



Darrington CE Primary School



Early Years Foundation Stage Information Booklet for Parents

Dear Parent or Carer,

We hope this booklet will give useful information and hopefully answer some of the questions you may have.

The Early Years Foundation Stage of Education comprises of our Nursery, (Lower Foundation Stage – F1) and Reception (Upper Foundation Stage F2). Staff and pupils at our school work closely together, following a national Early Years curriculum. Skills acquired in the Nursery are further developed in Reception, providing opportunities for children to secure the firm foundations needed for future education.

We trust that we will be able to work together to give your child every opportunity to experience a happy and successful time with us. Until now, it's quite likely that you have been the main carer and teacher in your child's life, so starting school is a big step for you as well as your child. We aim to make it as smooth as possible by working in partnership with you. We believe all children have gifts and talents. We value and appreciate all that you have already provided for your child and we will work hard to encourage him or her to make further progress. We carefully nurture and support our young pupils to settle happily into Team Tigers, the start of their school life. Once they are settled into routines, they are more socially and emotionally able to continue to learn and develop. We provide a stimulating and structured learning environment where we encourage pupils to start to become more independent. Children thrive when they feel happy and secure. They respond well to praise and encouragement and together, we should do all we can to help them enjoy these special years at school.

Yours sincerely,

Lyndsay Ranby
Headteacher

Welcome to Team Tigers

Hello and welcome to Team Tigers. We are looking forward to your child joining us and also getting to know you.

We have key person groups as follows:



Mrs Beckett
Teacher and EYFS Leader
Reception Key Person (Wed- Fri)



Mrs Arnott
Teacher
Reception Key Person (Mon & Tues)



Mrs Turner
Early Years Educator
Nursey Key Person



Mrs Murray
Teaching Assistant
Nursey Key Person

Mrs Beckett, Mrs Arnott, Mrs Turner and Mrs Murray are all qualified and experienced in Early Years Education. They run an effective and caring foundation stage unit, judged to be good by Ofsted in November 2019. Although they work most closely with the children in their key person groups, they will also interact with and care for all the children in Team Tigers.

Children currently attend Nursery for either the morning or afternoon session, although parents can pay for extra nursery sessions if spaces are available. We also offer flexible 30 hours free Nursery childcare for children whose families are eligible. (Please see <https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-and-education-for-2-to-4->

[year-olds](#) for more information.)

Attendance

Children start school, into Reception, at the start of the school year when they turn five. Reception is the final part of the Early Years Foundation Stage of Education.

Darrington CE Primary School promotes the view that the regular attendance is crucial to ensure the best possible learning outcomes for all of our children.

Although Nursery children are not required by law to attend, if you have registered your child with us, it is in your child's best interests to attend your sessions regularly and punctually. Absence from school can be detrimental to a child's education and emotional well-being as it disrupts learning, routines and progress.

As a parent you can help us by:

- Ringing on the first morning of all absences with the reason and saying when your child is expected to return. Keep us updated by telephone or letter if your child has an extended period of absence due to illness. School will follow up unexplained absences by contacting parents/carers on the first day of absence.
- Avoid term time holidays and attempt to minimise school time medical and dental appointments.
- If you intend to take your child out of school for a holiday during term time, you must put this in writing to the headteacher.
- Ensure you and your child arrive at school on time every day and that routines are in place at home to support this.

Authorised Absence

Some absences are unavoidable, possibly due to illness, bereavement or difficult family circumstances. These absences should be supported by medical evidence where possible or a written explanation. If for any reason your child is not at school and we haven't received a message, we will make a courtesy call home to you to ensure your child is safe.

Unauthorised Absence

There are times when school age children are absent for reasons which are not permitted by law, known as unauthorised absences, such as: birthdays, shopping trips, days out, holidays and absences where no explanation has been received. The decision as to whether an absence is authorised or not lies with the Headteacher.

It is strongly encouraged that holidays are not taken during term time. The more time a child misses from school, the more difficult it is for them to settle back into routines and relationships and, for Reception children, catch up with their phonic work. If parents/carers still choose to take their children out of school, it is their responsibility for any work missed to be completed at home.

Arriving at School - Reception

On arrival to school in the morning, please wait with your child on the school playground and line up next to the EYFS area fence. The playground bell is rung at 8:50 and a member of the EYFS team will come out to welcome you into the classroom. Please do not cut across the grass, but keep to the footpath. Encourage your child to be as independent as possible, hanging up coats, putting book bags in drawers and registering their name card into the mood

pots. Please always check your child's drawer regularly in case there are school letters, party invitations or their art work to take home. We ask that all adults have left the classroom before 9:00 and the classroom doors and EYFS gate are closed. After this time, latecomers need to enter through the main entrance, via the School Office.

