



North Somercotes C of E Primary School
*Curious, Unique, Brave and Playful...where
happy children learn!*

Welcome to our lovely school!

For the
Parents and Carers of the
Foundation Stage Pupils



Our Vision:

At North Somercotes Church of England Primary School, we aim to be an exceptional school with Christian values at the very heart of the community. We are committed to providing a caring environment where every child can thrive and is supported to achieve their unique and amazing potential.



An exceptional school is one that:

- *Establishes excellent values & ethos;*
- *Ensures that relationships & behaviour are outstanding;*
- *Raises achievement & attainment to the highest possible levels;*
- *Proves that learning & teaching are of a consistently high standard.*

At North Somercotes Church of England Primary School, we aim for education to be holistic and fun filled. In a calm, well-ordered environment, based on love and mutual respect, all children are valued as individuals and their moral and spiritual development encouraged. The school promotes good health and fitness, perseverance, optimism and a "can-do" attitude in all. We believe that every child is entitled to enjoy their childhood and to feel safe and loved. We celebrate each child's success and encourage them to take pride in their own, as well as others', achievements. We engage children in a creative curriculum that is tailored to their needs and reflects the context and community in which they live. At all times, we seek to inspire children with a love of learning which will remain with them throughout their lives.

Together with our parents, church and wider community, we aim for all children to succeed in body, mind, heart and spirit. Children have opportunities to work both individually and collaboratively, giving them confidence, skills and the self-esteem needed to be successful in a rapidly developing world. In order to fulfil the vision, we seek to constantly adapt and improve, listen to parents, carers, and children and have on going reflection and debate amongst all stakeholders.

Getting your child ready for school at home!

Starting school is a milestone, not only for your child but also for you!

It is important that your child's experience of starting school is as positive as possible. After all, you are the first and most important educators of your child!



Talk enthusiastically about school

Children's thoughts about school can vary enormously. Some can hardly wait to start while some find it stressful to leave their parents for the day. Start helping your child look forward to school by talking enthusiastically about it now. Reassure your child that there are lots of new children starting school - they are not on their own. Talk to your child about school and what to expect. Share positive books and stories with your child about starting and let them wear their school uniform before the big day. Rehearse in your child's mind how they will come into school with the other children on the first day and how you (or another carer) will be waiting for them at pick up time.

Encourage independence

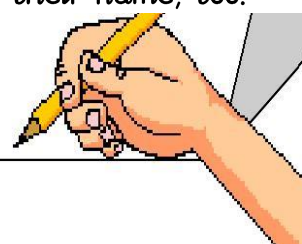
Reception children will be expected to know the basics of looking after themselves. Encourage your child to dress on their own - tackling buttons, zips and taking off and putting on jackets. Plus, they should know how to eat using a knife, fork and spoon independently and be able to go to the toilet without help.

Develop speaking and listening skills

School children are expected to listen to what the teacher says, without interrupting, and to also answer when spoken to. Get your child ready for 'circle time' - a time when the teacher and class sit together every day to discuss topics - by trying it out at home. Either make your own 'circle time' with siblings - or use teddies and dolls - and encourage family discussions at the dinner table, taking turns to listen and to speak.

Teach them to recognise their name

Some children will already be able to read and write simple words by the time they start Reception; others will be new learners. It's important that your child can recognise their name so they can pick up the correct name-labelled uniform or jacket, and also find their own peg in the classroom. With your child, explore what the letters in their name look like and help them try writing their name, too.



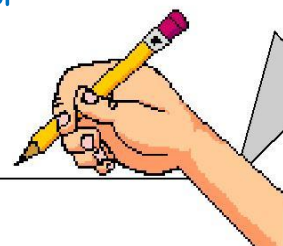
Expectations at School:



The following is a list of expectations that we would like all children to be able to do whilst at school. However, some children will of course find some things easier than others. If we work together both at school & home, then we can all help in the development of your child.

