



Peasedown St John
Primary School

Welcome to Reception

Achieving Excellence for Ourselves and Others

We CARE



C

curiosity



A

aspiration



R

resilience



E

empathy

WELCOME TO THE EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

Beginning school is a major event in the life of a four year old and it won't be long before your child will be starting with us at Peasedown St John Primary School. There will be lots of new things to learn and of course you will want to ensure that your child is well prepared for this important event. We hope that this booklet will provide some useful information that will help your child to settle quickly into school.

OUR VISION

At PSJ, we want children who leave EYFS to have all of the skills and knowledge they need as a foundation for starting the National Curriculum in Year 1. Using Birth to 5 Matters as a guide, we have picked out the key skills that all of our children will acquire through their EYFS journey. These are developed from nursery until the children leave Reception and together form our EYFS Intent. A copy of our learning intent statements can be found in your pack.

Our aim is to provide a happy, stimulating environment where every child will be given the best possible opportunities to achieve their full potential and an education which will nurture their needs as individuals. We hope to encourage a shared commitment to the success of our children where parents have a positive role in complementing and supporting the work of the school.



MEET THE TEAM



Mrs Tutton
Early Years Lead
Reception Teacher



Mrs Stevenson
Reception Teacher



Mrs Appleton
LSA



Mrs Sandall
LSA



Miss Cary
HLTA



Mrs Rogers
Teacher

THE EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE (EYFS)

In Reception our Foundation Stage children follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFS). This curriculum is based upon four themes and principles:

The Unique Child

All children are different but should be treated equally. Positive relationships and communication are vital. The children need to learn about taking risks safely, how to make good choices and how to stick to boundaries.

Positive Relationships

Children need to learn to manage their own feelings and behaviour. We as a school need to respect all kinds of families and aim to develop a positive two-way relationship with parents. We will support, listen to and work with the children to help them learn. We will also talk to parents to make sure that the needs of the child are being met appropriately.

Enabling Environments

As a school we plan for and check on each child's progress. We will ensure that the inside and outside spaces are safe, interesting and engaging. We support children when they move on and work as a team to help your child succeed.

Learning and Development

We will encourage the children to develop their imagination, to get actively involved in learning and to make decisions. We will develop the children's creative and critical thinking, balancing the need for both the children and adults to lead the learning.

THE CURRICULUM

The Early Years Curriculum is made up of seven areas of learning and development. There are 3 prime areas of learning and 4 specific areas of learning, making up a total of 17 different Early Learning Goals (ELG's).

This framework provides the basis of how we structure the setting, the activities and opportunities we provide; as well as how we assess your child's development. For each of these areas your child will have an 'Early Learning Goal' to work towards. At the end of the year they will be assessed at 'Emerging' or 'Expected' against these goals.

Prime Areas

Communication and Language

Listening, Attention & Understanding

Speaking

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Self-Regulation

Managing Self

Building Relationships

Physical Development

Fine Motor

Gross Motor



Specific Areas

Literacy

Comprehension

Word Reading

Writing

Maths

Number

Number Patterns

Understanding the World

Past and Present

People, Culture & Communication

The Natural World

Expressive Arts and Design

Creating and Materials

Being Imaginative and Expressive



Characteristics of Effective Learning

The Early Years team also uses the 'Characteristics of Effective Learning' as a key element of tracking child development. It details the ways children should learn from their environment, their experiences and their activities and are identified under the heading below.

- Playing and exploring
- Active learning
- Creating and thinking critically



LEARNING IN THE FOUNDATION STAGE

Our Reception children are in Red Class and are grouped into four learning groups: Poppy, Cherry, Berry and Ruby. These groups are flexible to allow children to make friends across the whole cohort and to ensure our Reception team know and understand all the children very well.

HOW DO WE ACHIEVE OUR LEARNING INTENT IN THE EYFS?

We achieve our learning intentions by firstly recognising children as unique individuals who learn through the important process of play. This enables us to provide a stimulating learning environment which inspires children's active learning through independent exploration whilst promoting their critical thinking skills and creativity. Activities are planned following and developing individual children's interests whilst learning through play. Planning also clearly defines the teaching progression for our 2 year olds, 3 year olds, 4 year olds and 5 year olds which practitioners are adept at following clearly.