Nursery Children arrive at the front, side entrance, next to the EYFS classroom, Denby Crest entrance. Morning children are welcomed into nursery at 8:50 and afternoon children are welcomed into the setting at 12:30 (not before as some nursery children will be staying all day and we will be clearing up after lunch).

Nursery Children are also collected from this gate at 11:50 (morning only children) or 12:30 (if staying for lunch) and 15:30 for afternoon nursery children . If you are likely to be later than this, please notify school where at all possible.

Home/School Contact

We have an open door policy at the beginning and end of the school day, which means there is the opportunity for parents to have an informal chat about anything they would like to pass on or share with us about their child. If the information is of a more private nature, or you would like to talk about your child's progress, please make an appointment with your child's key person to arrange a meeting at a mutually convenient time.

Session Times

Nursery – Morning Session Times

Doors open	08:50am
Registration	08:55am
Home time:	11:50am (or 12:30 if staying for lunch)

Nursery – Afternoon Session Times

Doors open	12:30pm
Registration	12:35pm
Home time:	15:30pm

If you are **not** eligible for the 30 hours free childcare for Nursery children, additional sessions can also be paid for if there are spaces available. For more information, please contact the school office Tel: 01977 232320 or email admin@darringtonschool.org.uk. (Please remember to provide your child with a packed lunch.)

Reception School Session Times

Doors open	08:50am
Registration	08:55am
Collective Worship:	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday
Dinner time:	12:00 – 13:00pm
Registration:	13:05pm
Afternoon session	13:00 – 15:30pm

Parking

Parking is an issue for all schools; ours is no exception. We ask that you are mindful of our children's safety when parking your car at drop-off and pick-up times. We strongly encourage you to park your car at the Spread Eagle car park and take advantage of 'Park and Stride' to avoid congestion outside of school. We are very grateful that the owners of the pub are happy to support us in keeping our school community safe.

Health and Safety Continued

- The gates are opened and locked at certain times during the day. They are always locked during the session time.
- Always bring your child into the classroom, never leave them outside in the playground.
- Always ensure the Nursery gate is closed after you leave the EYFS playground – even if you think someone is following, close behind as a child may run after a parent and escape.
- If you are running late to collect your child from school, please ring us to let us know.
- Please tell one of us if someone different is going to be collecting your child, for whatever reason.
- It is very important that your child's personal details are kept up to date. Please let us know if any details change. This is particularly true of the emergency contact details. Should your child be ill whilst at school and we are unable to contact you, we need the name and telephone number of another adult, known to your child, who will be willing and able to collect him or her from the school on your behalf.

First Aid

Our school ensures that a high proportion of staff are first aid trained and available at any one time during the school day. Children will only receive first aid by qualified first aid trained staff and if parental consent is given upon a child starting school with us. In addition to level 2 and 3 qualified first aiders, we also have a number of Paediatric level 3 trained first aid staff. If First Aid is administered during the school day, this will be documented and parents will receive a copy.

The Governors and staff of Darrington CE Primary School wish to ensure that pupils with medical needs receive care and support. Pupils should not be denied access to a broad and balanced curriculum simply because they are on medication or need medical support, nor should they be denied access to school trips. Most children at some time have short term medical needs i.e finishing a course of medicine. However, medicines should only be taken to school when essential. With regard to pupils with long term medical needs, parents should provide sufficient information about the medical condition. A Health Care Plan may clarify for staff, parents and the child the help that can be provided.

Prescribed Medication

Prescribed medicines should only be taken to school when essential. The school can only accept medicines that are in their original container as dispensed following prescription by a doctor, dentist, nurse prescriber or pharmacist and include the prescriber's instructions for administration.

The Headteacher will accept responsibility for members of school staff giving or supervising pupils taking prescribed medication during the school day. Unless otherwise indicated, all medication to be administered will be kept in a locked medicine cabinet in the school office or in the staffroom fridge if necessary. If your child requires an inhaler, please make sure these are **not** kept in your child's bag or drawer. Please ask your doctor for an inhaler that can be kept in school. We store inhalers out of reach from children but within easy access for adults to administer, if required, within the classroom setting.

