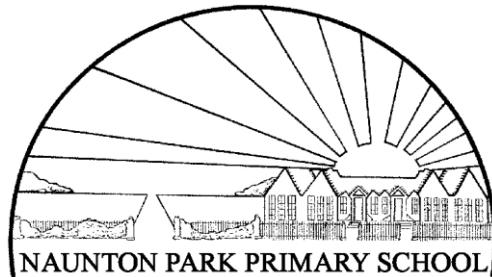


Naunton Park Primary School



Going to school

An information booklet for parents

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Our vision for Naunton Park Primary School

We believe that all children should enjoy their time at school, in a happy, secure, and stimulating environment. They are nurtured in a warm and professional way and valued as individuals by a dedicated team of staff, committed to achieving high standards in every aspect of school life.

We believe that home and school should work in partnership to encourage our children to do the best they can and develop a lasting enthusiasm for learning.

We strive to develop children's self-esteem, confidence, motivation and resilience. In doing so, we help prepare them for the future, so they become responsible members of society with strong values and a sense of purpose.

Please be aware that some of the information contained within this booklet may be liable to change at this unusual time.

Introduction

Education at school involves three especially important sets of people: children, parents and teachers. We hope that this booklet will help you to understand a little of what goes on in your child's first year at Naunton Park. In this way we can all work together to offer your child a happy and rewarding start to school.

In the early years of the reception year we will dedicate a great deal of time to talking with the children, assessing their individual needs, and helping them to get on well with each other as they form friendships.

This is a particularly important time and it is tremendously helpful to hear from you about how things are going. Meeting you daily, especially at first during the Induction Period will help us greatly; so, do come and talk!

The Reception Year

The Reception Year

It is your child's first year in school and an exciting and special time for everyone. It is also a time when the early learning developed at home, playgroup or nursery is continued. This will mean different things for each child. Children arrive for their first day at school at different ages and at different stages of development. We are very keen to be mindful of those differences, especially as we want success and enjoyment for all. Whatever an individual's needs may be the careful and sensitive approach, which we use, will offer solid foundations for your child's future education.

Foundation Stage

Your children will be continuing the curriculum for the under fives: The Foundation Stage – Early Learning Goals. This is the curriculum which your playgroup or nursery will have been following. By the time they reach the end of the reception year our children will be ready to make the easy transition into the National Curriculum. These two phases of education have been carefully designed to dovetail into each other. Much of the Reception work, including Literacy and Numeracy, is firmly rooted in children's play. The staff will have very clear teaching aims for the children but will use their natural enthusiasm for play to motivate and encourage them in these vital early stages of learning.

Baseline

In response to the 2017 primary assessment consultation, the government announced plans to introduce a statutory reception baseline assessment (RBA) in autumn 2020.

We will use it as the baseline for measuring the progress primary schools make with their pupils.

What will be assessed?

Schools will carry out the assessment within the first 6 weeks of children starting school. It will be an activity-based assessment of pupils' starting point in:

- language, communication and literacy
- mathematics

The assessment will be age-appropriate, last approximately 20 minutes and teachers will record the results on a laptop, computer or tablet. It will not be used to label or track individual pupils. No numerical score will be shared and the data will only be used at the end of year 6 to form the school-level progress measure. However, teachers will receive a series of short, narrative statements that tell them how their pupils performed in the assessment at that time. These can be used to inform teaching within the first term.

Informal assessment

Alongside baseline assessments, other informal and on-going assessments will take place during the first half term and throughout the year. They measure your child's abilities in a range of activities on entering school and their progress during the course of Reception. The assessments are a mixture of practical 'play' activities, observation and talking to the teacher; they are carried out in a relaxed manner. The results help us plan your child's next steps in learning.

Playing

The Curriculum Evening in the autumn term will be an opportunity for you to hear how the curriculum is taught and to look at the resources that the children will be using to support their learning. If your child tells you that they spend all day playing you will know that they are enjoying themselves and we know that they are learning.

