

## Sand Hutton Church of England Primary School

# Early Years Foundation Stage



Welcome to Sand Hutton Church of England Primary School. At Sand Hutton School we aim to provide a happy stimulating learning environment in which children can feel secure. We value links with parents and put great emphasis on working together to help your child to achieve their full potential.

In this booklet we have tried to answer some basic everyday questions that you may have about starting school. If, however, you have any other queries we will be very happy to answer them at any time.

### Welcome Meeting

Prior to your child starting their reception year, you will be invited to a meeting to welcome you and your child to our school. This meeting will give you both a chance to meet Mrs. Wardell, the Headteacher, Mrs Wilson and Mrs Bellfied who teach Class One and Mrs Jagger, Class One's teaching assistant. It is an informal meeting which provides an opportunity to discuss the day to day organisation of the school, our Early Years' provision and the importance of home and school links. It is also an opportunity for parents to ask questions about any aspect of school that they feel unsure about.

## Admissions Policy

The Local Education Authority has the responsibility for admitting children to individual schools. They ask parents to express a preference for the school in which they wish their children to be educated. Wherever possible those preferences are met, unless to do so “would prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources” (Education Act 1996)

The standard number for admissions to the reception group at Sand Hutton is 11. Where this number is exceeded the priorities for admission are in accordance with North Yorkshire’s Admissions criteria, which are:

1. Those children in the catchment area of the parishes of Sand Hutton, Claxton, Gate Helmsley, Upper Helmsley, Bossall, Buttercrambe, Flaxton, Harton and parts of the A64.
2. Pupils considered by the Authority to have exceptional social or medical needs.
3. Pupils having brothers or sisters at the school at the beginning of the year in question.
4. Pupils with the nearest available walking route to school.

If parents prefer a school that is not the normal school for the area in which they live, their preferences are considered after those from the normal area. Parents needing more details of these arrangements, including the right to appeal, should contact Harrogate Area Education Office telephone number on 0845 0349420.

Children will be eligible for admission to Sand Hutton School during the autumn term where their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday falls on or between September 1<sup>st</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of August of that year.

Children will attend for mornings only for the first week of the autumn term when they will be collected at 12 noon. Then a week when the children will have lunch and be collected at 1.00pm. Following discussion with parents and staff the children will then attend school full time.

There may be circumstances where parents choose to have a later starting date. This is quite acceptable because parents retain the right for their child to start school when they are statutory school age, that is, at the beginning of the term following their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## Induction

We believe that it is very important that the Reception children have a positive start to their school life and all children attend school on a part-time basis initially.

If staff or parents consider that it would be in the best interests of an individual child to extend the normal part-time arrangement this will be discussed and agreed on an individual basis.

## Initial Assessment

We are conscious that when children enter our school they may well have had access to a wide variety of pre-school provision and experiences.

We value all these experiences and also seek to build upon the foundation for learning established at home. As parents you are your child's first teachers and we value your input and support to enable us to provide good quality education for your child.

Parents are welcomed as helpers in school because they provide valuable opportunities for the children to interact with adults as well as their peers.

We ask parents to complete the "I am special" booklet with their child because it helps the school to learn about their interests, skills and needs, so enabling us to give them a happy and secure start at Sand Hutton.

## What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the curriculum offered to all children of 5 years and under. The Foundation Stage curriculum aims to lay a secure foundation for future learning. Your children have already begun their journey through the Foundation Stage, and we recognise their learning and experiences so far, building on the start they have had from home and other nursery settings. Please let school have any records or reports from these settings. The EYFS curriculum was updated in September 2012.

In the Foundation Stage, learning is play based, and often starts from ideas the children suggest. This is known as child-initiated learning, and we feel this is a good way to interest children and involve them in scaffolding their knowledge and skills towards those they will depend on throughout their lives.

Through play children can:

- Explore, develop, and represent learning experiences that help them to make sense of the world
- Practise and build up ideas, concepts and skills
- Learn how to understand the need for rules
- Take risks and make mistakes
- Think creatively and imaginatively
- Communicate with others as they investigate or solve problems

The curriculum is differentiated to ensure that each child learns at his or her own level, and a careful balance is achieved between directed activities and play based activities, regardless of the year groups in the class.

## Curriculum for the Early Years Foundation Stage

The Foundation Stage begins when children reach the age of three. The last year of the Foundation Stage is often described as the Reception Year as most children are admitted to school at some point during the year.

The foundation stage curriculum focuses on the Prime areas and Specific areas of learning:

### **Prime Areas:**

- ❖ Personal and Social Development (PSD)
- ❖ Communication and Language (CL)
- ❖ Physical Development (PD)

### **Specific Areas:**

- ❖ Literacy (L)
- ❖ Mathematics (M)
- ❖ Understanding the World (UW)
- ❖ Expressive Arts and Design (EAD)

Our lessons are often play based, both inside the classroom and in our large outdoor area, and we spend time each day on child-initiated activities as well as in groups or adult-led activities.

We plan a broad, balanced, well-resourced curriculum, which offers opportunities for enjoyment and success through active learning. Planned activities aim to foster good social relationships, promote equal opportunities and respond to special educational needs.

To enable us to plan appropriate activities for every child we carry out on-going assessments; collecting information to build your child's foundation stage profile, plan for learning and support statutory assessment at the end of the Foundation Stage.

