

# **Garlinge Primary School and Nursery**



## **Reception Year**





# Welcome to Garlinge Primary School and Nursery



## Reception classes

Your child is now entering their final year of the Foundation Stage. This is building on and developing key skills in seven areas of learning.

The most important part of your child's education is that they enjoy it and settle into school life.

Our aim is to encourage the children to gain independence and confidence and leave their final year of the Foundation Stage as happy, well-rounded children.

You will have already seen your child grow and develop many skills over the past four years and we aim to enhance these skills further offering concrete experiences through a variety of stimuli. Most children, during the Early Years, learn through practical experiences where they are allowed to explore and experiment freely in an environment that they feel safe. We are able to offer this to our children and are able to develop these learning experiences both indoors and out.

You are your child's most important and influential teacher. The years spent at home with you are the years when your child learns the most throughout their lives. We therefore value your input and welcome you into the school to help us with any activities including reading and art and craft. Children and parents also have the opportunity to add pictures of any activities or trips they have taken outside of the school to their home/school scrapbooks and these ideas will not only be shared in class but will form part of the curriculum, resulting in children, parents and teachers all having a voice in forming the curriculum for the last year of the Foundation Stage.

# **STARTING POINTS FOR THE YEAR**

Over the year we will be introducing six areas as our starting points for the term, subsequently following the children's interests to develop the planning to meet the children's individual needs.

Me and My Family  
People Who Help Us  
Traditional Tales  
Buildings  
Animals  
The Arts

Among other exciting activities we hope to arrange visits to different places throughout the year according to the curriculum.

We will also be having guest speakers in to discuss with the children the meaning of their jobs and what they do.

**We hope you are looking forward to starting school and we look forward to seeing you in your new classes.**



In Foundation Stage we focus on seven main areas of learning, as outlined in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) document.

## **Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)**

This area is very important as it covers the well-being, emotional development and social development of our children.



## **Communication and Language (CL)**

This area covers speaking and listening skills, looking at how we can communicate our needs effectively.

## **Physical Development (PD)**

This area covers gross and fine motor skills, including the development of games, gymnastics and dance skills.



## **Literacy**

This area covers reading and writing. Looking at developing handwriting and using sounds to help develop the skills needed.



## **Mathematics**

This area covers shape, measure, number recognition, number correspondence, calculation and more.



## **Understanding the World (UW)**

This covers science based areas of learning, History, Geography, Information Communication Technology and Religious Education.

## **Expressive Arts and Design (EAaD)**

This area covers the creative side of learning, art and music.



## **Phonics**

The teaching of phonics is an essential part of the children's development within reading and writing. We use the Letters and Sounds program at Garlinge which is fast paced and allows the children to develop the skills needed for reading and writing.



## **Play**

Play is a vital learning tool for all young children. Being able to experiment, explore and investigate new objects using their senses is the most exciting way young children can learn from new experiences.



The final part of the Foundation Stage encourages the children to learn through their play and make sense of their world, in order for them to be ready to put this into practice as they progress through the school.

Children learn through mathematical based, literacy based, science based concepts and many more.



The children enjoy learning for themselves by observing and making notes on what they have seen.

We have worked hard to develop our outdoor area, which allows it to be used all year round whatever the weather. The children are able to develop and investigate all areas of learning outside, as well as inside.



The children are given the choice to work inside or outside. We plan so that most activities can be delivered inside or outside.

Play is so important; it provides a safe, secure environment for young children to experiment with new ideas and skills. Your child will be making great new discoveries every day without even knowing it!



### **My Unique Story**

As part of the children's learning journey we will write a report for the children three times throughout the year. This will report on the children's progress, the children's views about their education and the parents' opinions. It also allows the parent and teacher to have a meeting to discuss the children's progress and any concerns that they may have regarding their child's development.

A form titled "My Unique Story" with a logo at the top left. Below the logo is a large empty box for writing. At the bottom of the form, there are fields for "Name:", "Class:", "Date of Birth:", and "Term:" with a dropdown menu showing "1 2 3 4 5 6".

