



Welcome to Priory Rise School

Reception Induction Booklet



This booklet is for parents of children starting school for the first time.

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Induction

Welcome to Priory Rise School - we would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your family! We are looking forward to you becoming part of our school family, as we believe a strong partnership between home and school is the best for our wonderful children. We want to ensure that your child's first school experience runs as smoothly as possible. To enable this, we have a short induction period at the beginning of the year.

Home Visits

To help your child settle into school your child's teacher and teaching assistant will visit you at home. This is an informal visit and will help us get to know you and your child in a setting familiar to you, and you to know us. This will be a great opportunity for you to ask any questions and pass on any information you think we need to know about your child and family. Our experience shows that children generally love having their teacher visit



their home! Home visits will take place in the afternoons which is why children attend mornings only for the induction period. Once your child has had their home visit, they will begin to attend school the next morning. **Children do not start school until they have had a home visit so, please do not bring your child to school until this has happened. Look out for these dates via email.**

Induction Period

Once all the home visits are complete all the children will attend the next morning staying for lunch too. Eating a hot lunch can be a big step for some children so seeing a parent straight after this experience can help reassure them. The date of your home visit and your child's first morning attendance is attached to the front of this induction pack.

Collection

While children attend mornings only, collection will be through the Nursery gate, a member of staff will arrive to let you in. Once children attend fulltime collection will be from the lower playground through your child's classroom exit.

Dates of Induction Period

- **Thursday 5th September - Monday 16th September, home visit then start the next morning, mornings only during this time, collection at 11.30am from Nursery gate**
- **Tuesday 17th September, all children stay for lunch and are collected at 12.45pm from Nursery gate**
- **Wednesday 18th September everyone fulltime collection from playground classroom exits at 3pm**

The Foundation Curriculum

All children in Reception follow the **Early Years Foundation Stage** (EYFS) curriculum which recognises 'every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to reach their full potential'. There is clear recognition of the importance of learning through purposeful play and practical experiences, to build on what children already know, extend their interests and to encourage them to develop independence. When children progress into Year 1 they will begin the National Curriculum.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

The biggest focus within our curriculum falls on the qualities needed for effective learning and being a reflective learner. These are...

- **playing and exploring** – children investigate and experience things and learn to 'have a go'
- **active learning** – children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements
- **creating and thinking critically** – children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things



The seven areas of learning in the EYFS are:

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development** - providing opportunities for each child to become a valued member of their class and the school with a positive self image and high self esteem. Enable the children to learn how to co-operate and work harmoniously alongside and with each other and to listen to each other.
- **Communication and Language** - opportunities for all children to talk and communicate in a widening range of situations, to respond to adults and each other, to practise and extend the range of vocabulary and communication skills they use and to listen carefully.
- **Physical Development** - opportunities for all children to develop and practise their fine and gross motor skills, and to increase their understanding of how their bodies work and what they need to do to be healthy and safe.
- **Literacy** - opportunities for all children to explore, enjoy, learn about and use words in a broad range of contexts and to experience a rich variety of books.
- **Mathematics** - opportunities for all children to develop their understanding of number, measurement, pattern, shape and space in a broad range of contexts in which they can explore, enjoy, learn, practise and talk.
- **Understanding the World** - opportunities for all children to solve problems, make decisions, experiment, predict, plan and question in a variety of contexts, and to explore and find out about their environment and people and places that have significance in their lives.
- **Expressive Arts and Design** - opportunities for all children to explore and share their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of art, design and technology, music, movement, dance and imaginative and role play activities.

