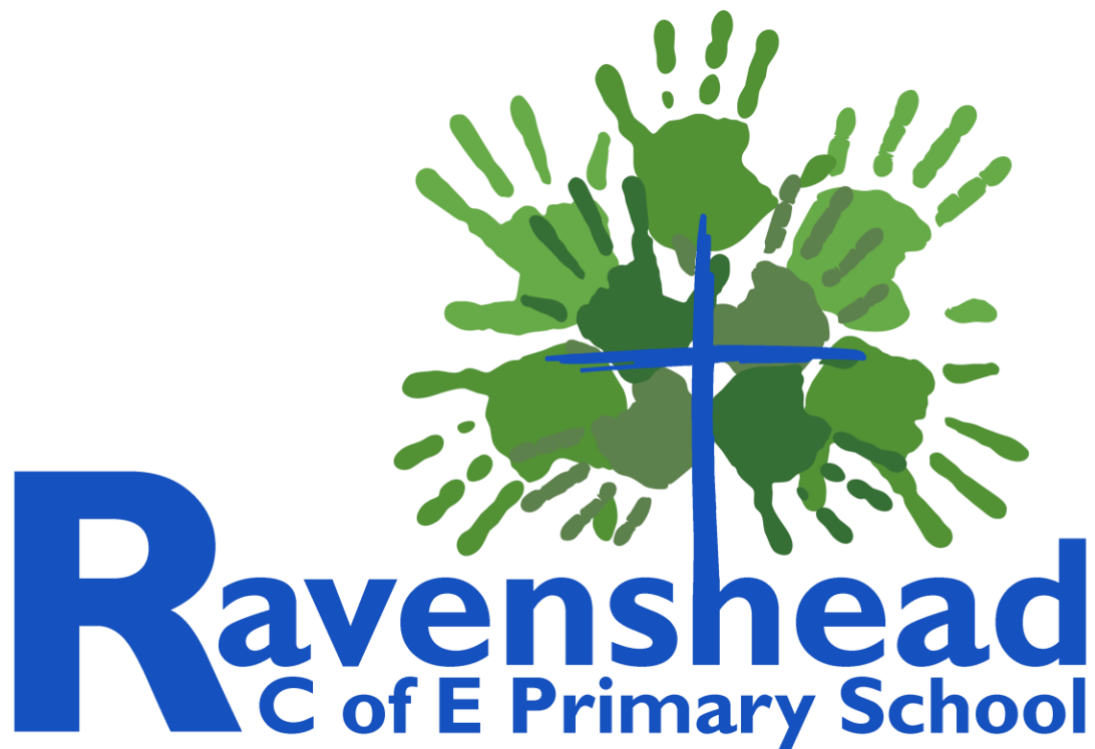




Early Years Information Book



Dear Parent / Carer,

We hope you will find this booklet helpful as your child starts school in our Foundation Unit.

Hopefully you will have already come to our introductory meeting or be attending a visit soon. If you are a new parent to the school, this booklet will give you some information about the school and what is going to happen. If you already have children in school check that information and routines are still the same as when your other child / children started school.

Talk to your child about starting school and help them to look forward to it. Make them feel that it is a real, grown-up adventure, something to be excited about.

We will do our utmost to ensure that your child has an enjoyable time learning with us. We have an open-door policy, so please feel free to contact us via email office@ravenshead.notts.sch.uk or telephone 01623 456516 and we will endeavour to answer any queries you have.

Thank you and a big warm welcome.

Starting School

When your child starts a new school for the first time it is a big change. Starting school is exciting, but it can be a worrying time.

Children like what's familiar. The idea of school may be a little daunting - but many of the activities are ones they already love doing every day. Tell them what to expect and talk to them about the similarities as well as the differences between school, playgroup or nursery and home. Share their School Passport with them and talk about what they might enjoy doing in their new school.

We ask that before starting school you create an 'All About Me' scrapbook with your child containing lots of photos and captions of things that they enjoy, people who are close to them, their favourite toys etc. We will keep this in school and use it as a tool for practitioners in the setting to;

1. Learn all about your child.
2. Have a talking reference to help children settle.
3. So your child has something familiar to look at if they are having trouble settling.



