



Foundation Stage

Parent Mini
Guide

The Three
Schools

Welcome to EYFS at Drayton Parslow and Mursley.

At Drayton Parslow and Mursley schools children enter Foundation Stage full-time the September before they will become five years old.

The Early Years staff comprises Mrs Sandmann (teacher) and Miss Hone (teaching assistant) at Drayton Parslow, and Mrs Smuts (teacher) and Mrs Rouse (teaching assistant) at Mursley.

We follow a play-based curriculum, which is carefully planned to provide enjoyable challenge and real-life learning opportunities to meet children's individual needs. We encourage children to become independent, confident learners through a balance of child-initiated and adult-led activities, both inside and outside.

Curriculum

The EYFS curriculum consists of 7 areas of learning:

- Communication and Language (Listening and Attention, Understanding and Speaking)
- Personal, Social and Emotional development (making relationships, self-confidence and self-awareness, and managing feelings and behaviour.
- Physical development (moving and handling, and Health and self-care)
- Literacy (Reading and Writing)
- Maths (Numbers and Shape, Space and Measures)
- Understanding the World (People and Communities, The World and Technology)
- Expressive Arts and Design (Using and exploring materials and Being imaginative)

Alongside these areas, children are encouraged to develop characteristics of effective learning: playing and exploring, active learning and creating and thinking critically.

Topics

Many of the children's experiences will be related to a half-termly topic or theme. Topics may include ourselves, people who help us, food, animals or growing.

We always involve children and parents in planning learning experiences and encourage you to contribute your ideas!

Forest School

We are extremely fortunate to enjoy Forest School one afternoon each week. The children benefit greatly from learning outdoors in a natural environment.

On forest school days children should wear jogging bottoms with their usual school tops. They must bring waterproof trousers and jacket (not all-in-one!) and will wear the wellies that they keep at school. Arms and legs must be covered even in warm weather to guard against stings and prickles! In colder weather please dress children in plenty of layers for warmth and always send a hat and gloves.

Equipment

Each day children need to bring their book bag and a water bottle filled with fresh water.

They will need shorts and a t-shirt for PE (no plimsolls until the summer term) and wellies to keep in school for outdoor play.

They should always have a coat in school and a hat / sunhat depending on the season.

Parents as Partners

We recognise the importance of working together to foster happy, confident children who enjoy going to school and love learning! We hope to involve you in your child's learning as much as possible in the following ways:

- Termly progress meetings for you and your child to celebrate their achievements and discuss next steps
- Regular invitations to classroom events. We understand that not all parents can come to everything, however we hope that by providing lots of opportunities, everybody will be able to come to some of them!
- Invitations to join us for specific sessions eg phonics or maths
- We encourage parent volunteers to help in school - please see a teacher if you can offer an hour or more a week!
- Remember you are always welcome to speak to us about any queries or concerns as soon as they arise.

We expect parents to:

- Support their child's learning by sharing their reading book regularly at home, and practising phonics. Information on activities to build on current maths learning is shared on e-schools and in book bags.
- Send children to school unless they are too unwell or have had vomiting / diarrhoea within previous 48 hours. Please let the office know if your child will not be in school. Please do not arrange holidays during term time.

Other ways to help

- We rely on parents to keep our creative area stocked with boxes, plastic bottles, yogurt pots etc that the children can use to make models, so please recycle any clean packaging. Egg boxes and loo rolls are fine but no milk cartons please!
- If you are clearing out your cupboards please do bring in any out of date flour which we can use to make playdough!

E-Schools

The class e-schools page will be updated each Thursday evening.

It is vital that you check it each week as it will contain important information relevant to the following week. This could include items to bring in, cooking rotas, timetable changes, and important dates as well as information about current learning.