During your child's first term in school you will be invited to discuss how they have settled in and how we can work together to build on your child's strengths.

## Home School Contact

As well as the opportunities provided by the Parent Evenings held twice a year, we hope that parents will feel free to contact school at any time if they have a particular concern regarding their child's well being. We feel it is in the best interests of the child to share information.

## Who will be my child's teacher?

The Foundation Stage staff consists of:

Reception Teachers - Mrs Wilson and Mrs Belfield

There is also classroom support from Teaching Assistants Mrs Jagger, Mrs Drysdale and Mrs Cooper.

## How will my child get to school?

Children who live within our catchment area, but at a distance of more than 2 miles from school, are eligible for free school transport. If you think you qualify please contact The Transport Officer, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton. 0845 0379422

If children are brought to school by car we ask that you do not park on the zigzag markings or opposite stationary cars to help avoid traffic congestion.



## Will my child need special clothes?

Our school uniform consists of: grey trousers, skirt or pinafore dress  
Navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan  
White, red polo shirt  
White t-shirts all with our school badge

Items with the school badge can be ordered from the school office. We are also happy for children to wear uniform in our school colours that is purchased elsewhere.

Your child also needs:

Games kit to be kept in a bag on her/his coat peg, consisting of:

Navy shorts

White T-shirt

Socks for girls if tights are worn in winter

A pair of plimsolls – with elastic not laces

Navy sweatshirts and “jogger” bottoms during colder weather for working outside.

A pair of named wellingtons, for outdoor play, clipped together with a clothes peg.

Children with long hair should have it tied back.

Children who wear stud earrings must be able to remove them themselves for P.E.

No other jewellery may be worn in school at any time.

Please help your child to get used to dressing, undressing and putting on their coat so that they can be independent when changing for P.E. and playtimes.

Please check that all clothes and footwear are clearly named. This is very important because it enables us to quickly identify the owner of any “lost” property. We ask that children who have not yet mastered shoelaces wear shoes with alternative fastenings for school.

## Will my child need to take equipment to school?

No. The children won't need pencils, pens, crayons or toys. We have lots at school already.

## Where will my child have lunch?

Our school cook prepares tasty, healthy lunches in the school kitchen. The children eat their lunch in the school hall and our midday supervisors are on hand to give them help when needed, for example when cutting their food. Please help your child to be able to use a knife and fork.

Hot meals are provided free to all children up to the age of seven.

If you choose to send a packed lunch please write your child's name on the outside of the lunch box which will be stored in the hall.

## What food and drink is available at break time?

Water is available in school. Each child is issued with a bottle for water, this should be taken home and washed each evening, and further bottles may be purchased through school at a cost of 50p.

As part of a national scheme the children are offered fresh fruit or vegetables (e.g. apples or carrots), every morning the children have this in the classroom just before break along with a drink of milk.

At break time the children can purchase crusty bread from the kitchen at a cost of 20p. This should be paid for at the beginning of each week.

We feel that because of this no other snacks are needed and that neither sweets nor chocolate-based snacks brought to school.

## What happens if my child feels ill?

We will contact parents or the designated person on your child's emergency contact list and ask for the child to be collected and taken home.

## What do I do if my child needs to take medicine at school?

If your child needs regular medication (for example for asthma) they should have an inhaler or other medication to keep at school. All medication must be in the container that it was dispensed in and must be marked by the pharmacist with the child's name and the dose required. Other medication e.g. antibiotics must be brought to school as a measured dose in the pharmaceutical container, sealed and clearly labelled and accompanied by a completed form, a copy of which is available from the school office. Medicine cannot be administered without this **written** authorisation. Alternatively you are welcome to come into school and administer the medicine to your child individually. We do not expect poorly children to be sent to school including those with heavy colds or recovering from tummy bugs etc., as we do not have the facilities to provide for their needs.

## What will my child do when they need the toilet?

Just ask the teacher. The Foundation Stage Classroom is very lucky to have its' own toilets and all infant children are sent to use them before going out at break times. Children will need to be able to use the toilet by themselves and remember to wash hands and flush the toilet.

## How can I help my child at home?

Children are encouraged to take reading books home to share with you also they will have use of our central lending library. Each child is given book bags and a home/school contact book for both teacher and parent to write in. This pack will also start to include sound booklets and reading words. Later in the year, children will begin to bring different coloured Key Rings of words with instructions of how you can help with them. Mathematical tasks and topic based homework to do at home will be set as appropriate.

Please check your child's book bag each evening, as newsletters, bumped head notes and information about PTA events may be inside.

## Can I help at school?

Yes, you would be very welcome, although a DBS check may be required.

If you would like to help with small groups of children for baking, reading, art, sewing preparing resources, or if you have another area of interest we would love to hear from you, as an extra pair of hands is always appreciated.

**'We believe that our Early Years Foundation Stage provides an exciting and stimulating introduction to education and that the children in our care will thrive and develop in all areas of their learning.'**

We hope your child settles quickly and happily at Sand Hutton Church of England Primary School and that it is the beginning of a long and successful relationship with the school.

**If you have any other queries please feel free to contact us at any time.**

**Mrs Wilson or Mrs Belfield, Infant Teachers.**

**Headteacher Mrs. Janet Wardell**

**Telephone (01904) 468308.**