

Marton Manor Primary School

Welcome to our Foundation Stage

The Foundation Stage is a vital and valued part of our school. We have prepared this booklet to help you as parents get to know us better, and to inform you of what we are all about!

We hope to work in partnership with you as you share this new experience with your child. The times ahead will be exciting as they become familiar with their new environment, and make new relationships with adults and children. If there is ever anything you don't understand, please feel free to discuss it with any member of staff, who will be happy to help.

The Foundation Stage is an Early Years educational environment for children aged 3-5. Children can begin part time after their third birthday and will eventually become full time. Children become full time in the September of the school year in which they turn five. We call the part time children Nursery children and the full time children Reception children.

The Early Years Curriculum is a play based one which understands that young children learn best through practical experiences. During the two to three years your child will spend in The Foundation Stage we aim to develop their learning socially, emotionally, intellectually and physically.

General Information

Nursery Hours are: Morning Session: 8.30am – 11.30am
Afternoon Session: 12.30pm – 3.30pm

Reception Hours are: 8.40am – 3.15pm

Please note it is essential that during your child's time in the Foundation Stage, they must be brought into and collected from school by an adult who is known to him/her. Please inform the Foundation Stage staff if an adult we don't know is collecting your child. It is advisable that you bring them to meet us first.

Marton Manor Primary School

The school address is: Marton Manor Primary School
The Derby
Marton Manor
Middlesbrough
TS7 8RH

Telephone: 01642 285001 (option 3 for nursery)

Head Teacher: Mrs. Gerri Howard

Administrator: Mrs. Janet Stephenson

Foundation Stage Staff:

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Miss Fay Collier | Early Years Leader and Nursery Teacher |
| Mrs. Laura Whaley | Nursery Teacher (Mornings) |
| Miss Sophie Williams | Reception Teacher |
| Mrs. Pam Burdess | Teaching Assistant (Nursery) |
| Miss Holly Keegan | Teaching Assistant (Reception) |

We encourage all children who live in walking distance to walk to school. Daily walking is vital for your child's physical development, and gives you lots of opportunities for valuable discussion with your child.

However, if you do have to come by car, please don't park in the school car park as there is only enough room for staff's cars. *The Apple Tree* public house allows parents to park in their car park.

The Foundation Stage Curriculum

Marton Manor Early Years Setting follows the guidelines laid down in *The Early Years Foundation Stage* (DFE 2012) which states that we must involve children in activities and experiences which contribute to seven areas of learning.

The three prime areas which underpin learning in all other areas are as follows:

Communication and language development involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations.

Physical development involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive; and to develop their co-ordination, control and movement. Children must also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity, and to make healthy choices in relation to food.

Personal, social and emotional development involves helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in groups; and to have confidence in their own abilities.

We must also support children in four specific areas through which the prime areas are strengthened and applied. These are as follows:

Literacy development involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and begin to read and write. Children must be given access to a wide range of reading materials (books, poems, and other written materials) to ignite their interest.

Mathematics involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shapes, spaces and measures.

Understanding the world involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.

Expressive arts and design involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play and design and technology.

Young children learn best through play. Sometimes their play will be self-initiated and sometimes it will be adult directed. We observe children's interests and follow these up through our planned activities. Often we add items of interest to the areas of provision to steer children's learning and thinking in certain directions.

If you would like more information about the Early Years Foundation Stage you can access the DFE website.

If we think your child is not progressing as they should, especially in the three prime areas, we will inform you of what we will do in our setting to help and how you can give extra support at home. If your child is still displaying problems after we have intervened in the setting, sometimes it is necessary to ask for the help of outside agencies. We would fully discuss the options with you and keep you informed of the process. No matter what course of action is decided it will always be in the best interests of your child.

When your child begins nursery s/he will be given a Learning Journey. This is a book in which we stick photos and observations of your child's learning in the above areas. It records their progress as they move through the Foundation Stage. We value contributions from parents so please send in photos of your child's experiences and learning at home. It doesn't have to be photos, for example you could bring tickets from places you have visited. When your child leaves Reception they will bring their Learning Journey home for you to keep.

The Foundation Stage Environment

The Foundation Stage is divided into areas of provision which support the areas of learning. During each day the children have access to:

Home Area
Role Play Area
Construction/Small World
Collage
Painting
Sand
Water
Dough
Cooking
Music
Mark making
Information Technology
Book Area
Outdoor Area

Resources in the areas are regularly changed depending on the topic the children are interested in and to guide and develop children's play in certain ways to achieve particular goals.