Non - Prescribed Medicine

Staff will **never** give a non-prescribed medicine to a child unless there is specific prior written permission from the parents. The Headteacher **must** approve the administration of the medicine. Criteria in the National Standards for under 8's day care providers, make it clear that non-prescription medicine should not normally be administered.

Parental Responsibilities

Parents have a prime responsibility for their child's health and should provide the school with information about their child's medical condition. Parents are responsible for making sure their child is well enough to attend school. Where a child is acutely unwell, it is advised that the child must be kept at home by the parent/carer. In all instances of illness, school will follow the advice issued by the Health Protection Agency and Public Health England guidance and the recommended period for a child to be kept away from school.

Drinks and Snack Time

Your child will be provided with a water bottle when they start in Team Tigers and they are stored centrally for them to have a drink when they wish to. All children under the age of five are also entitled to a free carton of milk each school day. However, after the age of five, milk can be paid for termly. Please see your welcome pack with more details about this.

Each morning and afternoon there will be an opportunity for your child to eat a healthy snack. All children receive one free snack during the day, but if you would like your child to have an additional snack in the afternoon, please provide one from home in a labelled container.

Please note, only the following healthy snacks are allowed:

- Fresh or dried fruit (grapes halved length ways)
- Fresh raw vegetables

(No fruit sticks/winders please.)

School Mealtime Provision

At present, we have a receiving kitchen within school and lunches are provided by ISS. Children can choose from two main courses or three choices from the 'deli bar', i.e. jacket potatoes and cold sandwiches. There is also always a choice of desserts.

Meals are free for children from Reception age to Year 2. A menu is put in your child's drawer each week for you to choose the meals together in advance. At lunchtimes the Reception and Key Stage One children eat their lunch in the school hall. Afterwards the children in Team Tigers go out to play on the Foundation playground, until the Spring term, when they are introduced to the main playground.

Nursey Lunchtimes

If your child is staying for the full day in nursery, they are required to bring a cold packed lunch in a labelled, insulated lunch bag. The children eat their lunch in the nursery setting and two members of staff are always present to support your child.

Please try to include healthy options that your child eats at home although we ask that you do not include chocolate bars or sweets. If you include a yogurt, please remember to include a spoon. You may also include a drink for your child, such as a small fruit juice carton (no fizzy drinks or glass bottles), but water is always available on tables. Food that is not eaten by your child is kept in your child's lunch bag so that you are able to monitor what your child is eating.

Before and After School Clubs

We provide a Breakfast Club for children, including Nursery, before school from 7:30am until 8:50am. Breakfast is provided and the children can enjoy a range of activities including social activities and activities with an educational focus. Alternatively, they can be dropped off from 8:20am for before-school supervision to enjoy a range of activities without breakfast at a lesser cost.

We also offer an after-school club each day from 3:30pm to 5:30pm. Light snacks are provided for children with a range of social and educational activities.

Please ensure that sessions are booked in advance - forms are available from the office.

After school there is regularly a range of extra-curricular activities for the Reception and older children to enjoy. At present these include:

- Dance
- Netball
- Rugby
- Football

After-school clubs are run both voluntarily by school staff and by specialist organisations. Costs vary for each club; specific information is available from the school office.

Key Person Groups

Key person group sessions are planned to be short (approximately 5 to 10 minutes), fun and interactive. When your child works in their key person group they will listen to stories and join in with number games, songs and rhymes.

Reception Show and Tell

In Reception, your child will also be invited to bring something in for **Show and Tell** to build up their confidence speaking in a larger group. A letter is sent home each half term detailing what the focus is. It is very important for your child to feel prepared for Show and Tell to increase their confidence when speaking in front of a larger group of children. Please don't send your child in with toys from home unless this is relevant to the topic being discussed.

Nursey Focus Children

Each week in Cubs we have focus children. Each child is a focus child at least once per term.

Prior to this week, we identify areas of learning that we might focus on.

You will be informed the week before your child's focus week and take home a 'Home Activity Bag'. The bag contains a range of activities such as: fine-motor, treasure hunts and talking activities for you and your child to engage with together. You are also given the opportunity to tell us about your child, including any family events or activities you do outside nursery, as well as an opportunity to ask about your child's development or their time at nursery.

At the end of the morning and afternoon sessions the children come together for whole group time in which the focus child can share pictures and wow moments with their peers. This supports children in building self-esteem and confidence.