Lunch Times

Lunchtimes and playtimes can feel strange as it takes time to feel at home in the unit and playground, but all the staff are friendly and will help them to settle in. All children in Foundation have a choice of hot dinners or bringing a packed lunch from home. We all eat dinner in the hall but Foundation go in slightly earlier than the other children to help them to settle.

If your child is having a school dinner, please fill in the enclosed form before they start school and ensure any allergies have been discussed with office staff/ Early Years staff. Hot dinners are free for Foundation Two children.

If your child is bringing a packed lunch to school, make the contents attractive and accessible and at a portion size that your child is familiar with. Please don't send fizzy drinks or glass containers, sweets or chocolate.

Foundation One- If your child is staying all day, there will be an additional payment of £3 per day for Foundation One children (unless you are using the time within your 30 free hours) to cover the cost of additional support at lunchtime. If your child is having a school dinner, the cost is £2.30 in addition to the £3.

Children may bring a bottle of water/ squash into school to drink throughout the day. Please ensure that this is named.

Snacks

All children are offered milk. This is free up to their 5th birthday. Each parent will need to register their child at www.coolmilk.com . Cool milk will only deliver enough milk for those who have registered.

We are part of the National Fruit for Schools Scheme and have fruit available free of charge throughout the day. Please advise us if your child has any allergies to any of the fruit offered.

We request £2 donation per term which goes towards baking activities, celebrations and some additional snacks not provided by the scheme e.g. toast, which we have from time to time.

School Uniform



Please make sure they have all the necessary uniform and equipment and that every item is named.

At home, help your child to feel as confident and independent as possible. Whenever possible, try to make sure that your child can go to the toilet on their own, (but at first put some spare pants, trousers or skirt and socks in their bag just in case!). Ensure they can put their coat on by themselves and take reasonable responsibility for their own belongings and anything they bring into school. As your child is able, it is very helpful to practice zipping or buttoning up their coat, undressing and dressing and putting on shoes independently. As we are taking children in earlier now, it is really important to help your child with these activities.

Your child will also need a pair of named wellington boots in school at all times along with a set of waterproof trousers/waterproof coat or a puddle suit. The children will be out every break and lunchtime, no matter what the weather for OPAL Play. Some sessions we will spend in our Forest or outdoor area and these can be muddy in the winter.

Please make sure that your child's name is clearly marked in all their clothing and equipment e.g. coats, shoes, book bags, drinks bottles and sandwich boxes.

Children in Foundation can wear a school PE kit every day if they wish. These are comfier for the active learning that is promoted within our unit and also much easier for toileting! Details of this can be found at <https://www.ravensheadcofeprimary.co.uk/uniform-information/>

We do follow an active curriculum. This means that children will have independent access to paint, water, glue, mud etc. Aprons are available and adults support children in putting these on a pulling up sleeves, however, please be aware that children may get dirty whilst investigating, exploring, having fun and making memories.



Parents have a key role to play in their child's education. They are their children's first and enduring educators and understand their children better than anyone else. By sharing information about their children's interests, strengths and needs parents can help us in school to make maximum progress.

Your class teacher will at times suggest activities for you to share with your child. These will include sharing books, hearing your child read, learning sounds and sight words. We believe parental engagement in children's learning is vital for them to achieve to their best ability. You will be invited into school every half term to share some learning experiences with your child. We call this time 'Learning Together Days' and they are lots of fun! We also send home 'Home Learning Challenges'. There will be one every week for you to complete with your child. Your child can then bring them/ photos of them into school to share with their class and put on our Home Learning wall.



Picking up and Dropping off

Foundation One- children are picked up and dropped off at the main entrance of the Foundation building. Drop off for morning session is 8.55am and pick up at 12 pm, 12.30 pm if they are stopping for dinner. For afternoon session 12.30am drop off and 3.30pm pick up. If you are picking up or dropping off your child at 12pm or 12.30pm, you will need to do this at the main reception and a member of the team will collect/ bring your child there.

Foundation Two- the doors are opened at 8.55am and locked at 9am. The end of the day is 3.30pm. The Foundation Two doors are situated at the bottom of the steps by the container on the playground.

