

Frequently asked questions: EYFS

What time does school start?

Nursery – 8:50am-2:50pm (morning session without lunch – 8:50-11:50 with lunch – 8:50-12:50)

Reception – 8:55am-3:00pm

Can I come into the classroom? *At present we aren't able to allow parents into the classroom, further information regarding this will be given in September.*

Under normal circumstances, **nursery parents** are welcomed into the building to support their children with self-registration. We usually find that children settle into the school day very well. Where children are a little unsettled, we work with families to make the transition as smooth as possible. We always aim to give a follow up phone call to put your mind at ease if they have taken longer to settle.

Under normal circumstances, **reception children** line up outside the classroom. Staff are available on the yard from 8:50am to welcome you. This is an opportunity for messages from home to be relayed. When the bell goes, the class teacher takes the children into the classroom to begin the school day. Another member of staff stays outside until the gate is locked. Any latecomers must enter via the school office.

If you need to speak to the class teacher, try to arrange for this to happen at the end of the school day where more time can be dedicated to help in any way possible.

What do I need?

The school uniform can be bought following the links on the website. Our uniform is a yellow polo shirt, royal blue jumper and grey trousers or skirts. **Everything must be labelled.** Children need to have sensible, flat shoes – **no laces**. We encourage children to change in and out of clothes with as much independence as possible, so take time over the summer to work on fastenings etc.

A coat **must** be provided daily. In the winter, gloves and hats should be worn and in the summer, please provide sun hats and sun cream.

We are outside in all weathers. School have purchased full waterproof suits but parents must provide a pair of wellies which stay in school at all times.

Sometimes the children will come home muddy or covered in paint! Please work with us and know that while we try our best, sometimes children slip through the net!

Children are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school. Please label this and ensure it has fresh water each day.

All children need a spare change of clothes. The change of clothes does not need to be uniform but it **does need to be labelled!** Drawstring bags are preferred as larger backpacks can take up lots of space on the peg rack. If your child has had a change of clothes in school the wet or dirty clothes would be sent home in a plastic bag. It is your responsibility to make sure your bag is refreshed with

new clothes. If you have had to borrow any clothes from school, we ask that you wash these before returning them to school.

Reception only

Children in reception need a PE kit. This is a yellow t-shirt, blue shorts and indoor PE shoes. If girls usually wear tights for school then please include a pair of socks. Again, a draw string bag helps the space on the pegs. The PE kits stay in school until they are sent home each holiday to be washed. They must be returned on the first day back. As you can imagine, PE clothes do get mixed up from time to time. Clear labelling that your child can identify will help. If you do have missing items or end up with someone else's shorts in your bag, we ask that you try to find the rightful owner yourselves on the playground first!

Reception children also **need a book bag**. Under normal circumstances, book bags are brought into school on a daily basis in case the children are invited to read with an adult. Further information regarding book bag procedures will be sent out in September.

What if my child needs help with the toilet?

The toilets in both classrooms are unisex and fully accessible to all. Children are given frequent reminders throughout the school day. Children are able to go to the toilet whenever they need to. We encourage all children to wipe themselves, wet wipes are available if needed. If a child has a toilet accident they are changed discretely by the adults in the setting. Please speak to your class teacher if you feel your child needs extra support with using the toilet.

What happens during the school day?

The children in both classes take part in a range of learning activities that support the EYFS curriculum. The curriculum encourages independence and is very active and play based. We follow the interest of your child as far as possible. Our careful observations and on-going assessments ensure that we get to know the children extremely well and can plan carefully to allow them to reach their next steps of learning. Children work in class groups as well as having smaller focused group times. They take part in adult led challenges as well as having the opportunity for self-initiated activities. All of these activities happen both indoors and outside. We mostly work as two separate classes however, there are opportunities throughout the week where children will mix together.

What happens at lunchtime?

After washing hands, the children are taken into the hall where they are supported to make choices for lunch. The menu is always available on the school website. If we think they haven't eaten as much as they usually do, a member of the team will let you know. They will come home and say they didn't have any lunch (it happens every year!) but believe us, unless an adult has told you otherwise, they have eaten a full plate!

Once lunch is finished, the children are taken back to the toilets and encouraged to clean their hands and faces before playing outside in the EYFS garden. During the spring term, reception children will begin to spend some time on the school yard. This will only happen when and if we feel they are ready.

How will I know what my child has been doing at school?

The school website is updated with the planned learning for the half term ahead. However, please note that while teachers plan ahead, the children often have very different ideas! The website is a good place to check on events that are happening in school and the year group pages are updated with photos of some of the things we've been up to.

We also have a twitter account that we ask you to follow. Our tag is @corbridgefirst

Please note that only those children who have photo consent will appear on the website and twitter.

For a more personal update of what your child has been up to, we ask you to sign up to tapestry. Each week you will receive an observation of one of your child's activities. This will have a next step that you can be working on at home to help. You can also upload photos and videos of activities that you have been up to at home. We often share these with the children in class and they love seeing themselves on the big screen!

Further information about your child's tapestry account will be given in a separate document in the near future.

What if my child needs help?

While we encourage independence throughout the school day, adults are always close at hand to help with anything. Sometimes children need extra support at different points during their time at school. Adults observe the children constantly, if we felt there were any concerns over their progress we would invite you in to discuss this before putting plans in place to support your child. Please speak to us if you feel you need support with anything.

Our behaviour policy is supported by the 'Calm School Code.' This is introduced to the children during their first few weeks at school and is as follows: Act kindly, Speak nicely, move calmly and listen carefully. There will be times when children forget to follow this. When this happens, adults remind them of the code and encourage them to make appropriate choices. We have a very positive learning environment, where praise and encouragement is key!

What if my child has a medical condition?

Please inform your class teacher of any medical or dietary needs. This information needs to be kept up to date throughout the school year. Any medication that has been prescribed by a doctor requires a signed medical form. The medication is stored out of reach of the children. A record of any medication that has been administered is kept in a confidential file.

What if my child is poorly or is hurt at school?

We ask you to call school before 9:30am if your child is to be absent from school. If they have had sickness or diarrhoea they must stay at home until 48 hours after the last episode. If your child has had a bump or has been hurt in school, it will be recorded in our accident book and you will be informed at the end of the school day.