



Welcome to

Reception in Conkers

WELCOME TO LEAVENING COMMUNITY PRIMARY and NURSERY SCHOOL

We are very pleased that you have decided to join our School. We very much hope that you and your child will enjoy your first year in school and your time here at Leavening. We hope that you find this booklet useful. It is designed to answer some of the questions you may have about starting school and it explains a little bit about the routines for Reception Class. However, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further queries or concerns.

OUR AIMS

We aim to provide a safe, happy and secure learning environment where everybody grows in confidence, independence and responsibility; to enjoy and achieve - academically, emotionally and socially.

SETTLING IN

Starting School is an important time for young children and their families. For those of you who are familiar with our school this may not seem like a 'big deal' but the transition from Nursery to 'big' school is the first major mile stone in your child's educational journey. For those children new to our school this may be the first time they have been left with another person and often the first time they have been left in a larger environment. It can be an emotional time for all and at Leavening Community Primary and Nursery School we hope to make this experience a positive and enjoyable one for everyone. All children and families are unique and we aim to make the transition process as smooth as possible. As such we take individual needs into account throughout the settling in process. Please let us know if you or your child has any particular need or anxieties so we can try to help with these. We hope that by working with parents/carers we can provide the best possible start for your child's entry into Reception, laying firm foundations for the future.

Your First Days

The Reception children will be in Conker's classroom. On arrival, anytime from 8.45am, your child will be able to mingle in the playground with the other children until the bell rings at 8:55am. The children then join Year 1 and 2 children lining up by the children's entrance, they will be met by the class teacher and invited to hang their coat, book bag and lunch box (if applicable). Staff will reassure and settle in any children.

The teacher will then do the register and go through the timetable for the day. After this the children will have the opportunity to explore the areas of provision within the indoor and outdoor classroom. Throughout the day there will be a variety of activities for the children to access either independently or with an adult or alongside other children in the class. They will also take part in phonics sessions and may have a focused Literacy, Mathematics or topic input. A more detailed timetable will be provided at the start of the year. PE and Forest School will be in the afternoons.

RECORD KEEPING AND PARENT CONSULTATIONS

In order to plan for your child's development, staff contribute to observations on your child's development. This begins with the information you share with us and builds during your child's time with us. We collect written observations, children's drawings and photographs of things they have done at School. We use a commercial on line recording tool for your child's learning journey, this is called 'Tapestry'. Please find enclosed parents' guide and agreement form, which you will need to return if not already done so. This will give you access to view your child's learning journey on line and we would love to have your contributions using this facility.

You will be able to meet with the teacher at Parents' Evenings to discuss your child's progress further.

HOUSEKEEPING

Absences

Should your child be absent from school for any reason please kindly inform the school office by 9:10 am. We have a duty of care to follow up any children who are not present when the register is taken and should we not hear from you we will call you to check your child is safe.

Children's illnesses

It is important that if your child is ill they should remain at home to prevent the spread of infectious illness. The following apply:

Illness	Appropriate action
Sickness/Diarrhoea	Please do not bring your child to nursery until 48 hrs after the last bout of illness
Conjunctivitis	Please do not bring your child to nursery if their eyes are 'gunky'. Wait until 24 hours after treatment has been started.
Chicken pox	Please do not bring your child to nursery until the last spot has scabbed.

Notwithstanding the above, it is expected that parents/carers use their discretion and if their children remain unfit for school beyond the above guidelines, their children stay at home.

Should your child become ill, we will try to contact you as soon as possible so that they can be collected. Please help us by keeping your contact numbers up-to-date.

Holidays

Holidays are not permitted during term time. However there may be occasions when you need to take your child out of school, in certain circumstances this may be authorised by the Headteacher. Please ask at the office for a leave of absence form

Accidents and accident reporting

All accidents are recorded in our accident books. Children suffering an accident will be given an accident slip to inform parents of what has happened. If, in our opinion, a child requires medical treatment, we will contact you immediately.

Please make sure we have up-to-date contact numbers.

Intimate Care

During their time at Leavening Community Primary School your child may need intimate care. Staff who provide intimate care to children have a high awareness of child protection issues. This can be when cleaning up a child after they have soiled themselves or helping them to change clothes when wet. Leavening Community Primary School is committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for the intimate care of children will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times. The team recognises that there is a need to treat all children with respect when intimate care is given and no child should be attended to in a way that causes distress or pain.

Clothing

Children are required to wear school uniform. See separate list.

Toys from home

Occasionally children like to bring a toy from home to show other children or an adult in the Nursery, or just for security. Could you please discourage this as much as possible. Treasures can easily be lost or misplaced which can be very upsetting for the children.

Fruit/snack

Each day the Reception provides 1/3 of a pint of milk for the children and fruit or vegetables. Please let us know if your child suffers from any allergies.

Library books

We hope that you will enjoy borrowing books from our library. The books can be found in the reading area and can be selected as often as you wish. We ask that the children borrow one book at a time and that they are returned regularly. If there are any mishaps, for example a lost book, please let us know as soon as possible.

