

Our School Aims

We want our school to be a place where we are safe: to learn, have fun and work hard.

A place where we are kind and mindful of everyone and have positive attitudes for our bright futures.

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QUEENSMEAD PRIMARY ACADEMY



**WELCOME TO
OUR FOUNDATION STAGE**

Foundation 2

The Foundation Stage F2

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to Queensmead Primary Academy Foundation Stage. The next few months represent a period of great change to you and your child. It is often the everyday things that we don't know about that cause us the greatest concern; this booklet is intended to give some basic information about how the Foundation Stage operates and so help alleviate any concerns you may have.

WHO'S WHO

Our Foundation Stage 2 has a team of experienced staff who will care for your child throughout the day.

Ms Frost	Early Years Foundation Stage Phase Leader -Julia Donaldson
Mrs Coulton	Class Teacher—Sue Hendra
Mrs Chivers	Class Teacher (Part-time)
Miss McKay	Teaching Assistant
Miss Archer	Teaching Assistant
Mrs Barker	Teaching Assistant
Mrs Lambert	Teaching Assistant (Part-time)
Ms Sturgress	Teaching Assistant (Part-time)
Miss Alexander	Teaching Assistant (1:1)

Upon starting school your child will be placed within one of two classes:-

Julia Donaldson Class with Ms Frost or Sue Hendra with Mrs Coulton.

THE FIRST FEW WEEKS (4th September -10th September 2018)

This is predominantly a period of getting to know each other, teachers, children and parents. Our main aim is to settle the children into the school environment and to help us achieve this the children will start part-time (mornings only) for the first 2 weeks of term.

Week 1

Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th September Mornings only- 8:55am- 11:40am

Thursday 6th and Friday 7th Mornings & stay for lunch- 8:55am- 12:40pm

Week 2

Monday 10th September Start Full time 8:55am —3:20pm

Will the goals put pressure on my child?

No. Your child will not be aware of the Early Learning Goals and will feel they're just playing and having fun. A majority of the time they'll choose what they want to do, with adults supporting and extending their development. Other times they'll take part in an activity that their class teacher has requested, such as playing a group game or sharing a reading book etc.

How will the Foundation 2 staff know what my child is capable of?

When your child first starts in F2, we will carry out assessments to find out about your child's learning needs. These are on going throughout the year with a formal assessment in the summer term. They are done simply by completing regular classroom activity with your child, or by observing them during independent play, so they won't even be aware they're being assessed. It's not something you or your child should ever worry about.

A TYPICAL DAY

The timetable is very flexible to allow time for children to pursue and complete activities of personal interest. The following however, gives you an idea of how your child will spend a day.

Morning Session

8:55am	children settle for registration
9:00am-9:30am	phonics
9:30am-11:15am	morning activities including snacks
11:15am-11:35	number time
11:40am-12:40pm	Lunchtime
12:40am-1:00pm	children settle for registration
1:00pm-2:40pm	afternoon activities
2:40pm-3:00pm	phonics
3:00pm-3:20pm	singing/story time

There are no set morning or afternoon outdoor play times as the children have free access to the outdoors throughout the day.

What are the early learning goals?

They set out what most children are expected to achieve by the end of the foundation stage. They help people who work with children aged 3-5 to focus on what children need to learn. They are not a curriculum with lots of different subjects. They are six broad areas of learning.

1. Personal, Social and Emotional Development.

Your child will learn to be self-confident, take an interest in things, know what their own needs are, tell the difference between right and wrong, and be able to dress and undress

2. Communication and Language and Literacy.

Your child will learn to talk confidently and clearly, enjoying stories, songs and poems,.

3. Literacy

Your child will learn how to link letters of the alphabet by hearing and saying the sounds. They will read and write some familiar words and simple sentences.

4. Mathematical Development.

Your child will develop an understanding of maths through stories, songs, games, and imaginative play. They will become comfortable with numbers and with ideas such as, heavier than or bigger. They will be aware of shapes and space.

5. Understanding of the World.

Your child will explore and find out about the world around them, asking questions about it. They will build with different materials, know about everyday technology and learn what it is used for. They will find out about past events in their lives and their families' lives. They will find out about different cultures and beliefs.

6. Physical Development.

Your child will learn to move confidently, controlling their body and handling equipment. They understand what it means to be healthy and how they can achieve it.

7. Expressive Art and Design

Your child will explore colours and shapes, trying out dance, making things, telling stories and making music

WHICH ENTRANCE? WHAT TIME?

