

Hemblington Primary School



**Welcome to the
Foundation Stage**

Welcome to Hemblington Primary School. Starting school is an exciting time for your child and we understand that as a parent you will have many queries about the curriculum and routines of the school day. This booklet aims to help you and your child prepare for starting school.

Curriculum

The curriculum is divided into seven areas of learning. The curriculum is planned with the children taking their interests and experience as a starting point. We find out what the children know already and what they would like to know. Their comments are used as a basis for planning. This approach often makes all the difference, as one aspect of learning leads to another. The Foundation Stage Curriculum is delivered both inside and outside the classroom on a daily basis.

The Areas of Learning

1. Communication and Language

This involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations.

2. Physical Development

This involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive; and to develop their coordination, control and movement. Children are also helped to understand the importance of physical activity, and to make healthy choices in relation to food.

3. Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Involves helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in groups; and to have confidence in their own abilities.

4. Literacy

Literacy development involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. Children will be given access to a wide range of reading materials (fiction and non fiction books, poems and other written materials).

5. Mathematics

Mathematics involves providing children with opportunities to improve and develop their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shapes, spaces, and measures.

6. Understanding the World

This involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.

7. Expressive Arts and Design

This involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play and design and technology.

The Reception Year – The Cygnets

The reception year is the first statutory school year. During the reception year the children will be introduced to school life and daily routines.

Cygnets will join the rest of the school for Assembly when appropriate. As the children grow in confidence they will make friends and will develop their social skills, which will enable them to move confidently into the next stage.

We are keen to get to know the children; the way they learn, their strengths and interests. Our working relationship with parents is key to a successful reception year, we are always available at the end of the day to chat about the children. There are opportunities during each term to pop into Cygnet Class to share the children's learning with them. Parent interviews take place in the Autumn and Spring term. At the end of the year you will receive a written report on your child's progress through the Foundation Stage as they move onto Year 1.

A Day in Cygnet Class

Routine is very important for young children and whilst learning activities take place both inside and outside, the shape of the day follows a general pattern.

- 8.45am – the start of the school day. Please arrive on time – it is hard for children to walk into a settled group.
- Registration
- Children to sign in.
- Meeting on the mat to discuss the morning and plan the learning.
- Phonics Time – whole class followed by small group work and core-curriculum inside and outside.
- Playtime followed by snack. Fruit and a drink are provided by school each day.

- Numeracy input.
- Music time, cooking etc to plan for over the course of the week.
- Lunchtime.
- Playtime.
- Meeting on the mat - plan the afternoon.
- Reflective Time - talk about the day; what have we learnt today.
- Our outside whiteboard is updated with a summary of our day in Cygnets.

Role of adults in the classroom is to engage with the children, and to make observations of the children to inform planning and next steps, to work in small groups on specific skills, to enhance the learning environment and extend the children's understanding of the world around them. To encourage questioning and independence in their learning.

Uniform

Children are required to wear school uniform including shoes, not trainers. Please name every piece of clothing.

We also have a P.E. uniform and you will be told which colour T-shirt your child needs to wear. The P.E. bag should be in school every day from the Spring Term (January). It can go home each half term for washing.

Book Bags

Your child should bring their book bag to school every day. It is a good habit to form for when they bring reading books home. We also use the book bag to send letters home - please check regularly.

School Lunches

Your child can have a hot or school packed lunch which is ordered a week in advance. A form will be sent home to you in the preceeding week and you can order from a lunch menu which will be sent home at the beginning of term. Reception staff join the children for lunch until they are settled and feel secure.

Playtimes

Your child will join in playtimes outside with the whole school, although the small Reception playground is always an option for children who are feeling overwhelmed by the older children. At first Reception staff will always be outside to support them in their play.

After play, school provides fruit for a snack. We have found that children will try a variety of fruits at school which they may not eat at home so we ask you not to send in alternative fruits or snacks for your child.

Reading at home

It is important to read with your child **every** day and support your child's learning of phonics with the red book we send home in their book bag. Once children are ready, we start to send home tricky words which they need to recognise without sounding out. When reading books start to come home, we will send a letter which explains how to support your child's learning.

Links with Home

It is important to share with your child their school day. To help you to do this we would ask you to read the outside whiteboard each day, it will give you some idea about the learning objectives for the day, the activities the children have been engaged in and our plans for future work. This enables you to offer support at home and extend the learning experience.

Parents are asked to make home observations of your child's development and interests to inform our planning at school.

We are keen to work in partnership with parents throughout the Foundation Stage to ensure happy and enthusiastic children.

How can I help my child prepare for school?

To help your child prepare for school you can:

- 8.45am - the start of the school day. Please arrive on time - it is hard for children to walk into a settled group.
- Help your child to practise dressing and undressing independently and to keep their clothes together.
- Only write in lower case letters if you are writing with your child. It takes years to 'unteach' capital letters. We have included a copy of the script we teach.
- Make sure everything is labelled.
- Be excited yourself about this new adventure - school is fun and your child will pick up their attitude from you!
- Please encourage your child to be as independent as possible by allowing them to carry their own bookbag and lunch box to school.
- You will notice your child gets very tired when at school. Please ensure bedtimes are reasonable as your child will enjoy school more and build better relationships if they are not over tired.
- Remember that, occasionally, your child will tell you about something which has gone wrong in their day - don't panic! If you are worried talk to us, we will help or explain as much as we are able.

Cygnnet Gallery



