



Sherborne Abbey
CE Primary School



Reception Class **Induction** Booklet



"This is the day that the Lord
has made; let us rejoice and
be glad in it." Psalm 118:24





INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Abbey family. We are delighted that your child will soon be starting school with us. We hope their time here will be both rewarding and enjoyable.

Our Induction Booklet will hopefully reassure you about the initial 'starting-school' journey for your child and begin the positive working relationship between home and school.

Warmest wishes,

Mrs Lisa Thompson
Head of School

Sherborne Abbey is a happy, friendly and caring school where our aim is to develop your child's confidence and encourage a really positive attitude to every school day. We hope your child will enjoy all the varied school activities on offer here, and be an eager and enthusiastic learner.

All our children are individuals and are encouraged to develop in their own way, making good progress throughout their Reception year.



Starting School

All children will officially start school on Monday 8th September.

On Friday 5th September we will be having an Open Classroom session where you can come with your child and stay for up to 30 minutes. This will help your child familiarise themselves with the classroom, ready to start school on Monday 8th September.

We will be holding a reading meeting in the third week where we will explain phonics and the importance of supporting reading at home.

The Foundation Stage Profile is a record of each child's development at the time of starting school, and we continue to use this as a record of your child's progress throughout their time in the Foundation Stage.

During the Autumn Term, we will arrange an appointment for you to meet your child's class teacher to talk about their progress and discuss how they have settled into our school. You are the experts and have extensive knowledge about your child, which can greatly help us, and them to quickly settle in.

Pre-School to the Foundation Stage

We hope to make the transition from playgroup, nursery or pre-school into school as happy as possible, building on the wonderful start they have already experienced.

On entering school, your child is in the Foundation Stage of their learning which at Abbey Primary School, we call the Reception Class.



Friday 5th Sept
1.00-3.00pm
(up to 30mins)

**Stay & Play
Open Classroom**



Monday 8th to
Weds 10th Sep.
8.45am-11.45am

Start of term



Thurs 11th to
Tues 16th Sep.
8.45am-1pm

**Packed lunch
required**



From Wednesday
17th September
8.45am-3.15pm

**Children start
full time**

The First Day

Your child will need to bring in the following things:

- PE kit
- Water bottle
- Some spare clothes to keep in school (trousers or tracksuit bottoms, pants and socks in a plastic bag)
- a named sun hat for outside play (this will remain in school)

Spare clothes are needed as children frequently get messy as they play, despite wearing aprons. Ideally, they should have black tracksuit bottoms in their PE bags ready for a quick change without looking too different to their normal uniform. Please ensure everything is clearly named.

Arrival

On the first day please take your child to the gate outside of the classroom, where staff will meet them and take them in to class. For parking information please see the School Handbook.

Pick Up

School finishes at 11.45am for the first three days. Please make sure you allow time to park (there is no parking on site). Children should be collected from the Reception playground.

School Readiness

Before starting school, your child should be able to:



Go to the toilet on their own



Wash their own hands



Blow their own nose



Speak in sentences



Know their colours



Recognise their first name



Dress themselves including shoes and coat

Morning Routines

School begins at 8.45am. Children may arrive in the playground from 8.35am onwards and come straight into the classroom.

There may be occasions in the first few weeks of school when your child is reluctant to leave you and enter the class. It can take some children a while to get used to being without you. If this happens, reassure your child in a positive manner that you will see them again soon and hand over your child to the teacher or a member of staff. We appreciate that starting school is a big step, but please be positive about it as your child will follow your example.

Lunch

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 (known as Key Stage 1) are entitled to free hot school meals (see separate information booklet), or your child can bring a healthy packed lunch from home.

Playtime Snack

Abbey school takes part in the government's 'Fruit in Schools' scheme; all Key Stage 1 children receive a free piece of fruit each day at morning break time. If they wish to bring their own snack in, that is fine as long as it is fresh fruit or veg (not yoghurt covered raisins, fruit winders, fruit flakes etc).

Your child will also be offered a drink of milk which is part of the School Milk Scheme, until the age of 5. Please supply your child with a named water bottle each day as children are encouraged to have regular drinks. This must be water not squash, flavoured water etc,

Toys and Special Belongings

Throughout the year the teacher often asks the children to bring in things from home and we appreciate your help here. However, in general, we ask for the children not to bring toys into school in case they get lost or damaged.

