

Information Booklet
For the parents/carers of

Heron Hill Primary School Foundation Stage

Reception



2023-2024



Heron Hill Primary School Vision

Vision Statement

learning together. playing together. growing together

Aims and Ethos

We want each and every child at Heron Hill to:

- ✦ *Feel happy and safe*
- ✦ *Respect and value themselves and others*
- ✦ *Celebrate diversity in school, our community and beyond*
- ✦ *Succeed through challenging and inspirational learning*
- ✦ *Grow into independent and responsible individuals*
- ✦ *Develop a lasting appetite for learning and to look forward to their future with confidence*

We know every child is different and every child in our care is treated as an individual. Our dedicated and experienced staff encourage children to believe, achieve and succeed. We want our children to think big and adopt an 'I can' attitude, be tenacious, resilient and have a go.

Heron Hill Reception

Hello and welcome!

The Foundation Stage Department at Heron Hill consists of our Nursery for children who are 3 to 4 years old and two Reception classes for children who are 4 to 5 years old.

Our Reception Unit has three indoor areas and a secure outside area with its own canopy. We regularly use the school's woodland.

The children are assigned to one of two class bases with their own teacher, who work alongside teaching assistants.

Throughout the day children use all work areas to access the full range of the curriculum.



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In practice our aims are to achieve the following:

- To make the child's first experience of school happy, positive and fun.
- To ensure that all children feel valued and secure in the Foundation Stage setting with positive relationships between parents, carers and staff.
- To encourage parents to become partners with the school in the education of their children.
- To provide a curriculum firmly based on active learning to meet the needs of the individual child.
- To further a love of learning, enquiring minds and the ability to discuss, adapt and negotiate.
- To provide children with the time to become engrossed in what they are doing, following their own interests with adult intervention, where appropriate.
- To monitor progress throughout the Early Years Foundation Stage, whilst taking action to identify areas of achievement and concern, providing necessary support when necessary.
- To help children develop self control and to respect the feelings, needs, culture and abilities of others.



Reception Induction



At the beginning of the autumn term we have a carefully planned induction programme which aims to help children settle in confidently. Over the first three days, we will increase the amount of time your child is in Reception so that they are in full-time by 11th September. Please see the Headteacher if you require more flexible arrangements.

How you can help us to support your child

Our induction programme aims to help children to settle in to school happily but we recognise that this settling in period will be longer for some children than others. On a few occasions we may feel that a child is not ready for full-time education after the induction period. If this is the case, we will discuss this with you and agree the most suitable attendance time for your child; similarly, if you feel that your child would benefit from attending part-time for longer, please talk to us about this.



During this time, please support your child by giving them their own coat, book bag and water bottle to bring in and put away themselves.

Equipment

There are a number of things your child will need for school so that he or she can feel comfortable, so please could you provide the following:

- A clearly named book bag (for sale in school office).
- Wellies so that your child can experience outdoor play comfortably - to be left at school.
- A waterproof coat (to be brought daily).
- A change of clothes in case of accidents, including a pair of socks and underwear.
- PE kit to wear for school on a named PE day;
 - Plain white t-shirt
 - Dark blue or black shorts (not lycra/tight fitting or very short)
 - Trainers (ideally with Velcro fastening)
 - Black or navy tracksuit or dark bottoms and a dark jumper or school sweatshirt.

Please ensure all items are clearly named

Although the children wear aprons for any messy activity, it is inevitable that clothes sometimes get dirty.

Please avoid awkward fastenings on clothing and shoes. We recommend that children wear a Heron Hill sweatshirt, white or blue polo shirt or shirt and elasticated trousers or, if you prefer, an elasticated skirt, until they are able to manage fastenings. Dark shoes, not trainers, should be worn. Please avoid shoelaces until your child can tie them! Footwear needs to be comfortable.

Pupil Premium Grant

Due to your income level or other circumstances, you may be eligible for Pupil Premium, which entitles you to free uniform, free school visits and other benefits at school. Please check the Pupil Premium information leaflet for more details.

Snack

The school provides milk through 'Cool Milk' which is available to all of our pupils and you will be invited to register your child online, with the company. School milk is free for all under-fives and is subsidised for pupils aged five or older at around £18 per term. Each pupil registered with 'Cool Milk' will receive a carton of semi-skimmed milk every day, which is delivered fresh and chilled to the classroom. If



your child is not registered for milk, they will be offered a drink of water or can use their own water bottles. Please provide your child with a named sports-type bottle containing only water that they can drink from during lesson times.

We subscribe to the Fruit for Schools Scheme and each child will be offered a piece of fruit each day for snack.

School Meals

All children in Reception to Year 2 are entitled to a free hot school meal under the Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) initiative, we have a three-week rolling menu. School meals need to be ordered on-line, you will be given log-in details and instructions. If your child prefers a packed lunch from home, please make sure it includes healthy choices and has no nuts in it (due to some pupils' allergy).

Communication and Illness

Please inform us as soon as possible if your child is not going to be in school for any reason. If your child is suffering from anything that is likely to affect them during the day, then please let us know when you arrive at school.

If your child has sickness and/or diarrhoea, Westmorland and Furness Council guidance is that your child should remain off school for 48 hours following the last bout of ill health to avoid infecting others.

Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework is organised into seven areas of learning. It is designed to meet the diverse needs of all children through a series of stages leading to the Early Learning Goals.