The School Day

Time	Activity	Description
8:30 – 8:45am	Registration	Self-register before a more formal register takes place in the classroom.
8:45 – 9:15am	Phonics	Children will be taught to read and write, following a systematic phonics programme called 'Little Wandle'.
9.15 – 9.30am	Fantastics	Building sentences verbally and when ready writing practice linked to the topic focus.
9:15 – 10.30am	Independent Learning	Children access all areas of the setting; inside and outside. Activities are set up by the teachers to link with the curriculum, or to meet individual needs/interests.
10.30 – 11:00am	Numbers and Patterns	Children will be taught to count, subitise, recognise, order and apply numbers to 10, then 20 and beyond. Learning about spatial reasoning, patterns, shape and measure too.
11.00 – 11.30am	Reading	Children will be read stories, or in small groups, children share a text guided by their teacher.
11:30 – 12:45pm	Lunchtime	The 3 classes have lunchtime together, followed by a play outside in the courtyard. This time is supervised by lunchtime support staff.
12:45 – 1:15pm	Topic	Teacher led topic focus, which may be seasonal, linked to a festival/current affair or chosen to suit the interests of the children.
1.15 – 2.20pm	Independent Learning	As above.
2.20 – 2.30pm	Handwriting	Children are taught to use a pincer grip, strengthening their fine motor skills, learning how letters and numbers are formed.
2.30 – 2.50pm	Reading	As above.
2.50 – 3pm	Home time preparation	Story time, songs, and dancing before collection.

- Music will take place with our specialist teacher Mrs Horwood once a week.
- PE will take place with our PE specialists Mr Smyth and Mr Elkington twice a week, inside and out.
- The children will also visit our school library once a week.
- Each week the children will participate in a designated art session to develop their gross/fine motor control and ability to be creative with a range of materials.

At the end of the day, a member of staff will dismiss your child to a parent or other adult on the child's permission list – we will go through this with you at the home visit. It is important that your child is brought to school and collected on time.

Outside Play

The children will work and play in the classroom and the outside area. Research shows that once children can walk, they need upwards of two hours of physical development per day. Therefore, it is vital your child has suitable clothing for outdoor play.

Physical Education

P.E. sessions will take place twice a week, on P.E. days your child will come to school dressed in their kit. Please see our Uniform policy on the school website for the details of what your child should wear.



Snacks

Children will have access to the snack table during their independent learning where there will be a selection of fresh fruit and milk available so children will not need a snack from home. Children will need a named water bottle filled with water to bring each day.

Lunchtime

Lunch will be eaten at 11:30am in the main hall. All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free hot meal. Please let us know if you *do not* require this for your child. During this time, we will give good attention to manners, good eating habits and social skills. Please see the attached menu. We are a nut free site as some children have severe nut allergies.

Reading

During the first few weeks of the new academic year, we will hold a phonics workshop to give you information about our approach to reading and the method we use to teach phonics. Your child will be issued a reading book and a reading record. Books can be changed on Fridays. Please put your child's reading book along with the reading record in your class basket. Sharing books with your child and hearing them read will be vital to your child's reading



journey. Please take every opportunity you can to share and enjoy stories and other reading materials at home. When sharing a book try to:

- ✓ Talk about the pictures and the title.
- ✓ Let your child find the beginning of the story and turn the pages.
- ✓ Encourage your child to talk about the storyline and to try to make predictions.
- ✓ Let your child tell the story afterwards. This may mean retelling from memory or making up the story from the pictures.

Remember, your child will most likely make better progress in reading if their experiences are enjoyable and if they receive lots of praise and encouragement. We all do well and respond better when appreciation is given to our efforts!

We cannot emphasise enough the importance of your involvement in helping and supporting your child to read. From our many years of experience we have found that children who are well supported at home reading regularly to an adult, learn to read more quickly and do better. Learning to read improves children's confidence and self-esteem and it is a vital skill that will enable your child to access the wider curriculum as they move through school.

Learning Journeys

An electronic 'Learning Journey' will be kept recording all your child's learning achievements. We use a company called Tapestry to do this, it is a live feed you can log into at any time. It will store the observations we make about your child in the form of commentary, pictures, video clips and work samples. During the home visit we will ask that you agree not to share images from your child's learning journey anywhere else.

Social Media

We now live in a world where social media is very much a part of our lives whether we use it or not. We ask that parents contact the class teacher in the first instance of a problem or issue to maintain a professional relationship, just as members of staff are expected to do so too.