Getting ready for school

Time

As a parent the greatest gift you can give your child is time. Playing, working, shopping, looking at books and above all, talking, are all important activities that you can share and they are a great contribution to your child's early development.

Conversation

Conversation is essential, not only to reading and writing, but also to every aspect of your child's learning. It is also an easy way for your child to learn how to speak and listen by copying you. This works both ways. When your child wants to speak, you need to have the patience to listen, to show an interest and develop their thinking and language further by talking a little more about what they are saying. Similarly, when you are talking, your child will need to learn to pay attention, look at you, and listen to what you say and make a response. One of the hardest skills your child must learn is to listen.

Questions

Take time to answer even the simplest question with a careful answer. Your explanations of everyday things help your child to build an understanding of the world and help the child to develop the ability to think things out in a logical and reasonable way.

Preparation

The most important thing that you can do to prepare your child for school is to continue to support their ability to get on with others and to help him or her to do simple things independently.

The list below indicates some suggestions. Many children can do most of these things by the time they start school, but very few can do them all. Only you can be the judge. Many of these suggestions are addressed during the first term as part of the Personal, Social and Emotional Development of your child.

- Asking to use the toilet, using it properly and remembering to flush it afterwards.
- Wash and dry hands
- Hang a coat safely on a peg
- Use a tissue (and dispose of it)
- Use cutlery
- Complete a simple jigsaw
- Recognise colours
- Recognise his or her name when written and spoken
- Play with others, taking turns and sharing toys
- Know how to sit quietly and listen to a story
- Know to look at the person who is speaking and to listen to what they are saying
- Draw freely on plain paper with crayons or pencils
- Listen to and join in with nursery rhymes

Helpful tips

Every family has its own way of preparing their child for school. The following thoughts may seem obvious but are a reminder of ideas that have worked for other families.

- Do encourage your child to talk about school and what it will be like.
- Do show them that you trust them and that you believe that it will be 'OK'. Phrases like 'I hope you won't cry when I go' will suggest the opposite.
- Do let your child practise trying on the uniform as many times as they like.
- Do remember that your child may be anxious at first about how strange school may seem.
- Do make the journey from home to school once or twice if they are not used to it.
- Everyone is different, expect that your child may take to school in a different way to an older brother or sister.
- Don't talk too much about being 'big'. They may wish with the initial uncertainty of school that they weren't so big after all!
- Even though they were settled at full-time nursery they may take longer to be happy at school. It is vastly different and there are lots of new people and places to get used to.
- Do talk positively about school, don't read any unhappy or scary stories about it!

Expectations

Your child will be part of a familiar and or new mix of children when they start school. Some of the routines will be familiar and some very new and different. The teachers and teaching assistants will be teaching your child many new things each day. Be prepared for them to come home and talk about what they have had the opportunity to do during their day at school.

Many of the experiences and routines will be new and possibly different or unusual with individual children. Remember to listen to what they say about school and if you have any concerns talk to the teacher as soon as you can. During the first half term at school the children will have the opportunity to participate in making a list of good behaviour expected for the classroom and establish a safe learning environment where everyone can flourish. These will be displayed for them and you to see as you wish. They will encourage the children to work together, be polite and well mannered and ready to 'work' as part of a small or large group. They will be easy to achieve and will provide a uniform approach to work and behaviour.

What your child will need

A checklist:

Please provide suitable clothing for everyday school wear.

Your child will need a Naunton Park book bag. These can be purchased from the Your School uniform website – link below - unfortunately we do not have the space to accommodate rucksacks.

