

Ightham Primary School



Early Years Foundation Stage booklet



www.ightham.kent.sch.uk

Ightham Primary School

Foundation Stage Year Book

We aim to provide a positive and constructive start for your child in their first year of full time education at Ightham Primary School. The Reception Year programme offers an Early Years curriculum that is planned through the Early Learning Goals.

We aim to ensure the best possible foundation for learning that will support your child during their individual journey through infant education.

We look forward to getting to know both you and your child during the forthcoming school year.

The Staff Team

Head Teacher

Mr Sherhod

Class Teachers

Mrs Warnes and Mrs Snow

Family Liaison Officer

Mrs Adams

Starting School

You will have already received information about your child's transition to school. Please speak to Mrs Haswell if you have any questions around this.

All children begin full days on Monday 19th September.

A typical day in Acorn Class:

8:35 – 8:45am	Drop off at Acorn Class gate
8.50 am	School begins
9.00 – 9.45am	Teacher directed activities
9.45 – 10:45am	Child initiated activities
10.45 – 11:00am	Snack time
11:00 – 11:50 am	Phonics/Reading Time
11:50 – 1.10 pm	Lunchtime/Playtime
1:10 – 1:45 pm	Teacher directed activities
1:45 – 2:45pm	Child initiated activities
2.45 - 3.15pm	Circle Time and Story time
3.15pm	Home time

Lunchtime Arrangements

Your child may have a school meal or a packed lunch.

* School dinners are free of cost in Reception and Key Stage 1.

* If your child has a packed lunch brought from home, please supply items which are easy to manage such as small sandwiches.

*Remember to clearly mark your child's lunchbox with their name.

*We encourage a healthy packed lunch as part of our teaching around healthy eating.

***We are a nut free school, so please do not send any food containing nuts into school.**



Water bottles

Children need to bring a water bottle every day filled with water. This must be clearly labelled with their name. We find that bottles with sports caps are easier for little hands to manage!



Lunchtime Play

When your child starts attending school full time, they will share the big playground with the older children in Key Stage 1 after they have eaten lunch. They will have a range of equipment to play with during this time –e.g. balls, dolls, blocks etc.

Snack

At Ightham School we are part of the Healthy Schools Scheme. We provide every child with a free piece of fruit or vegetable for their morning snack each day. This can be an apple, orange, banana, carrots or any other seasonal fruits.



Milk



The Government provides free cartons of milk for children under 5. Please fill in the 'Cool Milk' form so your child will receive this. If your child is over 5 you can pay a small fee for milk. Please see the School Office for further details.

Toys

We understand that your child may have a favourite toy which offers them comfort, but we ask that toys are left at home, unless they are brought in for our show and tell sessions.



Book Bag

Please make sure to use the book bag with the Ightham logo, which can be purchased through Paul Marchant. Your child's book bag will be stored in a box with other bags, so rucksacks etc. will not fit in these boxes. To make sure their bag is easily identifiable, you may want to add a key ring of some kind to the handle so your child easily knows which is theirs.



OUR SCHOOL UNIFORM

The school colour is burgundy. Ightham Primary School uniform can be purchased which bears the school logo.

Girls

Girls are expected to wear a white blouse, school tie (which we recommend be elasticated for the younger ones), a burgundy v-neck jumper or cardigan with the school logo, a grey skirt or pinafore dress or grey trousers (straight only), grey tights, grey socks, black shoes. In the summer, girls may wear a dark red check summer dress with white socks.



Boys

Boys are expected to wear a white shirt, burgundy v neck jumper with school logo, school tie (which we recommend be elasticated for the younger ones), grey trousers, grey socks and black shoes. In the summer term only, grey shorts may be worn.

P.E. kit consists of a white polo shirt with the school logo, burgundy P.E. shorts, plimsolls (preferably with velcro sides), burgundy hoodie with school logo (optional), plain black or burgundy tracksuit bottoms, and trainers.

Shoes for school should be comfortable and easy to take on and off, preferably velcro, not laces to encourage independence.

Please do not send your child to school wearing jewellery of any description. If your child has their ears pierced they must be able to remove their earrings independently and put them into a bag provided by school. After PE your child may put the earrings back in but staff are not allowed to assist in this. If your child is unable to put the earrings back in then they will be returned home in the bag.

Please ensure that all items of clothing and equipment are clearly named.

The Road To School

This tracker helps you and your child prepare for school.

Speaking & literacy

- I like to read stories & look at picture books
- I am able to talk about myself, my needs & feelings
- I am practising recognising my name when it's written down

Listening & understanding

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

Writing skills

- I like tracing patterns & colouring in
- I enjoy making marks
- I am practising holding a pencil

Sharing & turn taking

- I can share toys & take turns
- I like playing games with others
- I like interacting with other children

Everyone starts school with different abilities - your teacher will help you progress at your own level.