**We learn by having lots of FUN!!**

# Forest School

The Reception children have the opportunity to visit Manor House Forest School, which is situated within Quex Park. The children are collected by minibus and spend the day in the Forest.



We complete a ten-week program with the practitioners and are given lots of opportunities to develop new skills. We complete lots of activities which link to the Early Years Curriculum.

We have enjoyed our time at Forest School using different tools and techniques to complete a range of activities we are developing our own Forest School within the grounds of the school.



## **Break times**

It has been proven that young children are more alert and willing to learn if their basic need for food and drink is satisfied. Therefore, we allow the children to drink when they are thirsty and they have access to water throughout the day. We also provide fruit and a drink for the children during the day.



## **The school day**

At Garlinge Primary School and Nursery the children will start their day at 8:45am, when teachers from Reception will be available to pass messages to your child's teacher and discuss issues at the door. The school day finishes at 3:10pm when all Reception teachers are available. If you wish to meet with your child's teacher then please make an appointment at the office.






During a typical day your child's routine is as follows: -

8.45am	-	Arrival
8.55am	-	Registration
9.00am – 10.15am	-	Focus Activity
10.15am – 10.30am	-	Break time
10.30am – 11.30am	-	Phonics
11.30am – 12.30pm	-	Lunch
12.30pm – 12.45pm	-	Guided Reading
12:45pm – 2:00pm	-	Focus Activity
1.30pm	-	Rolling Snack Starts
2.00pm – 3.00pm	-	Teacher/Child Initiated Activities
3.00pm – 3:10pm	-	Story/Music time
3.10pm	-	Home time











## **Helping your child settle into school life**

During this first year of school we aim to develop independence for all of our children. In order to do this, please encourage your child to be able to:-

-  Use the toilet independently (we do understand accidents can happen)
-  Use a knife and fork
-  Do up/undo their coat fastenings
-  Do up/undo their shoe fastenings
-  Dress/undress into their P.E kits and school uniform

## **Ideas to help your child at school**

-  Practice the above skills in order for your child to become independent i.e. dressing and undressing.
-  Stick numbers/words around the house and make it part of your routine when in the bath or at dinner time to recite numbers/words together.
-  Encourage your child to be aware of print in the environment, look at the numbers on buses, signs and symbols in the street, in the supermarket.
-  Listen to your child and encourage them to listen to you
-  Play games like eye spy or board games.
-  Read to your child, they will learn to read much quicker if they enjoy being read to and discussing stories.
-  Sing songs and nursery rhymes.
-  Don't feel pressured to work with your child every night. Every child has a different way of learning and they all learn at various speeds. They will learn if they are comfortable, relaxed and ready. Activities such as playing games or going shopping etc are just as valuable a learning resource to children of this age.

**Your child needs: -**

- 🌈 Suitable waterproof coat/Mac
- 🌈 Wellington boots
- 🌈 PE bag and kit
- 🌈 Full school uniform
- 🌈 Change of clothes

**Please ensure ALL of your children's clothing and property is clearly named**



**We enjoy going out and about exploring our environment.**

## **Book Bags**

We would like the children to bring their Book Bags to school every day. We hear the children read once a week and change their reading book, phonics and library book. We also put any letters in the children's bags, so please check for them regularly.

## **Scrapbooks**

The children all have a scrapbook which will have activities put in there regularly for you to do with your child. Also if you have anything you wish to share with us, such as day's outs or events please put them in there to. We do encourage the children to talk about what is in the scrapbook with the rest of the class.

## **Some useful websites:**

<http://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/tips-to-support-writing-at-home>

<http://www.midlandit.co.uk/education/writingtips.htm>

<http://www.sentenceplay.co.uk/sentenceGames.htm>

<http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/eyfs/>

<http://www.lovereadng4kids.co.uk/>

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/interactive/onlinestory.htm#talk>

<http://www.myonlinereading.com/>

<http://nrch.maths.org/early-years>

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/Interactive.aspx?cat=1>

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/Early-Years.html>

**We are really looking forward to seeing your child in Reception; we know you and your child will be very happy at our school.**



**Thank you for reading our Reception Booklet**