



Welcome to Porters Grange Primary School & Nursery

Starting school at Porters Grange



Welcome to Porters Grange Primary School and Nursery.

The information in this booklet will help prepare your child to start their nursery or reception year. Our aim is to work together in partnership to make this transition a smooth, pleasant and happy experience for you and your child.

Thank you.

The EYFS Team.





Our Vision

Children – we want our children to be happy, engaged, active, independent, chatty confident explorers!

Adults – our adults are organised, happy, calm, playful, talkative, confident, friendly and observant!

Interactions – we aim for all of our interactions to involve creativity, concentration, energy, persistence, interest and enjoyment!

Environment – our environment is safe, engaging, exciting, child friendly, uncluttered, accessible and provides opportunities for a variety of learning styles.

Timetable – we have a daily timetable that is shared, flexible, relevant, age appropriate and includes large amounts of indoor and outdoor free flow play.

Parents – we want our parents to work in partnership with us and hope that they are supportive, engaged, polite, caring and happy!

Planning – our planning is flexible, child centred, annotated, reflective of the EYFS curriculum, shared, exciting, practical.



Parent responsibilities

When collecting your child from school at the end of the day please let your child and class teacher know -

- Who is meeting them (if it is different from the person who brought them to school)
- Please inform the school office of any changes to who will be picking up your child at the end of the day.

Please help your child by not being late, but if you are late in the morning then please take your child to the school office, so they can be signed in.

If your child is ill, please telephone and leave a message with the school office on the first morning of illness.



Things to bring on a daily basis

- Book bag (for reading book, newsletters, home/school book, letters and sounds book -please bring this every day).
- **Back packs and ruck sacks are not suitable as they do not fit the storage provided.**
- Lunchbox (if required).



Lunch options

All reception, year one and two children are entitled to free school meals.

There is always a vegetarian option.

You can also provide your child with a packed lunch. We support healthy eating, please make sure they have a healthy lunch with some fruit and vegetables, no sweets or chocolate and only water.

Your child will need to tell the teacher in the morning during registration what they are having for lunch.

To ensure the safety of children in the school with allergies, please do not include any eggs or nuts or foods that may contain nuts in packed lunches.

Early Years School Uniform

Children should wear sensible clothing and shoes. Children should be able to dress and undress themselves. We like to see our pupils wearing uniform and having a clear Porter's Grange identity. We would ask parents to provide children with sensible black shoes.

Girls' Uniform

Grey pinafore, grey skirt or jogging bottoms; white blouse or white polo shirt; blue sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan; blue/white check dress (summer term); blue fleece (optional).

Boys' Uniform

Grey short or jogging bottoms, white shirt or polo shirt; blue sweatshirt or jumper; blue fleece (optional).

Parents may purchase blue sweatshirts, cardigans, fleeces and white polo shirts embroidered with the school's name and logo from 'Pauls Discount Clothing' on Southchurch Road.

There is no need to purchase a PE kit at this stage of the school year.

Useful hints

It is helpful if your child wears clothes that are easy for them to get on and take off, and shoes that do not have laces. **Please label all items**



of clothing with your child's full name, and show your child where their name is on their clothes. Please remember there will be 29 other blue sweatshirts/cardigans and 29 other white polo shirts that all look very similar!

It is also helpful if your child can:

- Dress and undress him/herself
- Use a tissue or handkerchief
- Use a knife and fork (if school dinners)
- Wash hands and dry carefully
- Tidy toys
- Share toys and take turns
- Use the toilet independently

It is important that you understand our criteria for your child to begin full time school. At Porters Grange we believe starting school should be a positive and happy experience for children and their families. Therefore, we have agreed statements to help us judge school readiness for children. It is important that you know and understand our criteria and work with us to settle your child into school life.



Children will only start full school days when they are able to:

1. Separate from their carers easily
2. Move independently around the playground and class (both indoors and outdoors)

3. Stay awake and alert all day
4. Be safe outdoors
5. Cope with changes in adults in the classroom without distress
6. Stay within the set boundaries of the classroom
7. Behave appropriately (non-aggressively) for the majority of the time
8. Manage their own needs and personal hygiene.



Settling into School

Remember all children respond differently to starting school. As the practitioners working with your children, we endeavour to make their experience of school fun, familiar and secure. As a parent/ carer you can help us by reassuring your child, being positive about school and being careful that your own anxieties do not influence your child. Remember some children will tell you every detail of their school day. Other children tell you nothing!

If you or your child have worries or concerns, just have a chat with the teacher (sometimes out of earshot of your child may be appropriate). The best time to do this is at the end of the school day once the teacher has safely handed over all the children to their parents/carers.

Remember your child is only four years old and may have 'misread' situations. Set your mind at rest and chat to the practitioners. On the other hand you'll be surprised how independent your four year old can be when allowed.



Learning through play

Play helps young children to learn and develop their physical, social, emotional and intellectual skills through doing and talking, which research has shown to be the means by which young children learn to think. It is also how they learn to socialise, as children engage in learning experiences with other children and adults.

The Early Years Foundation Stage is a play based framework that childcare providers use as a tool to ensure that children from birth to five are developing and learning to their full potential.



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The Early Years Foundation Stage uses a play based framework that childcare providers use as a tool to ensure that children from birth to five are developing and learning to their full potential. Providers plan and provide a range of play activities, which help children to make progress in each of the following areas of learning and development.



Prime Areas

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Physical development
- Communication and language development

Specific areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

We will observe your child to assess how they are learning and developing using photos, videos and work samples. We will update you on their progress regularly.

We welcome any contributions from home to your child's learning journey. We look forward to meeting you.

The EY Team at Porters Grange.



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