Learning through Play

By attending nursery and school regularly and on time, children will develop skills that will help their future learning. Through play and interaction with others, young children learn how to express their thoughts, feelings, imagination and ideas. They learn how to be a member of a group, to share, co-operate, take turns and solve simple problems together.

Your child will be growing in many ways: socially, emotionally, intellectually as well as physically. They will be gaining confidence, learning to experiment with the new equipment and surroundings and learning to concentrate a little longer on a task, to persevere and not give up when things don't go their way.

In Team Tigers, we have lots of areas to encourage valuable and meaningful play.

Indoor Areas include:

- Sand
- Water
- Dough
- Role play
- Number
- Writing
- Workshop
- Construction (large and small)
- Computers
- Painting and mark making
- Small world (eg farms, dinosaurs, cars etc.)

The Outdoor Area provides opportunities for children to:

- Dig
- Build
- Role-play

- Play music
- Garden and hunt for mini-beasts
- Make marks with chalks and water
- Run, jump, throw and catch...and much, much more!

We also plan many other fun activities that will help children learn, like singing songs and rhymes, baking and cooking.

Adult Led Learning

Adult-led activities are playful, hands-on, active and short in nature. They ensure larger groups of children cover a range of learning objectives. Adult initiated times are planned on a weekly basis and are aimed to meet the needs of individual children's development and their interests.

Phonics

In Reception and Key Stage 1 we teach phonics through the **Read Write Inc scheme (RWI)**.

Children begin by learning the English alphabetic code: first they learn one way to read and write the 40+ sounds and blend these sounds into words, then learn to read the same sounds with alternative graphemes such as ay and ai.

Phonic books are closely matched to their increasing knowledge of phonics and 'tricky' words and, as children re-read the stories, their fluency increases.

The children write every day, rehearsing out loud what they want to say, before spelling the words using the graphemes and 'tricky' words they know.

They practise handwriting every day: sitting at a table comfortably, they learn correct letter formation using the RWI sayings, and learning to sit writing on lines.

Children's composition (ideas, vocabulary and grammar) is developed by drawing on their own experiences and talking about the stories they read.

In Nursery phonics covers Phase 1 of Letter and Sounds and, where appropriate, progresses onto Read Write Inc., in the summer term, for children in their final year of nursery. These activities are aimed at being fun and fast paced and delivered daily, either in the morning or afternoon, dependent on how children attend our nursery.

Our emphasis in nursery is for children hearing and differentiating between sounds, listening to and joining in with nursery rhymes and engaging in play that develops shoulder, arm and finger strength in order to benefit the child when they are ready to learn to write. Often, it is harder to unlearn an incorrect way of forming a letter, such as a circle and a stick for the letter 'a' when a child is encouraged to write letters that they are not developmentally ready for. It is far more beneficial to focus on exploring making marks in a variety of sensory stimulating ways – such as with fingers in paint, shaving foam and sand, and allowing children the

freedom to use different writing media such as pens, crayons, chalk and paint to make marks using their preferred hand and hold.

The best way to help your child become a successful and keen reader is for them to be read to regularly and experience your enthusiasm for reading – developing their listening skills, understanding and language development as well as nurturing their curiosity and love of books.

Learning Journeys

We use 'Tapestry', an online digital way of recording our pupils' learning journeys in EYFS. Parents and Carers are able to access the programme as an App from a mobile device once they have completed our registration form.

Focused observations, interactions and assessments are added to Tapestry for groups of children and individuals. Over the half term all children will have had observations uploaded onto Tapestry for parents to view, and these could be from any of the members of staff who have noticed something relevant for inclusion in the child's learning journal.

We also ask you to upload your own observations from home to your child's account, which may include photographs or videos of special moments that may help support our assessments – after all, you know your children best!

Parents' Proud Assembly

These special assemblies take place at the end of every month for Reception to Year 6 children – usually on Friday, at 3pm in the school hall (please see the headteacher's regular newsletter on Parent Pay, or school website to see dates and times). Some children from each class are selected to receive a special mention and come out to the front of the hall to receive praise relating to their attitude to learning or one of the Christian values. Children may also bring a recently awarded certificate from home to share, and parents are welcome to attend if they wish. **Nursery children** sometimes attend for special celebrations, or when they are ready to sit and listen quietly in a large group, but we will aim to notify you in advance if this is the case.

School Uniform

We encourage pupils, including nursery, to wear the school's uniform. Sweatshirts, cardigans, polo tops, fleece jackets and hats can be purchased from the APC roadshows hosted regularly in school, or from many of the large supermarkets (the school logo is not a requirement). Please **write your child's name** clearly inside all uniform items and outdoor clothing.