PARENTS

At Leavening Community Primary and Nursery School, we recognise that parents need to feel confident and comfortable with the School environment they choose. To ensure this we operate an "open door" policy so that parents can discuss any aspect of their child's development at any time with a staff member. Please come in and talk to your child's teacher if you have any worries or concerns - sometimes a chat is all that is needed to put your mind at rest. However please bear in mind that the teacher may be busy at the start of the day and on occasions it maybe necessary to make a mutually convenient appointment.

We are always very grateful when parents support us with their child's learning and, if you have any interest in our topic, or have any resources which could support the teaching of our topic and you would like to come in and help, please talk to a member of staff.

Newsletters and noticeboards

We keep you informed about events in School through regular newsletters and weekly updates in 'The Latest from Leavening'. Curriculum information will also be sent out to you via email and displayed on the board. Communication is a two way process, so if there is anything you would like to know, please ask.

HOW WE LEARN IN EARLY YEARS

We believe that children learn through play. They are encouraged to join in all the activities, to be independent and to make choices. We offer a rich and varied curriculum in a safe but inviting environment. We understand that children develop at their own pace, but with encouragement and opportunity will reach their full potential. Children learn best when they are happy, safe and secure. The staff are there to guide and teach, and will get to know you and your child well during your time here.

Our environment is planned to give children the opportunity to extend and develop their thinking and learning across all areas of the curriculum. Although the resources in each area tend to reflect a particular curricular area, they are planned together enabling children to consolidate and apply their learning in a way that makes sense to them. Our environment consists of several areas. Each area offers a different variety of learning experiences for our children.

These areas are:

Being Creative - arts

Maths area

Reading area

Writing Area

Computer

Construction

Playdough

Role-play area

Sand and Water

Small World

Outdoor Area - all of the above resources are also available outside, as well as wheeled toys/vehicles, space for running and physical experiences, balance equipment, small equipment e.g. balls, hoops and rings and a mud kitchen!

THE EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

The Early Years foundation stage curriculum is split into 7 areas of learning and development.

3 Prime and 4 Specific learning areas, which we support the children's learning and development by fostering, promoting, and developing the 'characteristics of effective learning' and providing for the 'Prime and Specific areas of learning'. Further details will be provided at parent's information evenings.

Effective Characteristics of Learning

Playing and exploring:

This includes supporting children to develop the skills and attitudes

- to engage with their learning
- to be curious; to explore and experiment
- to use objects in their play in a variety of ways to represent things
- to be confident enough to initiate activities, seek challenges and take risks.

Active learning:

- This includes supporting children to develop the skills and attitudes, to be motivated by their learning
- to be highly involved in their learning and concentrate
- to persist with their learning
- to enjoy achievements they have made.

Creating and Critical thinking:

This includes supporting children to develop the skills and attitudes -

- to develop their thinking as they learn and be able to talk their thinking through
- to develop their own ideas and solve problems
- to make links in their learning
- to make predictions
- to explore cause and effect
- to be flexible and adapt their strategies when solving a problem

Prime and Specific Areas

Prime Areas

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We promote this aspect of the curriculum by supporting the transition between home and Nursery, promoting an inclusive ethos, and providing opportunities for each child to become a valued member of the group so that strong self- image and high self-esteem are achieved. We aim to enthuse children so that they have a positive attitude towards learning and see themselves as successful learners. We also provide opportunities to enable them to learn how to co-operate and work harmoniously alongside others.

Language and Communication

We provide opportunities for children to talk and communicate in a wide range of situations. They learn to respond to adults and to each other, to practice and extend their range of vocabulary and communication skills, including being able to listen carefully. Children are taught Phase 1 phonics skills through a series of fun games and activities. These include games to support the development of listening skills, to help children distinguish between different sounds, to discriminate between sounds and to discriminate speech sounds and words.

Physical Development

Children develop and practice their gross and fine body movements through a variety of activities. Our work in the Nursery also helps children to increase their understanding of how their bodies work and what they need to do to be healthy and safe. Children are given a variety of experiences to develop their fine motor skills through malleable play.

Specific Areas

Literacy

In Reception, we help children further develop a love of books and to explore and enjoy the written word. Children read with adults and are told traditional stories and sing rhymes and songs. Children are encouraged to mark-make as part of their play. Adults model the writing process and support children to give meaning to their marks.

Mathematics

There are opportunities for children to develop their understanding of number, measurement, pattern, shape and space. This is achieved by providing a stimulating environment in which they can enjoy, explore, learn, practise and talk about these concepts.

Understanding of the World

Opportunities are created for children to explore and to find out about their environment, including the people and places that are important to them. This involves the children in solving problems, making decisions, experimenting, predicting, planning and questioning in a variety of situations.

Expressive Arts and Design

Children explore and share their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities which include art, design and technology, music, movement, dance and imaginative and role play.