The Foundation Stage entrance doors are situated off Hamelin Road and parents are to use this entrance in the morning and at the end of the day. (Parents are reminded that pushchairs are not allowed in classrooms due to Health and Safety Regulations). The classroom doors will open at 8.45 am for a **prompt** 8.55 am start.

During the 'settling in period' please collect your child from the F1 entrance next to the main office at 11:40am/12:40pm.

If there is a change to the person who normally collects your child you will need to inform your child's class teacher in the morning. We will not hand your child over to anyone else without your permission.

WHAT WILL MY CHILD NEED TO BRING?

Very little! All children are entitled to a free school milk until they are 5 years of age and we encourage them to drink milk. However if your child dislikes or has intolerance to milk they can have water from the classroom snack areas. Your child will **not** need to bring a snack as he/she will be provided with a free piece of fruit to eat at snack time.

HOME VISITS

During the first few days of term (30th, 31st August and 3rd September) we will be conducting home visits **for all children who are new to Queensmead Primary Academy**. At a pre-agreed time your child's class teacher and Teaching Assistant will come to your home. The purpose of this visit is to meet your child in an environment they feel most comfortable in and provide them with the opportunity to talk to their class teachers. It also allows for us to find out as much as we can about your child including their interests, hobbies, siblings etc, and for you to ask questions and share any concerns you may have. Home visits are an essential part of the settling in period, so we ask that every effort is made by yourself to ensure you are home at the time of the visit.

UNIFORM

The Foundation Stage children look very smart all dressed in the Queensmead Primary Academy School uniform.

Polo shirts, sweatshirts, cardigans and book bags are available from the school office.

Boys will need; grey trousers
white polo shirt or shirt
purple Queensmead sweatshirt/cardigan
outdoor coat
Black shoes (without laces to begin with)

Girls will need; grey skirt/pinafore/trousers
Purple & white (Gingham dress- summer)
White polo shirt or blouse
purple Queensmead sweatshirt/cardigan
outdoor coat
Black shoes (without laces to begin with)

All children will need a **pair of wellingtons** and a **waterproof jacket** in school everyday, (these can remain at school) as they will be accessing the outdoors whatever the weather.

No jewellery is to be worn other than stud earrings, however we strongly advise that earrings are removed before coming to school. Staff are not allowed to remove them and it would be your child's responsibility to remove the earrings themselves for PE and dance sessions.

P.E.

All children are required to wear a Queensmead PE kit of black shorts and a purple polo shirt. Both items are available from the school office along with a drawstring purple Logo bag.

Plimsolls and trainers are only needed in the Summer Term.

WHEN WILL THEY NEED THEIR P.E. KIT?

Certainly not for the first few weeks. We aim to start the timetable from 24th September so P.E. Kits will be required then. Most parents send the kit at the beginning of term and take it home on the final day of term.

NAME EVERYTHING

Please make sure all items of clothing and personal possessions are clearly marked with your child's name. This includes PE kit, lunch box, shoes, coats, book bags and even underwear.

Some children get very distressed if they think they have lost something that belongs to them.

LUNCHTIME

We realise that lunchtime can be daunting for our foundation 2 children and so we have made every effort to ensure it is a pleasurable social experience. This is why we have moved lunchtime forward to 11.40 am so that the children can enjoy their lunch in peace and quiet before the rest of the school enter the main hall.

The Foundation 2 team help to settle the children before handing over to the lunchtime supervisors who stay with the children until they have finished eating. Children may take as long as they wish to eat their lunch.

Cooked lunches

A menu is on display on the Foundation Stage information board outside the classrooms. Children can choose from a number of dishes including a vegetarian option. Dessert choices always include fresh fruit, yogurt and a number of sweet options. Drinking water is provided. Some parents worry that their child is not eating enough at lunchtimes, don't worry, our lunchtime supervisors will pass on this information and we will inform you if there are any concerns.

Packed lunches

Children will be encouraged to eat sandwiches/rolls and savoury food before sweeter items. Please provide a drink - no fizzy drinks or glass bottles. Any empty packets or half uneaten food will remain in your child's lunch box so that you can see what has been eaten.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY FOOD THAT CONTAINS NUTS. WE HAVE SEVERAL CHILDREN WHO WILL HAVE A SEVERE REACTION IF THEY COME INTO CONTACT WITH NUTS.

WHAT WILL MY CHILD LEARN?

It probably won't feel like learning- most children see it as just fun and play. But as they get to grips with speaking and listening, singing and dancing, stories and counting, they'll be gaining all the basic skills that will get them off to a flying start when they reach Year 1.