These areas are:

Communication and Language
Physical Development
Personal, Social and Emotional Development
Literacy
Mathematics
Understanding the World
Expressive Arts and Design



Our environment is carefully planned and resourced to enable children to develop a number of competencies, skills and concepts across several areas of learning

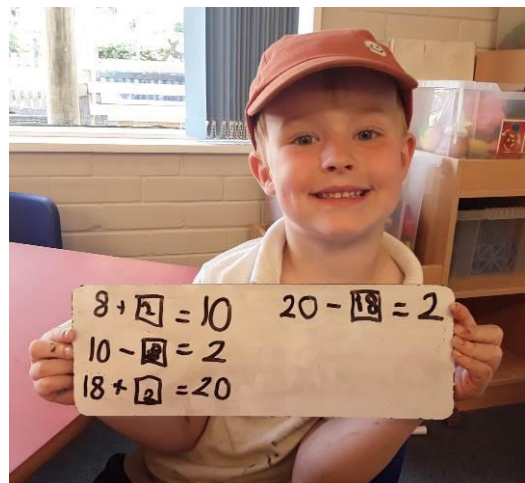
Children play and select what to do themselves. The adults observe and interact with the children as they pursue their own interests. They assess the individual child's needs and move their learning on as they work alongside the child.

Therefore, we provide children with a wide range of practical first-hand experiences and opportunities to develop their knowledge skills, interest and understanding. We believe that these activities should be enjoyable, purposeful and initiated by the children.

Curriculum

Alongside child-initiated play, there are daily maths and phonics lessons. There are also regular lessons where we explore the children's understanding of the world, linked to current topics.

See our Curriculum Overview on the school website.



On-Line Learning Journey - Tapestry

All children attending Reception have a personal on-line Learning Journey which records photographs, observations and comments, in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage, to build up a record of your child's experiences during their time with us. We use Tapestry, a system which is hosted on secure servers in the EU. You will have secure access (via email address and password) to your child's Learning Journey and, in addition to viewing our contributions, we encourage you to add to it by uploading photographs and comments, or commenting on observations made by us.



Wrap Around Care at Heron Hill School

We can also provide school-led wrap around care before and after school and in the school holidays. This provision will take place in the nursery building and outdoor area.

Before School:

Parents can choose to drop off at school at any time from 7.30 am, which will cost £4.25 per day (for your first child, £3.25 for second child). The cost to drop off your child from 8.00 am is reduced to £3.60 (£2.60 for second child) per day. Breakfast is included in the price up to 8.00 am and costs 65p if requested after 8.00 am; it includes a variety of cereals, toast with various toppings, fruit and drinks.

At 8.45 am your child will be handed directly to their Reception teacher. All children will be registered in and out of Before School provision.

After School:

Reception children will be collected from their classrooms by after school staff. Snacks and drinks will be available for children during the session. Parents can choose to collect their children at any time up to the close of the session at 6.00 pm, at a cost of £7.00 (£6.25 for second child) per day, but if your child is collected by 4.00 pm, the cost is £3.25 (£2.60 for second child) per day.

School Holidays:

Childcare provision is available during the school holidays for all children who attend our school. This costs £24.00 for a whole day (£22 for second child) or 12.50 for a half day (£11.50 for second child). The Holiday Club will be closed between Christmas and New Year, for the last week of the summer holiday and on all Bank Holidays. A booking form is available from the school office.

The reduced charge applies to each additional child in the family.

In conclusion we look for the development of well adjusted, happy children who are eager to meet new experiences. We can achieve this if we work together with confidence and understanding.

Please feel free to visit the school to talk to the Headteacher, Head of Department or the Reception staff if you have anything that you wish to discuss.

You are always welcome!





Am I ready for school?

Tips for Parents

When your child starts primary school there are a number of skills that they should ideally have mastered. Use this sheet as a guide to help track their progress.

Self-Care

- I know when to wash my hands
 - I can wipe my nose
- I can ask for help if I do not feel well

Speaking and Literacy

- I am interested in reading stories and looking at picture books
- I am able to talk about myself, my needs and feelings
- I am practising recognising my name when it is written down

Getting Dressed and Undressed on my Own

- I can button and unbutton my clothes
- I can put my own shoes and socks on
- I can put my coat on and use a zip

Interest in the World and New Activities

- I enjoy learning about the world around me
- I am interested in exploring new activities or environments
 - I like asking questions

Eating

- I can use a knife and fork
- I can open my packed lunch on my own
- I am confident at opening wrappers and packaging

Writing Skills

- I like tracing patterns and colouring in
- I enjoy experimenting with different shaped scribbles
 - I am practising holding a pencil

Going to the Toilet

- I can go to the toilet on my own, wipe myself properly and flush
- I can wash and dry my hands without any help

Independence

- I am happy to be away from my mummy, daddy or my main carer
 - I am happy to tidy my belongings

Listening and Understanding

- I am able to sit still and listen for a short while
 - I can follow instructions
- I understand the need to follow rules

Sharing and Turn Taking

- I can share toys and take turns
 - I can play games with others
- I can interact with other children

Counting Skills

- I enjoy practising counting objects
- I like saying number rhymes and playing counting games
- I can recognise some numbers when they are written down

Routines

- I have practised putting on my uniform and getting ready to leave on time
- I have a good bedtime routine so I am not feeling tired for school
- I am learning to eat at the times I will on school days