



Information for Parents

Foundation Stage 1

2018-19





Mission statement

Working together to inspire every pupil to:

*Step in.... to their learning adventure
Step up.... to achieve their potential
Step out.... and let their creativity shine
Step together.... in friendship and respect
Step forward.... and follow their dreams*

Welcome to Homefields Primary School

We would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your child to Homefields Primary School. We are sure you are looking forward to this new “adventure”, just as we are looking forward to meeting you.

It is an exciting time for everyone with lots of new information to remember.

The intention of this booklet is to give you an idea of what we can offer you and your child in the early years of education. We have outlined all the procedures that help us to run an effective and happy Foundation Stage and hope you find these useful.

It is a fascinating and wonderful time when you are 3 or 4 years old. Watching children grow and develop at this age is an inspiring experience. We wish you and your child every happiness at Homefields. Any questions please just ask...Happy Learning!!





Foundation Stage 1

Foundation Stage 1 is set within the main school grounds. We have a large outdoor play area that is secure and includes grassed areas, a permanent climbing structure, a shaded gazebo and large planters. We have a wide range of outdoor toys and equipment available to the children daily.

The Foundation Stage is staffed by an enthusiastic and hard-working team who all work together to provide a happy, caring and successful learning environment.

Foundation Stage Staff

Foundation Stage Leader

Mrs D Rollerson

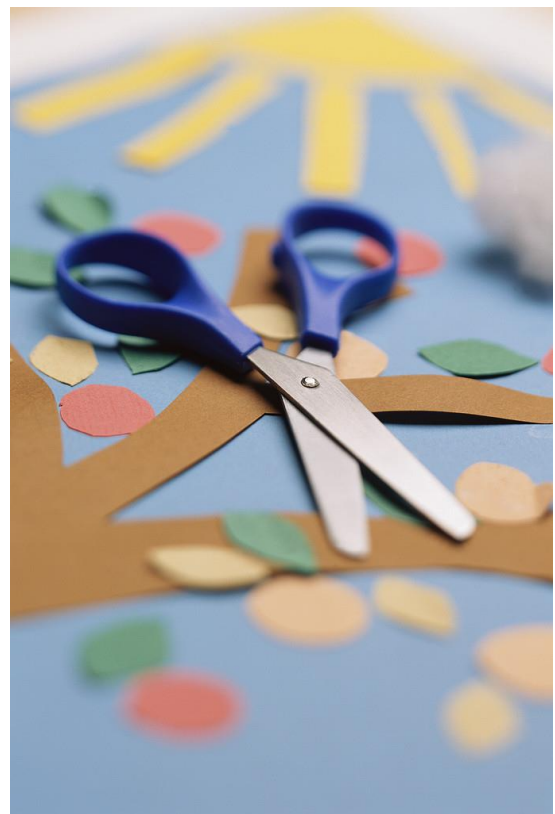
Teacher in FS1

Mrs K Harris

Teaching Assistants in FS1

Mrs K Madden (HLTA)

Mrs D Lewis





Foundation Stage 1 Sessions

In 2017 the Government announced an 'Extended Childcare Offer' for 3 and 4 year old children. At Homefields our aim is to offer provision that best meets the need of the families within our community.

In response to demand for the 2018/2019 academic year, we will be offering a range of session times. These include morning sessions (9am – 12pm) and afternoon sessions (12.30pm – 3.30pm). Some families, who are eligible for the 'Extended Hours Offer', will be accessing provision of their choice including full days (9.00am – 3.30pm) and Breakfast Club.

In order to help us run smoothly we would greatly appreciate it if you bring and collect your child on time. This is particularly important at the end of the morning session to allow staff to handover and prepare for the afternoon session. If you also have a child attending school, please ensure you collect your child from FS1 first. We will open the doors at 11.50am and 3.20pm respectively to allow for efficient collection.

Parents and carers are expected to bring their children into FS1 at the beginning of each session and to settle their child at an activity before they leave. Parents are also welcome to help in FS1 if they wish, however we usually ask parents to let their child settle in for half a term before they begin to help.



Security and safety of your child

At Homefields we aim to ensure that children are safe and secure at all times. Therefore we will;

- Keep the external door locked at all times. Please help us by closing doors behind you and letting a member of staff know when you are leaving.
- Ensure that all staff and adults in contact with children are suitable to do so and wear identification badges at all times.
- Only release your child into the care of individuals named by parents and not to anyone under the age of sixteen. Please inform us beforehand if anyone different is collecting your child. **All adults collecting your child will be asked for the security password which you have been asked to provide on the Admissions Form. Without this, we will not let your child leave the premises.**
- Follow risk assessment procedures when taking your child on any outing outside of school.
- Ensure that at least 2 members of staff have a Paediatric First Aid certificate.
- Ensure all staff are fully trained in safeguarding procedures.