Interest in the world & new activities

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

Counting skills

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

Going to the toilet

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

Routines

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

What are you looking forward to the most?
Is there anything you're unsure of?

Eating

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

Self-care

- I know when to wash my hands
- I can wipe my nose
- I can ask for help if I don't feel well

Getting dressed & undressed on my own

- I can button & unbutton my shirt & use a zip
- I can put my own shoes & socks on
- I can change into my PE kit & put my coat on

Independence

- I am happy to be away from my mummy, daddy or my main carer
- I am happy to tidy my belongings & look after my things
- I am feeling confident about starting school

School bus



Forest School in Reception



For outdoor and Forest School activities, children need wellingtons which will be kept in school in our class welly storage unit. These need to be clearly named. It is helpful if your child can easily identify their own wellies through distinctive patterns or colours as well. In cold weather, children will need thick socks, hats and gloves.

Your child will need a named waterproof all-in-one for our weekly Forest School sessions. These will be kept in school so need to be sent into school in a bag you wish to stay in school.

A waterproof coat should be brought into school every day, even in the summer months. Outdoor learning forms a large part of our curriculum and it is important that your child can access this learning comfortably.



Preparing Your Child for School - Speaking

Children learn language through listening and talking. From the first day in school, your child will need to join in conversation with other children and their teacher. You can help in many ways.

- * Ask your child questions and answer theirs.
- * Watch a favourite television programme together and talk about it.
- * Encourage your child to sing songs and nursery rhymes
- * Listen to your child's stories and anything else they have to say.
- * Plan and talk about events, outings, special days, e.g. birthdays, buying a new pair of shoes, going shopping, visiting grandparents etc.
- * Encourage your child to take turns to talk and listen while other people are talking. A family meal is a good time to try this with your child.
- * Two of the greatest skills you can help your child develop are the ability to listen and to express through language using a wide range of vocabulary.

Conversation is central to communication and is the basis of reading and writing.

Preparing Your Child for School - Numbers

There are many opportunities in the home and outside for your child to acquire number skills. You can help in lots of different ways.

- * Give plenty of sorting activities e.g. sorting the shopping into large and small packets and tins, items for the cupboard and for the fridge etc
- * Count by placing your hands on each item as you count together
- * Show and point out numbers e.g. 4 on a card, 10 on a door, 8 in a shoe, 2 on a number plate, numbers on the telephone. Numbers are everywhere
- * Give lots of opportunities for noticing similarities and differences, e.g. matching lids to saucepans, pairing socks and gloves
- * Let your child help with baking with counting and weighing ingredients
- * Sing number rhymes e.g. '5 Currant Buns', '1,2,3,4,5,' '5 speckled frogs
- * Play simple number games, dominoes, snap, snakes and ladders etc

You can use many opportunities to help your child learn and understand about numbers, shape and size. In school, teachers will continue these practical activities until your child is ready for the more formal stages of recording numbers.



Preparing Your Child for School – Understanding the World

Through the eyes and ears of a child, the world around is an exciting and interesting place. Try to become as curious as your child is.

- * Give time to talk and chatter about new discoveries e.g. watching a butterfly, playing with bubbles
- * Solve problems together e.g. mending a toy, fitting a jigsaw together
- * Encourage your child to help with your jobs in the home, in the garden or with a personal hobby
- * Arrange trips, visits, and outings e.g. by going upstairs on a bus instead of in the car, walking and scrunching the leaves in autumn, watching the rain and the clouds
- * Help your child to be aware of colour, pattern, textures and shapes in the world around them



Your child is unique. Children learn at their own pace, react and develop in different ways and will remain their own selves. Enjoy being with your child at home and with love, care, interest and support, your child should settle happily into school life, thus laying the foundation for your child's early years in education.

Preparing Your Child for School – Learning to Write

Handwriting is a movement skill.

Writing is composed of basic shapes and patterns such as circles, horizontal and vertical lines, zigzags and waves.

Children need to form these with their body before attempting to make them with just their hands. “They can’t do it small before they do it big”

To aid gross motor and physical development practise climbing, balancing, running, jumping, digging, throwing, catching, painting and chalking on large scale and moving to music. During play talk about the types of movements, shapes and positional language.

To aid fine motor skills practice, drawing, cutting, sticking, tearing, finger rhymes, moulding dough.

Let the children see you writing. Writing is a form of communication and children need to understand why we write to be motivated to ‘have a go.’

Talk about the sounds in the words and the letter formation.



Information is shared through the home contact book

You will find a home/school contact book in your child's book bag. You can share any messages you have for us in this book. This is also the place to let us know if your child is going home with someone different.

