

Hazeldown School

Foundation Stage
Information for Parents

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Introduction

Welcome to Hazeldown School.

The aim of this booklet is to provide you with information about the year ahead for you and your children.

Our curriculum in the Foundation Stage is based on 'Curriculum guidance for the Foundation Stage' published by DfEE and QCA. In this document, a principle for early years education is stated as '*all children feel included, secure and valued*'. It goes on to state that '*Parents and practitioners should work together in an atmosphere of mutual respect within which children can have security and confidence*'.

At Hazeldown we pride ourselves on a long tradition of partnership with parents. You, as your child's first educator, your child and ourselves will work together to ensure your child's happiness and security in school.

This booklet is just part of that process!

Preparing your child for school.

In school, your child will learn through speaking, listening, observing, playing and creative activity. *You can help by:*

Reading or telling a story at bedtime.

Taking time to listen to your child's news and views and encouraging questions.

Planning to give simple responsibilities and encouraging independence.

Guiding choice of TV programmes and discussing what you have seen together.

Make sure your child has a good night's sleep each night; school is very tiring for young children!

Mark all your children's clothing and possessions with their name.

It is a great help if your child :

Knows the safest way to and from school

Understands and uses the *Green Cross Code*

Knows name, address and telephone number

Plays in safe places

Avoids talking with strangers

Please help your child towards independence.

Can they:

Put on and do up coats?

Speak clearly and make themselves understood?

Go the toilet properly and wash their hands themselves?

Use a knife and fork?

Listen to and carry out simple instructions?

Use scissors safely?

Listen to and retell a story?

Say some simple rhymes?

Recognise colours and name them?

Count to 5? To 10? Beyond 10?

Recognise and write their name (not capitals)?

Catch a ball? Skip?

Visit the library and enjoy using books?

Top tips please:

Don't...

Teach your child to write in capitals

Compare your child with a friend's child etc. All children will have different rates of progress

Classroom organisation

There will be two classes, Mrs Samantha Owens will be teaching one class and Mrs Jodie White and Mrs Amanda Maguire will be teaching class two.

Each class will be supported by a Teaching Assistant.

PE days

PE kits can stay in school all week - we will send them home to be washed every half term.

It is vital all PE kits, coats and school uniform items are named!

For details of acceptable school uniform, please see the Essential Information for Parents leaflet.

Reading

It will help your children greatly with their reading development if they can recognise the letters of the alphabet and say the sound they make (not the name) e.g. a for apple, e for elephant.

Playing I-Spy and similar games helps the child to hear the first sound of a word when it is spoken.

Further ideas to help your child hear the letter sounds.

1. Make a scrapbook collection of as many things beginning with each letter of the alphabet e.g. f for fire, fish, feather, fork, face etc.
Write the word next to the picture.
2. When saying a word, emphasise its beginning sound. Match the written letter to pictures of objects beginning with that sound. Ask your child to write the letter several times (starting in the appropriate place) whilst saying its sound.

3. Play a silly game where you pick up an object but use the wrong sound for the initial letter e.g. show your child a cup and say 'tup' or 'pup'. Ask them to help you say the word correctly.

Your child will be given the opportunity to bring home a reading book every day which we would appreciate you sharing with them.

Writing

Handwriting:

Some points to remember:

1. The child should sit in a chair at a table suitable for their height.
2. Sit correctly:
 - Feet on the floor
 - Body bent slightly forward
 - Head up from the paper
 - Elbows off the table
 - Hands and arms able to move easily

Paper in front of the right side of the body for right handers and the left side for left handers.

(Please note: children may not have a right or left hand dominance yet and may still be experimenting).

3. Hold pencil correctly in the 'tripod' grip; 3cm from the point for a right-hander and the left side for the left-hander.
4. Hold pencil lightly and do not press heavily on the paper when writing.

Letter formation.

Teach your child to write their name with a capital letter at the beginning and the rest lower case. All capital letters start at the top. All numbers start at the top. All lower case letters start at the top except d and e, which start in the middle (see attached sheets).

Foundation Stage learning programme
Autumn Term

OURSELVES Home visits	FOOD/ HARVEST Country walk	CLOTHES AND SHOPPING	CELEBRATIONS Christmas Christmas Performance
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Spring Term

GETTING TO KNOW PEOPLE Home visits	TOYS	TRADITIONAL STORIES	LIFE CYCLES Visit from a bee keeper
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Summer Term

MINI BEASTS	GARDENS	THE BEACH HOLIDAYS	ANIMALS Trip
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Assessment

We continuously assess children as they move through the Foundation Stage. This enables us to plan effectively and meet the needs of all children.

As children enter Foundation we are generally forwarded assessment details from their Nursery or Play group. Along with our own assessments, we use these to form an initial impression of your child. We then continuously assess children's progress as they move through the Early Learning Goals.

We continuously assess their knowledge of letter sounds, words they can read by sight and words they can spell, as well as progress in other aspects of reading, writing and mathematics.

Reports are sent to parents in the Summer Term. Parental consultations take place in the Autumn and Spring terms. Your child will be set Literacy and Numeracy targets which will be shared with you at these meetings. The Foundation Stage Profile is completed throughout the Foundation Stage, and will be passed on as your child moves from Foundation into Key Stage 1.