It is important that children be able to:

- Go to the toilet independently.
- Do what they are told by an adult.
- Co-operate and share with friends.
- Be responsible for looking after things.
- Understand that there are quieter times to listen and learn and noisier times to play.
- Regularly take books home to share.
- Concentrate for longer periods than they may have done at a previous nursery or playgroup.
- Follow school and classroom rules.
- Put on their coat independently and have a go at fastening it.
- Be able to change shoes and change for P.E.



The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) in Reception:

Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through seven areas of Learning and Development. The three prime areas are:

- *Communication and language;*
- *Physical development;*
- *Personal, social and emotional development.*



As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in four specific areas.

These are:

- Literacy;
- Mathematics;
- Understanding the World;
- Expressive Arts & Design.

These seven areas together are used to plan your child's learning and activities in Reception. Children in the EYFS learn by creative and critical thinking, by playing, exploring & being active - both indoors and outside. Assessments are made throughout the year & are based on observations and knowledge of the whole child. Term 1 is all about getting to know each other. During this half term, staff will observe and work with your child making judgements regarding the best way to engage them and take their learning forward.

Children's emotional health and wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do. We use a number of strategies to help children develop their emotional literacy skills. As a school we follow the *5 Ways to Wellbeing*, which are a set of really simple actions anyone can take to improve their wellbeing, and have developed an 'emotional area' within the classroom to encourage children to share their feelings with all adults within the setting.



Other Important Information:



The School Day:

The school day starts at 8.45am. This is the start of lesson time and we will expect children to get into good habits straight away & to be on time - otherwise they will miss out on a vital aspect of their learning. The children will enter the classroom via the Reception classroom fire door.

Timetable:

During the first few weeks of school, the classroom will be set up similar to a nursery setting with carefully planned activities that the children can choose from. All activities follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum.

As part of our daily routine, phonics, maths and literacy sessions take place in the mornings and topic is taught in the afternoons.

Playtimes & Snack:

There is a designated area on the school playground for younger children in school, which is well equipped to facilitate learning and play. A member of staff will always be outside with the children in order that there is always someone they know well who is close at hand if needed.

Water is available for your child to access all day.
Your child is also offered a piece of fruit for morning snack.



Lunchtimes:

Foundation Stage children go into dinner earlier than the rest of school as it allows them to feel settled and relaxed more quickly. The Reception team will join the children at the start of lunch to supervise and help the children with their food. A menu of the dinners is available on the school website so that you can discuss with your child what they would like to eat.

Collective Worship:

Each day we have an assembly, which will be taking place in the hall. This is a special time of quiet reflection and worship, as well as the opportunity for children to develop on an emotional level.

End of the Day:

School finishes at 3.15 pm each day and you will collect your child from the Reception classroom fire door. Children will not be allowed to go with any other adult without your permission. In order to avoid difficulties, school must be informed if you have made arrangements for someone else to collect your child from school.

Reading:

We are proud to be a 'Power of Reading' school and, as such, we use high quality texts to engage our pupils in reading and writing. It is our aim to encourage children to learn to love reading and to read regularly outside of school. We ask for you to support us by sitting with your child and listening to them read every day for a minimum of ten minutes.

The children will be taking home library books which are meant to be shared with an adult at home. These can be changed twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Just before the end of term your child will be given their first independent reading book. The children will read to an adult in class and have their independent reading book changed once a week. Children will also need to practise learning their letter sounds as well as reading high frequency words.



Online learning journals:

In October we will be able to share with you access details to your child's online learning journal. Once you've registered, you will be able to view, comment on and print your child's learning journal. You will also have the option to upload pictures and videos of all the amazing things your child does at home.

Magical Me!



Every Thursday at school

This is a special opportunity for the children to bring in one item of interest to them, clearly labelled, to share and talk about with their friends and Mrs Abualzulof and other members of the Reception Team.

This is an activity to help develop speaking and listening skills, one of the Prime Areas of the EYFS Curriculum.

The more personal the objects, the greater their confidence and the more details they will be able to share.

Suggestions:

- + A special photograph
- + Something I made at home
- + A toy or special object