The school uniform for boys:

- White polo shirt or white shirt
- Navy sweatshirt with school logo or plain supermarket or shop bought navy pullover/ cardigan
- Grey trousers or shorts
- Plain dark socks (e.g. grey or navy)
- Shoes - named

The school uniform for girls:

- White polo shirt or white shirt/ blouse
- Navy sweatshirt with school logo or plain supermarket or shop bought navy pullover/ cardigan
- Grey skirts, pinafores, or trousers. Blue and white checked dresses may be worn during the summer months
- Plain white, navy or grey socks, plain navy or grey tights
- Navy or black shoes - named

Sweatshirts, cardigans and coloured T shirts for PE with the school logo on can be ordered from

<https://www.yourschooluniform.com/schools/index/naunton-park-primary-school-22624>

For PE please provide:

- a PE bag – a simple cloth bag with handles rather than a draw string
- plain black or blue shorts
- T-shirt in their house colour
- slip-on or Velcro plimsolls for indoor and outdoor PE - named

Please refrain from sending your child to school with football shirts, vest tops or clothing with large logos or pictures.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ALL CLOTHING SHOULD BE CLEARLY LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME

Part-time School

Naunton Park is a big place with lots of unfamiliar faces, rooms and equipment. There are many new routines and unfortunately your child will not have had the opportunity to visit the EYFS unit and meet the staff prior to starting school this year. It may also have been a long time since they have worked alongside their peers too. We also need time and space to get to know the children individually and the time to carry out the Baseline assessment. This assessment is completed on a one to one basis with each child and their teacher. Therefore, we adopt a gradual induction period, which enables the children to be taught initially in a smaller group to allow them to adjust to the school environment happily. Usually the part time induction period would be a four week process. Mrs Hill has mentioned this in her welcome letter (within this pack) and will notify you about how this will work, should these unusual times continue.

Class Mix

Each class list has been drawn up to allow for friendship groups, playgroup comments, an equal mix of autumn, spring and summer birthday children, and a mix of boys and girls. Admission arrangements allow all children to spend the same amount of time in school. During the early stages in particular, but throughout the year, there are many opportunities for children in both classes to mix e.g. during structured play, the outside area, music sessions, playtimes, lunchtimes, visitors to school and trips.

The School Day

School starts at 8:55am. When the children are attending full-time the teacher on duty will come out to the playground at 8.45am in preparation for the whistle at 8.55am. Children are expected to be in line before or as soon as the whistle blows. The class teachers will then lead them into school.

The current procedure during the induction period is to drop your child off and pick them up from the gate of the enclosed outside area (that backs on to the Foundation Unit). If the black metal gate onto the playground is locked a member of staff will open it and let you in. The children will be encouraged from the start to make a line at the class colour spot or cone (on the playground) to show their teacher that they are ready to come into school. They will be familiar with lining up as it will be in the same place as they line up after every playtime. The teachers will then take the children through the gate and into school.

At 3.15pm, please wait in the playground in a place where you can see the wooden Reception gate. We ask parents not to crowd the gate but to stand well back. We let the children go one at a time when we can see the person who is picking them up. Once the children have been safely claimed there will be a chance for you to speak to the teacher if you wish.

Please do not use the main school entrance at the beginning of the day. However, if your child arrives after 9.00am you should bring them to the main door to be registered as the gates onto the playground will have been locked.

The school year ahead

Your child's first year at school will bring many new experiences for all of you, including opportunities to keep in touch with your child's progress. You will have the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher during a parent/ teacher consultation evening in term 1. In term 4 your child will receive a mid-year report. Teachers will hold another consultation evening, also in term 4. An end of year report will be sent home in July (term 6). There is an Open Evening in term 6 when parents are invited to visit classrooms in the rest of the school.

During the first year at school your child will get to know many new friends and some of the adults who work in school. We will also have had the opportunity to get to know all the children and to learn more about how they learn and play with each other.

At the end of the Reception year the children from the two classes may be re-organised into two new classes for Year One. We do this to sort out any significant differences between classes (e.g. in range of ability and behaviour patterns), which may have emerged during the Reception Year. Like the Reception class lists, the new ones will also take account of your child's friendship groups.

The year ahead is an exciting one for you and your child – a great time of academic achievement and social, emotional and physical progress. So as you look forward to the year, perhaps with a little apprehension, it is worth remembering that once the shyness has been overcome, and the school is no longer a strange, unknown place, our children thoroughly enjoy their days at school.

Please remember that the school prospectus and handbook contain detailed information about school. It can be found on the school website www.nauntonpark.gloucs.sch.uk.