We also explore the wider area by arranging visits for which we depend heavily on parental help.

What happens on a typical day?

The children and parents enter and the children hang up their coats in the cloak room where they each have their own peg with a picture and their name on it. Children then find their pretend apple with their name on it and stick it on the pretend tree (this is a form of self registration which encourages children to recognise their name).

We like to welcome everybody individually, and please feel free to stay for a bit and chat to staff while your child settles in. When everyone has arrived, the children sit on the carpet so they can be welcomed altogether. A register is taken, we count how many children are here, and discuss the day of the week and the weather. Children are then told what activities are happening that day. We try to balance a mixture of child initiated and adult directed activities. We also observe the children closely to see what their interests are and to decide how we can develop their learning further.

The Foundation Stage children have their own playground with a range of outdoor equipment and imaginative play materials.

What does my child get to eat and drink?

Milk and fruit are available during each session. This is given to school as part of the Government's Healthy Schools initiative and is free. The children have the same picture on their milk as they have on their peg. Their milk and fruit is out all the time so children can drink and eat it when they choose to throughout the session. Drinking water is also available. Full time children can bring a bottle of water. Full time children can bring a packed lunch or have a school dinner. School dinners are free during Reception year and Years One and Two.

We may offer children food that is linked to a topic we are doing and we regularly do baking and cooking activities, so please let staff know if your child has any allergies etc. We ask for a contribution of £1 a week to contribute to baking/cooking ingredients, and other resources we need to buy on a weekly basis to enrich the children's learning. There is a tin on the little table just by the door where the children come in. Please let staff know when you are donating some money so we can thank you.

Does my child get chance to use a computer?

Part time children have regular access to a computer in the nursery as well as an interactive white board. They also use a range of ICT equipment such as tape recorders, microphones, walkie talkies, remote control car, programmable toy, electronic toy microwave, child friendly metal detectors, digital camera, digital microscope. Full time children are allocated two hours a week in the Computer Suite where they learn to work independently at a computer.

What should my child wear for school?

Full time children must wear a school uniform. The uniform consists of grey trousers, skirt or pinafore. Girls can also wear a blue checked dress in warmer weather. The children wear a white or blue polo shirt and a blue sweatshirt or cardigan. Shoes should be black and socks and tights should match the colours of the uniform. Part time children wear the same but their polo shirt/sweatshirt/cardigan/dress is red. This is so they can be easily differentiated from the full time children when they are together. Please dress your child in a warm coat in Winter as we go outside every day, and on sunny Summer days please put sun protection cream on your child. **Please label all your child's belongings with their name.** Please keep a pair of wellies on their peg, in a bag labelled with their name, in case we garden or go out in the rain.

The Library

We have a small home loan section of books in the nursery entrance which your child may borrow. Sharing books with your child is essential for your child's language and literacy development so please borrow books on a regular basis, signing them out in the exercise book next to the book box.

What happens if my child is unwell?

If your child is ill, please keep him/her at home as germs spread quickly among children. Please phone us on 285004, option 3, to let us know your child won't be attending.

Should your child become ill or have an accident during the day at school we will contact you as soon as possible. Please make sure we have up to date contact numbers in case of an emergency.

When will my child start full time school?

Your child will become full time in the September of the school year in which they turn five. For example: if your child turns five between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017, they will become full time in September 2016. We appreciate that Autumn born children can be nearly a year older than Summer born children when they start full time. However, the Foundation Stage is structured in order to cater for all needs. It is very play based as well as being more formal for those who are ready. All children are different and individual progress will vary, but staff differentiate the curriculum so children will learn at the level appropriate to them.

Part time children will attend a half day and then an all day session in the Summer Term before they are due to become full time. They will get chance to stay for dinner with you before they start for real!

You will be asked to apply for a school place in the November before the September your child is due to start full time. You will find out which school your child has been allocated place at around Easter time. **Having a place in our nursery does not guarantee a school place.** Our school is small and only has one class per year; therefore if more than thirty children apply priority is given to children with special needs, those children living in the catchment area and those who have older siblings already in our school.

How can I help my child?

You are the most important educator in your child's life. Simply by talking to, and listening to your child, and being interested in all they do, is a tremendous support to them. Please remember to share books with your child as often as possible, enjoying books paves the way for success in Literacy.

Finally, thank you for taking time to read this booklet. If you have any more queries, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us. We look forward to getting to know both you and your child.

