

Huish Episcopi Primary School

Starting School

A Guide for Parents & Carers



Huish Episcopi Primary School is a friendly town school with high aspirations for its learning community. We thrive very much on our happy and friendly ethos, and aim to encourage all pupils to be motivated and successful.

We recognize the importance and entitlement of our Foundation Stage pupils to a curriculum that equips them with the skills, confidence and successes that will take them on to Lifelong Learning.

We wish your child to settle into a happy, productive school life. We hope this booklet offers you an insight into what we do and how you can support your child's learning through that vital Home School partnership. Further information about Huish Episcopi Primary can be found in our School Prospectus and 'School Information' document.

The Curriculum

Prime Areas:

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

Physical Development

Communication & Language

Specific Areas:

Literacy
Mathematics
Understanding the World
Expressive Arts & Design

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum (EYFS) is based on seven areas of learning split into Prime and Specific Areas. The curriculum is used to plan and assess learning at the appropriate level for your child. We aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum that will enable each child to reach his or her potential. Throughout the school day there is a mixture of adult and child initiated activities which is taught as a whole class, in small groups and individually. Learning is based around topics and children's interests.

The Early Years Curriculum involves a structured play-based approach and we provide a variety of activities which are carefully planned for by adults. The adults working within the class support and scaffold this approach enabling us to build in next steps necessary for the children's progress.

Learning takes place both inside and outside of the classroom. We have a brilliant outdoor area where the children can explore plants and wildlife, play on bikes and scooters and use large construction kits. The children have access to the outdoor area throughout the day and therefore we ask that you could provide a named pair of wellies and waterproof coat for your child.

During your child's time in EYFS he/she will have a personalised learning journal which will contain observations, photos, achievements and class work. Your child's learning journal will be shared with you at Profile Sharing Sessions set across the Academic Year.

An introduction to Literacy and Numeracy:

Literacy

We plan our Literacy alongside our topic as well as following the children's interests. Throughout the year in Foundation Stage the children will experience a range of texts including story books, information books and poetry. Children are encouraged to talk about the characters and pictures, predict what might happen next and talk about what has happened in the story. Each child will receive a school planner which is a useful link between home and school. This planner can be used to record what they have read as well as communicating any concerns, questions and positive comments you have about your child's reading. We encourage the children to read at least four times a week at home to help them make the best progress.

At Huish Episcopi Primary School we plan daily phonics lessons using a programme called Read, Write Inc. This is a multi-sensory approach and has been successful in helping children learn the sounds and names of letters as well as forming them correctly. Your child will also be introduced to high frequency sight words that will help their reading. More information on Phonics and teaching your child to read will be shared with you during a Reading Meeting held in October.

Maths

Early Maths involves a variety of practical activities which happens in many different contexts around the classroom and outside. We provide opportunities for the children to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shapes, spaces, and measure at the appropriate level.

Parent and Carer Partnership

As parents you play a vital role in the education of your child. As the time for school approaches, there are many ways in which you can help prepare your child. Here are a few suggestions:

- Encourage your child to dress themselves independently
- Get to know other children that are starting school
- Help your child to use the toilet independently
- Help your child to eat with a knife and fork
- Play games together e.g. eye spy, snakes and ladders
- Start looking for shapes and numbers in the environment

A Typical Day



8:50am

School gates open - children taken to Foundation Stage classroom and familiarised with their school environment

9:00am

Morning classroom activities and start of morning learning period - numeracy & literacy

10:35am

Morning playtime - includes healthy snack

12:30pm

Communal lunch and extended playtime

1:30pm

Story time and creative and topic activities

3:10pm

Stories & Singing
Prepare for home-time

3:25pm

Taken to Foundation stage gates to be collected

Arrangements for Starting School September 2017

In order to help your child to settle into school life as easily as possible, we have put the following arrangements in place;

Transitions Sessions:

Wednesday 5 July **9.30am – 11.30am**

Tuesday 11 July **1.45pm - 3:00pm**

1:1 Meetings with Miss Cardwell:

Thursday 29 June – **9.30am to 12.30pm**

Friday 30 June – **1.00pm to 3.30pm**



First School Term:

Week 1 – Tuesday 5 September-Friday 8 September **8.50am – 12.00pm**

Week 2 – Monday 11 September-Friday 15 September **8.50am – 1.00pm**

(Children to stay for lunch)

Week 3 – Monday 18 September-Friday 22 September **8.50am – 3.25pm**

Home Visits:

Home Visits will take place during the afternoons of Week 1 and Week 2. This is an opportunity to meet your child in an environment in which they feel safe and secure. Appointments for Home Visits can be made during individual school meetings with Miss Cardwell. If you have limited availability for these visits please let Mrs Sams in the school office know.



“We look forward to welcoming you and your child to our school!”

Mrs Dennis, Head of School



The Levels Academy Trust

Raising Aspirations, Realising Potential TOGETHER