Our Curriculum

Homefields FS1 is an integral part of Homefields Primary School and as such follows the same aims to provide a whole school ethos. Your child is now in the “Foundation Stage” of their education. This will continue until the end of their FS2 (Reception) year in school.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework is a document that all Early Years providers must follow as outlined by the Department for Education. At Homefields we have embraced the principles of the framework and use it to plan carefully for the learning, development and care of all the children in our Foundation Stage.

Our aim is to work in close partnership with parents and carers to ensure the best and most relevant experiences are offered to your child. Sharing information gives both parents and staff the ‘big picture’ of your child’s interests, strengths, learning style and needs.

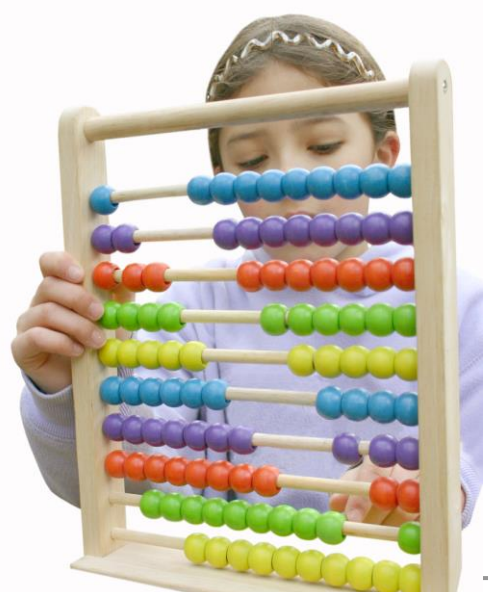
We believe the following principles to be vital to successful learning and development.

The Unique Child

- That all children are unique and learn and develop at different rates.
- The diversity of individuals is respected and no child is discriminated against.
- That children’s health is an integral part of their emotional, mental and social well-being.

Positive Relationships

- That when we work closely with you as parents, the results have a positive impact on children’s development and learning.
- That developing caring, trusting relationships between ourselves, children and parents impacts children’s learning and social well being.





Enabling Environments

- That the learning environment should support all children's varying abilities and interests, and that planning should start from the observations of a child.
- That the learning environment should be rich and varied, giving all children confidence to explore and learn in secure, safe, yet challenging indoor and outdoor spaces.

Learning and Development

- In their play, children learn at their highest level.
- Children learn best through active learning involving other people, objects, ideas and challenges.
- Children should have the opportunity to play with ideas in different situations and with a variety of resources.
- All seven areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage Learning and Development framework are connected to one another.

The Learning and Development framework gives clear outlines of what learning opportunities should be offered to all children. The play activities we provide are carefully planned to allow for continuity and progression of learning and to allow ALL children to access learning.

Play is a powerful tool. It is the way children learn about the world around them. It involves self-directed, active engagement, experimentation of ideas and builds relationships with others. At Homefields we aim to challenge and motivate children through play.





Personal and Social Development

In order for children to be happy and secure there needs to be an agreed set of rules and expected behaviour.

At Homefields we believe in ensuring all children understand and follow the “Golden Rules” of the school. These are a set of rules that all people in our school must follow in order to provide stability, happiness and security.

Our Golden Rules

We always walk inside.

We are kind and helpful.

We look after things.

We always tell the truth.

We are gentle to each other.

We always try our best.

We listen to each other.

We always use kind words.

In the first few weeks of nursery we will spend a lot of time ensuring the children know what the “Golden Rules” are and more importantly why we have them.

Throughout the school we implement a positive reinforcement system through which we highlight the desired behaviour and reward it. We also have a discipline procedure which is implemented when children do not follow the Golden Rules.



In FS1, as in school, all staff are sensitive to each child. If a child is “breaking” a Golden Rule we will;

1. Tell the child to stop and tell them what we want them to do.
2. If they continue we will encourage them to move away from the activity to another one.
3. If they still continue they will be asked to sit away from the activity on a chair for 2 mins.
4. If they still continue to be disruptive (very rare to get to this stage) they are taken to the next class up to have time out with another teacher.

As all situations are different we respond accordingly. Obviously if a child is putting others at risk we will remove them from the situation straight away.

Usually a reminder is all most children need. Lots of praise when they do the right thing works wonderfully!

If you have any questions about our discipline procedure, please don't hesitate to ask.





Areas of learning and development

The Early Years Foundation Curriculum is made up of seven areas of learning and development.

Three of these areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning and for building their capacity to learn. These three prime areas are:

Communication and Language

Children will be given opportunities to experience a rich language environment, to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves and to speak and listen in a range of situations.

