



KINGFISHER
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Early Years Information

Nursery and Reception



GRIFFIN
SCHOOLS
TRUST

KINGFISHER PRIMARY SCHOOL EARLY YEARS INFORMATION WELCOME

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Kingfisher Primary School. We hope that you and your child will be very happy with us and we are excited to work with you and your child and to help them grow and learn. As part of the Griffin Schools Trust our curriculum will develop the three pillars of Proud Traditions, Wide Horizons and High Achievement. All children's interests and talents will be promoted and individual needs will be met. We invite parents and carers to keep us informed of their child's interests and fascinations at home to enable us to provide high quality opportunities to support the children's individual needs. We encourage parents to be fully involved with their child's learning and to contribute to their child's 'Learning Journey' which will document the child's progress, making a unique record to be shared. We aim to keep parents and carers fully informed of their child's development as well as keeping them up to date with key information and dates. Please look out for information on the parents notice board situated outside the classroom, regularly check your child's book bags for letters, see the school website at www.kingfisher-gst.org and follow us on Twitter @ Kingfisher_Prim. If you have any questions at any time please do not hesitate to contact a member of the team.

VISION

Our vision at Kingfisher Primary School is that the children will be supported to become:

- Independent
- Resilient
- Respectful
- Responsible
- Individuals who Persevere
- and develop successful Relationships.

We will be using stories to support the children's understanding of these words as well as using them every day to support their knowledge. These values will form the basis for all children to foster a love of learning and to be able to tackle all obstacles they may face. We will be encouraging the children to be able to use these words when they talk about their own and others' achievements.

STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

Our experienced Early Years Team share a wealth of knowledge and work together to support all children working in the Foundation Stage Unit.

Alison Allum	FOUNDATION STAGE TEACHING ASSISTANT
Jade Francis	FOUNDATIN STAGE CLASS TEACHER (Reception)
Carla Stockwell	FOUNDATION STAGE TEACHING ASSISTANT
Helen Tree	FOUNDATION STAGE CLASS TEACHER (Nursery)
Hannah Lawrence	ASSISTANT HEAD and SENCo
Fiona Armstrong	HEAD OF SCHOOL

EARLY YEARS AT KINGFISHER

Our Early Years Unit consists of a Nursery and Reception Class with a considerable outdoor shared area. Staff work with all children and learning is planned for daily. Children are supported in many ways in order for them to all achieve and make considerable progress. The Foundation Team use a topic approach, underpinned by high quality texts. This is then developed alongside the children's interests to ensure an engaging and exciting curriculum. This flexible approach enables children to develop new knowledge, consolidate learning as well as engage with their individual needs. Children have opportunities to become 'experts' and share their learning with their peers. We encourage the children to explore and investigate to enable them to understand both their local and wider world.

EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE FRAMEWORK (EYFS)

The Early Years Foundation Stage is how the Government and Early Years professionals describe the time in your child's life between birth and age 5. The EYFS Framework sets out 7 areas of learning which supports a child's development which is split in to 3 prime areas and 4 specific areas:

Prime

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development

Specific

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

These 7 areas are used to plan children's learning, and activities are suited to individual's needs. Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active and through creative and critical thinking both indoors and outside.

The EYFS Framework also sets out expected levels that children should reach at age 5 or at the end of the Reception year; these expectations are the Early Learning Goals (ELGs). The Early Years Profile is an assessment completed by Early Years professionals in the summer term of the Reception year. The assessment is based on observations and knowledge of the child which is why it is so important for parents and carers to inform their child's class teacher about things they do at home.

For more information visit www.foundationyears.org.uk where you can find the Early Years Foundation Stage including the Early Learning Goals as well as a range of resources and contacts.

LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

It is well documented that young children learn best through play. Children in the Foundation Stage at Kingfisher Primary School will have adult led sessions as well as substantial time for independent learning. Activities are carefully structured with learning at the core. Children will have the opportunities to expand their knowledge as well as experience new ideas and concepts. This will be done through a variety of ways. The use of play enables children to explore different areas of learning in a fun and an investigative manner which often leads to a deeper understanding of concepts and key skills. Children will have opportunities to learn independently as well as with others which helps to develop social skills. Planned sessions and activities are developed for specific needs for individuals and therefore are well tailored to children's requirements enabling all children to make significant progress.