Clothes

The best clothes to choose are those with easy fastenings. We encourage children to dress/undress themselves so they need clothes that are easy to manage.

Please make sure that all your child's clothes are clearly named including socks and underwear.

This can save the teacher a lot of time, the children less distress, and you a great deal of money!

Please see our school website or the School Handbook for further school uniform information.



School Uniform

Girls:

Grey or black skirt, trousers or shorts, red sweatshirt or cardigan, white polo shirt. Red gingham dress (summer only).

Boys:

Grey or black trousers or shorts, red sweatshirt, white polo shirt.

*Reception children are allowed to wear plain black jogging bottoms as an alternative to dress/skirt/trousers/shorts, as these are often more comfortable for their active learning.

PE:

Your child will require a pair of black PE shorts, a red T shirt, socks other than those they wear to school and a pair of plimsolls or trainers. A tracksuit, though not compulsory, is a good investment, as it provides warmth on cold days. Please do not spend extra money on warm PE tops as your child's school jumper or cardigan can be used if an extra layer is needed.

Please name items of clothing that your child will be wearing in school.

School sweatshirts, cardigans and polo shirts are available from Kitz UK, Units 1-2, South Western Business Park, Sherborne, DT9 3PS.

Branded clothing is not compulsory and uniform can be generic as long as it adheres to our uniform policy.

Children should not wear anything to school that poses a safety hazard. Sensible shoes are required, not trainers.

Earrings must be studs only.

Second-hand uniform sales will be held at school throughout the year, and is always available if required.



What will they need?

Equipment

Book Bags

The children will be given a book bag which they will need to bring to school every day. When they start to bring reading-scheme books home, the book bag and the reading book will need to be returned daily, even if they haven't read with you at home, so that we can hear them read in school. Each child in the school is given a reading record book so parents can write a comment about their child's reading and note any concerns, and so we know how they are getting on at home.

Water Bottle

Each child will need to bring a named bottle of water each day so they can have a drink as needed throughout the day. We will refill the bottles if necessary.

Sun Hat

A named sun hat for outdoor play. This will remain in school. Please apply sun cream prior to your child coming in to school as we cannot apply in school.



Reception children do not need a school bag or backpack, other than the book bag above. There is also no need to bring an art apron as we have them in class.

Spare Clothes

Children will need to bring some spare clothes to be kept in a plastic bag, inside their PE bag - trousers or tracksuit bottoms, pants and socks.



Liaison between School and Home

At Sherborne Abbey Primary School we aim to have an 'Open Door' policy, where parents are welcome to come in and talk to teachers and the Head of School when needed.

You will, however, appreciate that certain times are difficult, especially for longer discussions. It is therefore beneficial if appointments can be agreed, then time can be set aside for a meeting. After school is generally the best time to speak with your child's teacher.

We aim to keep you informed of special dates, events and the curriculum programme through an app called Class Dojo. You will also be able to see photos of your child and their class' learning in action. We also use a text messaging service as a way of keeping parents informed.

We hold parent consultation evenings in both the autumn and spring terms, and your child will get a written report in the summer term.

We do hope that you will join in with other school activities, such as functions arranged by our fabulous PTA, known as Friends of Sherborne Abbey School (FoSAS).

Above all, please feel free to come in and talk to any member of the teaching staff, or myself. This is an important stage in your child's life and we want to get it right.



ClassDojo

The Curriculum

What your child will learn

In the Foundation Year we aim to teach your child many different skills, using the Foundation Curriculum to prepare children for the National Curriculum, which begins in Year 1.

The New Foundation Stage curriculum aims to give all children the same wide range of opportunities to learn in the following areas:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Understanding the World
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Expressive Arts and Design

From the start, your child will be actively learning through practical work (with a balance between directed and self chosen tasks), and encouraged to develop independence and self-reliance. Children will do individual work, group work and some class work, and we will teach and encourage co-operation skills to help your child get along with other children, as well as adults.

The 'whole' child is considered to be important, so social, emotional, physical, intellectual and moral development are all inter-related, and most learning for a four year old is impossible to separate under individual subject headings. However, we appreciate that you as parents like to know what your child will be doing when they are at school.