Some children will walk through the door without looking back, others might be more upset. If your child does get upset, stay calm and cheerful. We will work with you to ensure your child is happy and settled. Almost all children are fine once their parent/carer has disappeared - it's the parting that is hard, so try not to draw it out.

This is a big step for both you and your child. Allow yourself to enjoy this new experience together.

If you have a problem with your child starting school, please discuss this with your child's class teacher before their first day.

Your child's new class teacher will want to get to know you as well as your child, so that you can work together. Make sure that you keep the teacher fully informed of any circumstances that might affect your child's behaviour or happiness.

Please make sure you are back at school in good time to collect your child, as having to wait may result in your child becoming anxious. The children will be dismissed from the same doors they came in through.



After

school

Children are often very tired at the end of the school session. Let your child unwind and play. Let them talk about their day if they want to, but if not tell them a few things about your day. Some children actually prefer not to talk much about school. Some children are sometimes just too tired and some simply prefer to keep home and school life separate.

However, our observation system 'Seesaw' will give you online access to a snapshot of your child's learning at school, and looking at these photos together may help your child to talk about school more readily. Please sign the forms enclosed in this pack so we can set up the accounts as soon as possible.

If your child is going to be absent from school, please ring the school office. If your child is late for school, please sign in at the main KS2 reception entrance in order to inform us of your child's arrival.

If you wish to take your child out of school, you will need to fill in a school absence form from the school office. **School attendance is statutory from 5 years of age. If your child is 5 years or older and you wish to take them out of school, this form will be passed to Mrs Johnson.** Mrs Johnson will then decide, in accordance with Local Authority guidelines, if your absence can be authorised. Only in extreme circumstances are these days authorised and you may incur a fine if children are withdrawn from school without authorisation.



Foundation Stage Curriculum:

The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum (EYFS) is the first part of the National Curriculum, focusing on the distinct needs of children from birth to the end of the Foundation stage.

The Foundation Stage is delivered in a range of settings. These include preschool groups, early years centres, accredited childminders, nursery and reception classes in primary schools and private nurseries.

Foundation Stage learning has seven learning areas:

- Personal, social and emotional development.
- Communication and language.
- Mathematics.
- Understanding of the world.
- Literacy.
- Physical development.
- • Creative development.

We also have the characteristics of effective learning that run all areas.
These are;

Playing and exploring - engagement

Finding out and exploring
Playing with what they know Being
willing to 'have a go'

Active learning - motivation

Being involved and concentrating
Keeping trying
Enjoying achieving what they set out to do

Creating and thinking critically - thinking

Having their own ideas
Making links
Choosing ways to do things



Children are tracked and assessed using a variety of methods throughout our Foundation classes and a final assessment is completed at the end of Foundation 2, which gives a picture of what progress the child has made and celebrates their skills and achievements. These end of stage assessments are reported to Nottinghamshire County Council and feed into National statistics. We use carefully planned play as a vehicle and framework to plan and deliver the Foundation stage curriculum and make learning as engaging and fun as possible.

Seesaw

All children attending Ravenshead C of E Primary School have a personal online Learning Journey which records photos, observations and comments in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage. This enables us to build up a record of each child's practical learning and achievements during their time with us. We use the Seesaw system, which is hosted on secure, dedicated servers. You will have password protected access to your child's online Learning Journey and we encourage you to contribute to it by uploading photos, videos and comments of their learning development and experiences at home. You are also able to comment on observations made by Ravenshead staff. Please complete and return the attached permissions form to enable us to set up an account for your child. Additional information for set up can be found at the back of this booklet.

Special Educational Needs:

We are an inclusive school and aim to provide the best possible education for children regardless of ability and needs. We liaise with our school SENCO if we feel that children are demonstrating barriers to learning. In these instances, we will meet with parents to discuss these and plan next steps.





Parent Communication.

If you would like to contact your child's class teacher, please phone the main office and they will pass on messages/ arrange a call back time. We also have two online methods that information is communicated.

Class Dojo- We use this to communicate with you about class information: we can instantly share messages, updates and photos from class. It's the easiest way for you to get in touch with staff if it is not urgent. We also use this to post messages and reminders.. As your child moves through school into Year 1 and above, you will also be able to access their Dojo points which show how they have been behaving in school.

If you have any questions at all please don't hesitate to see your child's class teacher.