Children wear aprons for messy activities and we use washable glue and paints. We also have playsuits that children can wear for outdoors when it is wet and muddy. However, perhaps

being allowed to get messy is one of the best bits about being in the Foundation Stage! Please bear with us when (not if) this happens!

As our weather can be so changeable, please ensure your child has appropriate clothing for the season such as a warm coat, hat, scarf, gloves and wellies (all labelled). Please store hats and gloves in your child's drawer.

During hot weather, please ensure your child arrives at school with sun cream already applied and also bring a sun hat (sunglasses are also permitted). Your child may also bring a **labelled** bottle of sun cream for extra applications during the day, and if you can practice this at home to support your child in rubbing in their own sun cream, so that they are used to doing this at school. For obvious reasons, such as skin allergies, we do not allow children to share sun cream with others. If you have a child in another class, please provide both children with their own bottle as this can be very difficult to manage when we have been asked to share bottles between classes.

Dressing Independently

Clothes and shoes that have easy to manage fasteners (such as Velcro) give children the confidence to be more independent. Throughout the day they will need to frequently change their shoes for inside and outdoor play and go to the toilet. We are sure you will appreciate, we need to encourage the children to be as independent as possible in these instances as this can be very time consuming for adults otherwise.

Uniform

Boys and Girls
Royal blue sweatshirts, jumpers or cardigans
Pale blue polo shirts
Plain charcoal grey trousers, grey shorts in warmer weather, skirts, pinafore dresses or blue gingham style summer dresses.
Black or blue low heeled shoes (not trainers). In winter months, when children travel to school in boots or wellingtons, they will be expected to change into their school shoes for indoor wear.
Black, grey or white plain socks or tights.

Physical Education – Reception

For the Health and Safety of all our pupils, it is important that the correct PE kit is worn for all PE lessons. Changing into appropriate clothing is an important part of the routine.

Boys and Girls
White T shirt
Black shorts
In winter months, black tracksuit trousers/jogging bottoms and sweatshirt/ jacket
Trainers for outdoor PE (gymnastics, dance and indoor games will be in bare feet)

- No jewellery, except for watches or plain silver or gold stud earrings, which must be removed for P.E. When children are unable to remove their own earrings, they should bring plasters to cover them.
- Long hair must be tied back.
- Appropriate hair accessories to be worn, in school colours only.
- No nail polish or tattoo transfers should be worn.

PE is taught by Elite Kids Coaching and is currently Wednesday mornings. Please use a drawstring bag that is clearly labelled on the outside. PE kits are kept in school throughout the week as they can be used as spare clothing if necessary. Regularly check the contents of PE bags to ensure no items are missing, and also check the kit still fits your child (such as PE footwear). PE kits can be collected on Friday mornings, when you drop your child off at school, to be taken home for washing – but missing a week is perfectly acceptable at this age!

Wellingtons: as mentioned above, all children need a pair of wellies to be kept in school so that they can access the grass in wet weather. These can be taken home at the end of each week if you prefer. Once your child grows out of their wellies, please take them home so that we have space on the wellie rack.

Please label all your child's uniform – including shoes, wellies, hats and scarves etc. If pen is used, please check that it has not faded after washing. If your child is wearing uniform passed down from another child, please make sure any name tags are amended – thank you.

Parents Teachers and Friends Association

At Darrington CE Primary School we are fortunate to have a very active PTFA who have organised some fantastic events this year to raise funds for our school. If you are a new parent to the school, the PTFA can be a great way to make new friends as well as supporting your child's school.

If you would like to get involved with the PTFA, or have any ideas or suggestions for fundraising please contact Louise or Kate at admin@darringtonschool.org.uk.

What to bring to school every day

- Book bag (Reception children) and put it in your drawer (not on the pegs)
- Nursery – a change of underwear and clothes in case of accident
- Reception - a change of pants and socks
- Outdoor clothing to suit the weather e.g. coat or sun hat.
- Water bottle
- Snack (if staying all day)
- Packed lunch (Nursery children or Reception children opting out of the free school dinner)

We hope you have found the information in this booklet helpful. There is a lot to take in, but it can be useful to have a handbook like this to refer back to from time to time. However, if there is anything you are unsure of, please do not hesitate to get in touch with one of the EYFS team in person or contact the school office by tel: 01977 232320 or email: admin@darringtonschool.org.uk.