Reading record book

This book is specifically to record your child's reading progress. When your child is read with at school, the teacher or teaching assistant will comment on your child's reading progress in this book. When your child reads at home with you, please can you also comment on how your child read. We value comments on how they are practising their skills at home.

Homework

Homework will be set every Friday and will have a different focus each week linked to an area of the EYFS curriculum. This is then due by the following Wednesday. Homework will relate to what is happening in class each week.

Your child will be given two home reading books a week. To support your child's reading development, we ask that you hear your child read every day for five or ten minutes, at a time when your child is not tired or distracted.

Health Facts

Some Advice:

- It is important that all health related problems are notified to the school office or the class teacher.
- If your child is ill please ring the school office to let them know preferably before 9am.
- Allergies of any description must be notified to the teachers, e.g. reactions to certain foods such as peanuts, flour, chocolate, colourings, additives etc.
- If your child is suffering from asthma, please give all details to the class teacher with appropriate medication.
- If your child is fully recovered and it is essential that a course of prescribed medication be completed, we will administer a lunchtime dose if the medication is required four times a day. Medicines must be brought to the office by an adult and have your child's name clearly printed on it.
- A child suffering from sickness/diarrhoea should **remain at home for at least 48 hours** after the symptoms have ceased. This prevents illness spreading quickly amongst children and staff.
- Please make sure that your child comes to school wearing sun cream during hot sunny weather and has a hat to wear every day in the summer term.
- Head lice are a constant problem in schools so we ask parents to check their child/children's hair every week. Advice to parents on dealing with nits and head lice is sent out from school on a regular basis.

Special Educational Needs

We aim to help all children reach their full potential.

Those who we feel need additional support in any area of the curriculum, or in their social or physical development, are identified at the earliest possible opportunity and parents are contacted by the class teacher to discuss children's needs.

The term 'Additional Needs' covers any pupil that needs extra support or guidance, whether it be slight or require more extensive help from specialists. It includes children with learning, behavioural or emotional difficulties and those who show a special ability or talent in one or more areas of the school curriculum.

All Kent schools compile an Additional Needs Audit at the beginning of the school year. The audit identifies children who have learning, behavioural, emotional and physical problems ranging from slight to severe. It can be difficult to identify specific learning difficulties with children in their first year at school. Children in Reception vary in maturity and the range of pre-school experience they had. However, there may be children who we feel need extra support right from the start and the school carries out its own audit, following advice from the Early Years County Team, of Reception children throughout their first year.

Letting the school know

Sudden Changes

If your child is going home with someone else, please write a note or ring the office - it saves much confusion. We only let children go home with their carers or people we have been informed by their carers will be collecting them.

It is distressing for young children to be kept waiting, so we would appreciate it if the school can be informed if you know that you will be delayed.

Temporary Circumstances

If there are any temporary circumstances at home which might affect your child's behaviour or attitude, we would appreciate it if you could warn us.

Parent Helpers

If you would like to offer your help for a short time during the week, please let us know. Parents often help by hearing children read, playing a maths game, cooking and sewing. Parents, carers, and Grandparents are always welcome. We expect our volunteer helpers not to discuss children's work or behaviour outside the school, maintaining confidentiality at all times. All parents who help in school will be required to complete a Criminal Record Bureau check (CRB).



Homework For the summer holidays



All About Me!

Find a small box (shoe boxes are perfect!) and decorate the outside however you would like.

Inside place 5 items that represent things that are important to you. For example, you could include a family photograph, holiday souvenir, hobby item or favourite toy (or photograph of this if your child's special toy needs to be home for bedtime!).

Bring your shoe box of lovely things into school in your first week of school and tell us all about the things that are most important to you.

We can't wait to see and hear all about what you have included in your shoe box!



Continuing the Learning journey

Reception staff speak with all preschool settings, so please let us know which settings your child attends if you haven't already.

Each child will be assigned a key worker in school.

The role of a key person is to ensure that each child is made to feel important and that their needs are being looked after – this being most important during the initial settling in period. Focusing especially on their Personal, Social and Emotional Development at this time and continuing this support throughout the year.

The class teacher still has overall responsibility for the class and teaching routines. Observations and discussions from all key workers will be fed back into the planning and assessment for your child's learning. These are then shared with you at Consultations throughout the year.

**We look forward to working together with you
to achieve the best for your child.**



Moving on to Year 1

At the end of the Reception Year, you will be getting a written report on your child's progress. You will have had the opportunity to discuss your child's progress throughout the year with the class teacher.

Having enjoyed their time in Reception Year your child will look forward to a summer break returning in Term 1 ready to enjoy being with their friends again in Year 1.