Supporting Your Child

There are many ways that you can support your child at home. Here are just a few suggestions:

- Talking to them about what has happened at school.
- Taking an interest in their work in class.
- Following up topics at home – for example visiting the library to get books related to the current topic.
- Adding special home events to the Tapestry learning journey.



Settling In

Starting school for the first time is an important step for children and we recognise that this can be an anxious time for children and parents. Please be assured that the staff will do everything they can to help your child settle. Tears can happen, this is not unusual. If your child is upset or worried about separating from you – please do not worry - it may help to stay for a few minutes or for others a ‘tough love’ approach works better. Staff will try to engage your child with a story or an activity that helps them to feel comfortable. It may help to prepare your child for school during the holidays; look at the school website, drive past the school, try on uniform and talk positively about starting school.

Being at school is tiring and hard work. At the end of the day many children need to release their feelings, relax, and switch off for a while. You know best how your child responds to and copes with tiredness – help them to handle their feelings in the best way you can.

Contacting the Teacher

If you are worried at all or have any questions, please ask your child’s teacher. It is much better to air a problem/worry sooner rather than later. Teachers are available for 10 minutes before school and for a short while after school to see parents. If you think you need a

longer discussion, it is better to arrange a convenient time to meet. You are important partners in your child's education we greatly value your support, interest, and involvement. We would also like to resolve any worries you may have as soon as possible. You can also contact us on our year group email address...

reception@prioryrise.milton-keynes.gov.uk

News from School

We will send home a Reception newsletter at the beginning of each half term giving details about activities the children will be doing in each of the areas of learning. We also have a parent notice board displaying useful information and key dates.

School newsletters from Ms Seagar will be sent on Arbor, every 3 weeks, and we will keep the website updated.

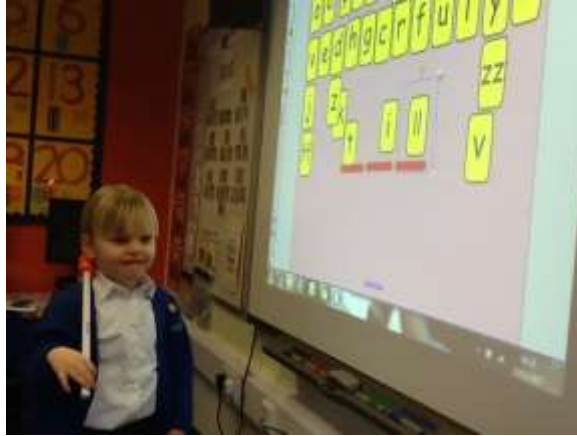


Your Child's Progress

In addition to ongoing posts in Tapestry, we will have parents' evenings in Autumn and Spring terms. In the Summer term we will have an Open Evening and you will receive an end of year report summarising your child's achievements and progress over the year.

Absence

If for any reason your child will not be in school, please telephone the school office to let us know as soon as possible - 01908 502572.



Uniform

Please read the Uniform policy for guidance about what your child should to wear for school which can be found on the website. All children are expected to wear the school uniform. Do not give your child lace up shoes until they can tie laces independently.

Some important things for parents and carers to consider about your child...

- Ensure your child's coat and shoes are easy to manage.
- Do not worry if your child gets paint and chalk on their clothes as learning can be messy sometimes.
- Please let your child's teacher know if they are upset about something at home it may help us understand your child at school.
- If your child is irritable and attention seeking in their first few weeks at school, it is because they are adjusting to their new routine and working very hard during the day.
- Please make sure they have had breakfast in the morning as their brain finds it difficult to work when they are hungry.
- **Please make sure that they can go to the toilet independently.**
- Please remember to tell your child how good their paintings and drawings are when they bring them home. They may not look quite how you would think they should, but they have certainly tried very, very hard!
- They might not remember things they have done during their day but that does not mean they have not been working hard.
- Please remember to bring your child's book bag every day.