Physical Development

We will provide opportunities for children to be active and interactive and to develop their co-ordination, control and movement. Children will also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity and to make healthy choices in relation to food.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will help children to develop a positive sense of themselves and others, to form positive relationships and respect for others, to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings, to understand appropriate behaviour in groups and to have confidence in their own abilities.

We will also support children in four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened. These areas are: Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Art and Design. Below is a description of the skills the children will aim to achieve by the end of their FS2 (Reception) year.

Literacy

We will develop children's ability to link sounds and letters and begin to read and write. The children will be given access to a wide range of reading materials to ignite their interest.



Mathematics

We will provide children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems and to describe shapes, spaces and measures.

Understanding the World

We will guide children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.

Expressive Art and Design

We will enable children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play and design and technology.

In addition, over the last few years, we at Homefields have developed an approach to learning, called Learn to Learn.

We feel it is important that the children develop a set of key attitudes to prepare them for life. These attitudes help children develop; self-awareness and resilience in learning; an ability to transfer skills and learning from one context to another and to understand how they learn best and how to use this effectively.

Our key attitudes are to be resilient, reflective, reciprocal, responsible, resourceful and to remember.

The foundation stage curriculum is organised in such a way that these skills and attitudes will develop as part of our everyday learning.



Clothes

Could you please send your child to FS1 with a spare set of clothes in case of an accident (this might be toilet related or they may just get wet in the water tray). Please put these spare clothes in a small bag/rucksack each day and put them on your child's peg (please include a plastic bag to put wet things in).

We provide a lot of exciting play activities that involve paint and glue. Despite aprons, children do sometimes get it on their clothes, so please do not send your child in their best clothes!

Please do not send your child wearing jewellery. Stud earrings are acceptable.

If you would prefer, children in FS1 have the option to wear the Homefields School Uniform. This is a burgundy sweatshirt or cardigan, grey or black trousers or skirt and a white polo shirt. Uniform bearing the school logo is available to purchase from Clothing4 on High Street in Chellaston.

Please label all items of clothing so that we can find the rightful owner.

Learning Outdoors

At Homefields we give high value to the outdoor environment. Outdoor learning is given equal value to indoor learning as it impacts highly on children's learning and development.



Therefore it is very important that your child has clothing appropriate to the weather. We will be outside every day unless weather conditions are very poor. In cold weather please ensure your child has a hat, scarf and gloves. In hot weather please apply sun cream to your child before coming to FS1 and send them with a hat or cap.



Sickness

If your child is ill, the best place for them is at home. FS1 can be very demanding and young children who are ill may not enjoy it even though they ask to come. Please telephone to let us know if your child is ill and will not be attending.

At the back of this booklet is a table outlining common illnesses and infections and our procedures as to whether a child should be kept away and for how long.



Toilet Training

By three, most children will be toilet trained although we accept that they may have the odd accident. If your child is not yet toilet trained, you can contact the school nurse Elaine Wrobel on 01332 861193 for additional help and advice. If your child is not toilet trained by their start date, please inform a member of staff so that we can discuss it further.

Accidents at nursery

In a busy FS1 with lots of children there are occasional accidents. Thankfully these are usually very minor incidents. If your child has a minor accident you will be informed verbally. If your child continues to be in pain we will contact you straight away.



**Always ensure your
contact details are
kept up to date.**



Food and Drink

During the daily snack session your child will be encouraged to drink either milk or water and they will also be encouraged to eat a piece of fruit or vegetable. This is in line with our Healthy School Policy and the desire to support and encourage healthy food choices. Drinking water will be available to your child at all times.



IT IS VITAL THAT YOU INFORM US VERBALLY AND ON THE ADMISSION FORM OF ANY FOODS YOUR CHILD MUST NOT EAT EITHER FOR MEDICAL, RELIGIOUS OR OTHER REASONS.

If your child is accessing a full day, they will be required to bring a packed lunch. Please ensure that the lunch is of a healthy nature and that you follow the following guidelines:-

- No fizzy drinks
- No nuts
- No hot food / drinks
- A lunch that is nutritious but of child friendly proportions!!

Information for Parents

We will continue to keep you informed of how your child is progressing at Homefields both informally day to day and at parent meetings.

Please read the notice board to find out what we are learning about each term and how you can help at home.

To keep up to date, please visit the school website homefields.derby.sch.uk for the monthly FS1 newsletter and to see photographs and general school information.

We do ask for a voluntary contribution of 50p each week which helps fund specialist play equipment and 'treats' throughout the year.



How to help your child settle into the Foundation Stage

In the beginning.....

It is natural to have mixed emotions about your child starting a new setting. We want to make the experience a positive one for all concerned. Therefore we have some 'top tips' to help.

DO

- Have a positive outlook! It is amazing how much your child picks up on your emotions. Be excited about new experiences!
- Allow your child to hang up their own coat and bag and encourage them to post their name card themselves.
- Stay and settle them in at an activity if they need you to, otherwise you may escape!
- Be brave! Do say goodbye and reassure them that you will see them at the end of the session.
- Talk to a member of staff if you have any concerns about settling your child.