The following will give you an idea of the sort of work programme your child will be experiencing through the first year at school. You will find there are various ways in which you can help at home.



Reading

There are some things children need to understand before they can begin to learn to read, such as:

- The difference between letters and words (and pictures and numbers)
- That print is read from left to right
- That print carries meaning and can be re-read
- That pictures in books can add to the text

The ability to hear sounds and rhymes is an important part of learning to read. We spend time each day working on phonological awareness and on rhyming patterns, through simple listening games. In practice, this means lots of 'I spy' games, nursery rhymes, word play, finding things that begin with 'S' etc. and thinking up rhyming words.

These nursery rhymes are not just simple fun for children; they really are an important part of learning to read! They also develop the speaking and listening skills which children need.

We use a method which is phonics-based, using a scheme called Essential Letters and Sounds, so learning of letter sounds is an important stage. We teach the phonetic sounds rather than letter names to start with ('a' as in apple, not 'a' as in acorn) as this is far more useful for the next step, which is blending sounds together to read and write short words. It is important not to attempt this stage until children are ready, as it can be very confusing if they haven't got a firm understanding of letter sounds.

Some children will quickly learn to recognise a few words on sight, which can help them in the early stages. However, it is important that they learn the correct method for working out words, as this will develop their ability to tackle any word rather than just a few familiar ones.



The time taken to progress to these stages can vary widely and it does not help to rush things. It is essential that the children have a good understanding of what they are reading, as well as being able to work out what each word says. We encourage them to talk about books and stories, to ask and answer questions, and to make predictions.

We also want to encourage the habit of reading widely and for enjoyment, so we make available all sorts of books which children can choose from. We try to make sure the books have just the right level of challenge without being too difficult; again, this can very off-putting to a child beginning to read independently. We use several reading schemes, which include fiction, non-fiction and poetry, so children experience a wide range of texts.

To help and support your child with the whole process, there are things you can do at home and some of these can make a big difference to your child's confidence. In the initial stages they will have letters to practise, then words and eventually reading books. You child will benefit if you can set aside some time each day to help them to read their words and reading books. Five minutes a day can make all the difference.

Reading to a child daily will also help develop their understanding of how stories are structured. It's also great bonding time for you and your child!

Lessons

Assessment

We will need to get to know your child and find out about their abilities on starting school. This is done as part of the usual classroom activities, during the first few weeks of school. We need to find out about such things as counting ability, knowledge of the alphabet and their ability to listen and follow instructions, so we can plan for them at the appropriate level. We also look at personal and social skills, for example the ability to share equipment and to concentrate on an activity.

When children have been in school for a few weeks, we will hold Parent Meetings to discuss how the children are settling in and their next steps.

Throughout the reception year, we assess the children's progress as they work towards the Early Learning Goals for children at the end of the Foundation Stage. Some of these may be achieved quite easily and some will take longer. The emphasis is on children demonstrating their skills and knowledge as part of their usual activities and in various contexts. There is a strong emphasis on children's use of speech and language and on their personal, social and emotional development across all areas of learning.

Religious Education

As a church school, our principle aim is to maintain and teach our faith and this permeates all areas of our school life.

Prayer and worship are real educational experiences where we aim to develop the faith of each individual in our school.

We teach this using the Agreed Dorset Religious Education Syllabus which covers Christianity alongside other faiths. Through this we hope that all our children become caring, respectful and happy individuals within our school, their home and the wider community.



Simple activities and games to play with your child to help them learn

- Sorting out objects, a few at a time, into colours and sizes
- Setting the table, counting the knives and forks, putting cups to saucers, and plates to places
- Cooking with your child
- Talking together when you are shopping, 'read' the names of shops, street names, brand names, and recognising coins
- Playing with:
 - Jigsaws
 - Kym's game - small number of objects on a tray, remove one, which is missing?
 - 'I spy' - something that is the same colour, size, begins with the same sound
 - Ball games - kicking, rolling, catching
 - Card games - snap, picture lotto, board games
- Cutting and sticking
- Drawing and painting
- Asking and answering lots of questions - how did you make that? Why did that happen?
- Using suitable websites and sharing activities on the computer
- Enjoying books together
- Visits to the library

Whatever you do, have fun together. Your support and praise in these early stages will give them the confidence needed to tackle new learning situations in the future.





Sherborne Abbey

CE Primary School

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