



Welcome to Somerford Primary School

A Warm Welcome!

We are thrilled that you are joining our school and look forward to getting to know you over the coming weeks and months. Starting school is a very exciting and busy time in your child's life and we aim to make this transition as smooth as possible.



Key worker

At Somerford your child's key worker in the Early Years is their class teacher. They will ensure that your child's learning and care is tailored to meet their individual needs in school and seek to support you and help you in guiding your child's development at home. If your child's class teacher feels that your child may require more specialist support she will speak to you and then bring this to the attention of Mr Thorne, the schools Special Needs Co-Ordinator (SENCO) .

Start and end of the day routines

The school day start at 8.45am and children enter the school through their classroom doors. The day ends at 3.10pm and children are collected from the classroom doors. We will only let your child be released to you or another adult you have named. If you are unable to collect your child or if there is an emergency, please telephone the office on **01202 485436** to inform them of the name of the person who will be picking your child up. If children have not been collected by 3.30pm they will be taken to the main school office.

Absence from school

If your child is absent from school we ask that you phone the school office as soon as possible on **01202 485436**. Press '1' to report your child's name, class and the reason they are absent.



Food and Drink

School meals are provided free of charge for Year R, Year 1 and Year 2. School dinners must be ordered by Thursday ready for the following week. You are able to choose from:

- A meat based hot dinner
- A vegetarian hot dinner
- A packed lunch which you supply yourself from home.

The healthy school dinners are prepared on site by our lovely hardworking team of chefs on behalf of Hampshire County Council Catering Services. The three weekly rolling menu can be found by searching 'Hampshire primary menu' or menus are available from the main school office. Fresh drinking water is always available and we ask that your child does not bring fruit juice or fizzy drinks to school.



The children are also provided with a fruit snack every day at playtime or they can bring their own from home. Children aged 4 are offered milk if parents have registered on the 'Cool Milk' website.

Please see Mrs Luker in the main school office if you need any further help.

Enjoy

Aspire

Achieve

Tapestry

All children attending Reception classes at Somerford, have a personal Learning Journey which records photos, observations and comments, in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements, to build up a record of your child's experiences during their time with us. Later in the autumn term you will receive a secure login which allows you and your family to see what your child has been learning about in school and to tell us all about the wonderful things they have been doing with you at home so they we can build a full picture of their interests and achievements.



Curriculum

The 'Early Years Foundation Stage 2017' sets out the statutory requirements regarding the learning, development and welfare of your child. The profile works towards children achieving 17 Early Learning Goals across 7 areas of learning:

- Personal, social and emotional development**
- Communication and language**
- Physical development**
- Literacy**
- Mathematics**
- Understanding of the World**
- Expressive Arts and Design**



At the same time we will also nurture positive learning behaviours and attitudes in your child that will stand them in good stead throughout their education. These are called the characteristics of effective learning:

- Playing and Exploring**
- Learning**
- Creating and thinking critically**

When your child finishes in their Reception class in July, you will be provided with a report which tells you whether or not your child has met the Early Learning Goal (ELG) in each aspect.

Information about the EYFS curriculum, including half termly overviews, ways to support your child at home, school policies and procedures and the end of year expectations, can be found on the school website.

Early Education
The British Association for Early Childhood Education
www.baec.org.uk

Development Matters in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

This non-statutory guidance material supports practitioners in implementing the statutory requirements of the EYFS.

Children develop quickly in the early years, and early years practitioners aim to do all they can to help children have the best possible start in life. Children have a right, spelled out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, to provision which enables them to develop their personality, talents and abilities irrespective of ethnicity, culture or religion, home language, family background, learning difficulties, disabilities or gender. This guidance helps adults to understand and support each individual child's development pathway. Other guidance is provided at www.foundationstage.gov.uk. The EYFS statutory framework is available on the Foundation Years website as well as the Department for Education website: www.education.gov.uk/publications.



And Finally!

Children are not the only ones who may get nervous about starting school so we ask you to please speak positively about school, even the most positive and confident child can pick up on your worries. You may like to talk about when you were a young child at school, the friends you made, the things you liked best, the games you played, the teachers you remember. Maybe you can find a photo of you when you were at school to share with them.

Please ask all the questions that you want (none are too daft!) as your child starts school. If you have any questions you would like answered, please do not hesitate to speak to the class teacher, ring the school office on **01202 485436** or email office@somerford.dorset.sch.uk



Enjoy Aspire Achieve