

## 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 to our school. This meeting gives you a chance to meet Mrs Pawson, the Head teacher and Mrs Wilson and Mrs Scott who teach class one. 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 is 12. 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. During this week they will be collected at 1.00pm after their lunch. Following discussion with parents and staff they will then attend 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.

If staff or parents consider that it would be in the best interests of an individual child to extend the normal part-time arrangement then the Headteacher will hold a meeting with the child's parents to explain the decision.

## 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. This is subject to full CRB checks.

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 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 at home and other nursery settings. Please let school have any records or reports from these settings.

In the Foundation Stage, learning is play based and often starts from ideas the children suggest. This is known as child initiate 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 through their lives.

Through play children can:

- Explore, develop and represent learning experiences that help them to make sense of the world.
- Practice 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 and 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 on 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)

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 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:

Class Teachers – Mrs Wilson and Mrs Scott.

There is also classroom support from Teaching Assistants Mrs Jagger and Mrs Drummond

## **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, Scarborough Area Office, Valley Bridge Parade, Scarborough.

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 :

Navy blue or grey skirts or trousers.

Navy blue sweatshirts.

Red polo shirts .

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

Pair of plimsolls – with elastic not laces

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

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

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. Please provide your child with a water bottle and encourage your child to take their bottle home to be cleaned.

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.

We feel that because of this no other snacks are needed and that sweets, chocolate-based snacks and crisps are not appropriate at school.

## **What happens if my child feels ill?**

We will contact someone on your child's emergency contact list and ask them to take your child 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 Foundations Stage classroom is very lucky to have their 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. They are 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 lists of spelling words with instructions of how you can help with them.

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 CRB 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 all children in our care will thrive and develop in all areas of the curriculum.'**

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 Scott – Class Teachers.**

**Headteacher Mrs. B Pawson**

**Telephone (01904) 468308.**