DON'T

- Stay too long. If your child gets upset, tell them you will be back later and that you hope they have a lovely time. The longer you stay, the harder it will be.
- Worry! We will be very sensitive to the needs of your child. If they are upset when you leave, you can call the school later to see how they are.
- Struggle on your own - staff will be on hand to help.

Other useful advice....

Talk to your child as much as possible showing interest in what they do, what they say and bring home.

Always praise and encourage your child.



Try to come along to concerts and parents' meetings.

Try and find some time to play with your child and read to them.

If you have any concerns, worries or questions please ask a member of staff. We are here to help each other, to ensure your child is happy at Homefields and receives the best education possible.

Homefields Primary School has a range of policies relating to areas such as anti-bullying, health and safety and child protection. Copies are available on request from the School Office.

Special Events

We will endeavor to make sure that any special events such as concerts and parties take place on different days of the week to allow as many children as possible to participate.

Due to the legal requirements of staffing ratios, we are unable to accommodate additional children on all of these days. Therefore if an event falls on your child's day they may attend, but if it is not their usual day we are sorry they may not.

We appreciate your support and understanding in this matter.

Trips

In addition, we occasionally go out on trips around the local area. If we are going on a special trip out of Foundation Stage and it falls on a day when your child does not normally attend, then they can only join the trip if they are accompanied by a parent or member of their immediate family. This family member will be solely responsible for the child during the trip. This again is for safety reasons.



What to do when your child is poorly.

Chicken Pox (*Infectious*)

Sudden onset of fever, followed by a rash which becomes blistery and itchy over 3-5 days. Keep away from school for 5 days after the appearance of the first blister.

Conjunctivitis (*Infectious*)

Irritation and redness of the white of the eye followed by swelling of the eyelid. Keep away from school until medication has been administered for 24 hours.

Diarrhoea (*Infectious*)

Loose and watery bowel movements often with stomach cramps. Keep away from school until 48 hours after the last episode.

Impetigo (*Infectious*)

The lesions are often found on the faces of young children. They start as blisters which rapidly burst. Keep away from school until 48 hours after treatment has started.

Measles (*Infectious*)

Fever, red runny eyes, symptoms of a cough and cold, inside the mouth are small white spots. A red blotchy rash starting on the face before becoming generalized. Keep away from school for 4 days after the appearance of the rash.

Mumps (*Infectious*)

Fever, swelling and tenderness of one or more of the salivary glands. Keep away from school for 7 days after the appearance of the swelling.

Ring Worms (*Infectious*)

An infection caused by fungus, appears as a reddish ring shaped area with healthy looking skin in the centre. Keep away from school until 24 hours after the treatment has started.

Scabies (*Infectious*)

Parasite disease, small raised pimples, itchy rash becoming worse at night. Keep away from school until 24 hours after the treatment has started.

Vomiting (*Infectious*)

Retching and vomiting often accompanied by stomach cramps. Keep away from school until 48 hours after the last episode.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Admission to full time school

You should apply for a school place, even if your child already attends a nursery class attached to an infant or primary school. By law, parents must make sure children start full-time education when they reach compulsory school age – this is the start of the term after their fifth birthday. It is parents' responsibility to establish which is the catchment area school for their child and whether any travel assistance is available before applying for a place at that school. It is also parents' responsibility to know which council's area they live in.

All the Council's primary schools offer children places in FS2 (Reception) classes before they reach compulsory school age. You can delay your child's start at school until later than the school's normal admission date, but you must take the place up within the same school year - September to July - in which it is offered. It's important that you apply for a place at the school or schools you would like your child to attend. You have a legal right to do this as a parent. The admission authorities must meet your application wherever possible – based on the admissions criteria and class size limitations.

Please note that having a place in our Foundation Stage 1 class (Nursery) does not mean you will be automatically allocated a place in our Foundation Stage 2 (Reception). You must apply through the Local Authority along with all other parents stating your preference.

To apply, you must fill in the Common Application Form that you can get from a school or the Council. Parents can also fill in the Common Application Form online by visiting: **www.derby.gov.uk/onlineadmissions**.

Please make sure you only put a Derby City school, as applications for other schools will be disregarded. If you are unsure whether the school you want is in Derby City, please call 01332 642617.

You can download a copy of the Primary Admissions Handbook at **www.derby.gov.uk** following links to Education and Learning and Admissions. If you would like a copy of the booklet please contact the Admissions Team.

Contact Us: Telephone 01332 642617 or email **admissions@derby.gov.uk**



Homefields Primary School
Parkway, Chellaston, Derby DE73 5NY
Tel: 01332 691351

www.homefields.derby.sch.uk