Our children are provided with a secure, caring base from which to independently explore, learn and reach their potential. The learning environment is calm and well resourced with enriching and engaging provision both indoors and outdoors. Practitioners view children as competent and capable. They form positive relationships with each individual child and empower them to confidently express their voice and views. Our ambitious reception curriculum enables children to explore the building blocks of national curriculum subjects they will go on and study.

A Typical School Day

8.30am Morning Activities

8.45am Register

9:10am Phonics

10am Freeflow & Focused Activities

11:30am Daily Maths

11.50am Lunch time

1:00pm Register

1:10pm Drawing Club

1:30pm Freeflow

2.45pm Story Time



Children also enjoy PE twice a week and Forest School once a week for a term.

PARENT/CARERS AS PARTNERS

We recognise the importance of parents and carers in a child's development. As a primary care provider you are your child's first educators and we greatly value any input, opinions and information you can share with us about your child's learning and progress.

We use an electronic 'Learning Diary' within the classroom called Tapestry that records your child's learning and achievements during school. These represent both child-initiated activities and directed tasks and are sent to you as they are published by staff. We also encourage you to contribute to these by making small observations at home.

We provide many other opportunities for parents and carers to take an active part in their child's education.

These include:

Stay and Play Induction Session

Pop Up and Play Sessions

Parents Evenings

Newsletter

Website

Achievers Assemblies

Library Visits

OPAL Stay and Play

Christmas Events

Summer Fayre

Sports Day

PSJ Bitesize



HELPING PREPARE YOUR CHILD FOR SCHOOL

In preparation for school there are some things you can do with your child to help them develop the basic skills to prepare them for their journey towards their Early Learning Goals. It will make starting school much easier and happier if they are independent and can do many things for themselves. The skills required are presented on the map included in your pack.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

A branded school cardigan or jumper with the school logo

A light blue polo shirt

A blue checked summer dress

Grey or black trousers, shorts or knee-length skirt

Grey, white or black socks

Tights or white knee length socks if wearing a skirt or blue checked summer dress

Black shoes (no trainers or boots - black shoes with Velcro straps are fine)

PE KIT

A branded school PE T-shirt

Our branded school PE hoodie

Blue or black shorts or tracksuit bottoms /leggings – unbranded

Non-marking sturdy sports shoes that are suitable for PE

School jumpers, hoodies, PE tops, book bags and drawstring bags for spare clothes can be purchased from the school office.

THINGS TO BRING TO SCHOOL

Please label everything with your child's name!

Wellies, hat, scarf and gloves - we play outside in all weathers!

A waterproof coat - nothing too special as it is likely to get sandy, muddy or wet.

A book bag - reading records and reading books are needed in school each day.

A small drawstring bag containing **spare clothes** (including pants and socks) just in case we get wet in water play or have an accident. These are left on the children's peg. Space is limited in our cloakroom so children do **not** need to bring a backpack or separate bag to school.

A sun hat - please apply sunscreen before school.

A water bottle containing fresh water **not** flavoured water or squash.

WRAPAROUND CARE

Our PSJ staff welcome children for **Breakfast Club** which operates three starting times. The first session starts at 7.30 am (£3.00), the second at 7:45am (£1.50) and, from September 2025, there is no charge for the final 30 minutes from 8.00 am as part of the government's free Breakfast Club roll out. We also offer an **After School Club** through Evo Sports. The club runs from 3.15 pm until 5.45 pm at a current cost of £4 per hour with a healthy snack available after 4.30 pm.

SNACK MONEY

Snack money can be paid online when you receive your parent pay login at £10 per term or £30 for the entire year. This goes towards purchasing a special snack every week, cooking and food tasting resources, planting and special creative materials.

AN OPEN DOOR POLICY

Most importantly, we operate an 'Open-Door Policy' where parents are actively encouraged to meet with staff to discuss any concerns at the earliest opportunity. Most worries tend to be misunderstandings and can be quickly resolved. If there is anything you need to know, just ask! We look forward to working with you and your family very soon!

General Information

Our contact details are:

Telephone: 01761 432311

Email: office@peasedown.mnsp.org.uk

School Website: www.psjprimary.co.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs Ruth Noall

