join in counting rhymes and count everyday objects.
- Begin to recognise numbers and put them in order.
- Find one more or one less than a group of objects.
- Sort objects according to colour, shape or size.
- Talk about the size and shape of objects.
- Make patterns and pictures with shapes.
- Use everyday words to describe quantities – heavier, lighter, more, less etc.