LEARNING JOURNALS

Learning Journals are individual records of children's achievements and 'wow moments'. Staff will make timely observations of children during their play and independent learning time which will inform future planning and next steps. All children will be 'Learning Detectives' across the term which encourages them to become the 'expert', support their own and others' learning, have specific missions to undertake according to their needs and to verbally explain and identify learning behaviours.

We value parental contributions to the children's Learning Journeys so please bring in any home learning, achievements, wow moments and any mementos such as photos/leaflets/tickets from any trips or adventures that they have been on.

EXPECTATIONS

All children are expected to wear school uniform consisting of a Kingfisher jumper, cardigan or fleece, white polo shirt, grey or black trousers or skirt and black shoes. In the summer children are able to wear blue checked summer dress or tailored shorts. Children should also have a Kingfisher branded book bag. All children will need a pair of wellington boots to stay at school so they can access water play, our mud kitchen and the forest on a daily basis. Please clearly label all items.

Children will participate in weekly PE sessions and should have a white or house colour t-shirt and navy blue or black shorts and jogging bottoms and black plimsolls. These need to be in a named bag. Kingfisher branded PE bags are available for purchase. Please clearly label all items.

When the children access the forest they can come to school in a navy or black tracksuit. Children can wear trainers or shoes during school and then change in to their wellington boots when visiting the forest.

At Kingfisher Primary School we have high expectations of children and we expect children to be kind, respectful and to always try their best.

We also hold termly sharing sessions and encourage parents to attend whenever possible. We hold special assemblies and parent workshops. We do expect all parents to attend our parent/teacher consultation events as this is an important time to discuss progress. If the dates and times of these events are inconvenient please contact your child's class teacher to arrange another time to discuss your child's learning.

HOME LEARNING

All the activities that you do at home with your child are vitally important to their learning. In addition to this we strongly encourage you to spend time sharing a book with your child on a daily basis, discussing the story and characters and beginning to recognise letters and sounds. When your child starts to identify letters and sounds and blending them together to read simple words, your child will receive a reading book appropriate for their level. Please spend at least 10 minutes sharing this book together. Your child may revisit some reading books to improve fluency and encourage comprehension.

HEALTHY CHOICES

At Kingfisher we recognise the importance for promoting healthy choices as well as informing our pupils of ways to keep healthy. As a school we promote physical exercise through weekly PE sessions, after school clubs and Sports Wednesdays. We also encourage our pupils to be active every day with high quality PE equipment and in 2018 we introduced the “Daily Mile” initiative. The school also holds a yearly Healthy Living Week and Griffin Sports Festival. The Foundation Stage Unit understands the importance for our younger children to know ways of keeping themselves healthy as well as making informed healthy choices. With this in mind we would like to promote healthy eating through a range of choices being available for snack time and to have a large emphasis on cooking. Cooking supports pupil’s maths skills as well as social skills such as turn taking and communication and language skills through reading and following instructions. We also promote mental wellbeing and plan Philosophy for Children (P4C) sessions to support children to explain and name emotions, explore thoughts and feelings, to recognise how actions can affect others and to understand why people may make the choices that they do.

TRIPS AND VISITS

As a key pillar of Wide Horizons, we intend to organise trips at least three times a year. In addition to this we will invite visitors in to school and will also hold special celebration days. We will endeavor to inform parents of any upcoming trips in advance. There will be a cost implication for some trips and visits however, we will always try our utmost to keep costs as low as possible. We do ask for parents to try to make prompt payments for trips as if costs are not covered we may be unable to go and will need to cancel the trip. If you ever have any difficulty paying for trips please speak to your child’s class teacher.

OUTDOOR AREA

We are extremely fortunate at Kingfisher Primary School in that we have a substantial outdoor area. We encourage outdoor exploration every day, whatever the weather, including water and messy play, mud kitchen, planting, woodwork and large construction. Children also have access to a wide range of equipment to help them build their fine and gross motor skills which supports their physical development.