

Arnold Mill Primary School and Nursery



Starting in Foundation 2 2025-2026



Information for Parents

Updated May 2025



Our Vision:

Arnold Mill is a school where everyone is encouraged to fulfill their potential, discover new talents and develop a love for learning.

Our aims are to provide a school where;

- Children are happy, safe and secure
- Success and achievement is celebrated
- Creativity can flourish
- Everyone and everything is treated with respect
- Everyone is encouraged to think for themselves, take risks and learn from their mistakes
- Good behaviour is expected and everyone learns to take responsibility for their own actions
- Diversity is celebrated and tolerance promoted
- Self belief is nurtured

The Foundation Stage

The Foundation Stage has its own curriculum guidance, which follows children's development during their early years. This is the basis of the Foundation Team's planning and these can be found online. This is called The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

The EYFS is a single quality framework to support children's learning and development from birth to five years. It recognises children as individuals and competent learners and is delivered through a structured play-based approach to learning and development.



The Foundation Unit

Our school building allows us to have a single Foundation Unit which encompasses 3-5 year olds. The children begin in Foundation 1 (Nursery) when they are 3 and transfer into Foundation 2 (Reception) in the September of the academic year during which they will be 5.

Our building is divided into areas to create spaces for the children to explore and work. Each group has a base with a large carpet area - we have one Foundation 1 base and two Foundation 2 bases. Each has an interactive whiteboard. Outside we have a large play area that incorporates safety surfaces and grass. There are opportunities to climb, balance, ride bikes, make dens and lots more.



Why is the Foundation Stage important?

All children arrive into Foundation having learnt a huge variety of things at home and in their previous settings. Our aim, throughout the Foundation Stage, is to continue to extend this learning process by providing a happy, secure and stimulating environment.

We believe that children learn best when they are well motivated and having fun. It is through play that children begin to experience and learn about the world around them, and how to cope with life's many excitements and challenges.

The EYFS also recognises that children learn and thrive by having access to the outdoor environment and this has equal status with the indoor learning environment.

Therefore, in the Foundation Stage, the children are presented with well-planned structured play activities and also opportunities for independent learning which allow them to:

- socialise and communicate
- develop enquiring minds
- explore early literacy
- extend their natural creativity
- explore mathematical and scientific concepts



The EYFS helps practitioners to provide appropriate play experiences to enable your child to develop in all areas. It enables them to recognise both your child's strengths and the areas in which they need more support to develop new skills. The activities that are provided for young children will underpin the skills they need to work towards the Early Learning Goals in the following areas by the end of Foundation:

Three Prime Areas:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Four Specific Areas:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

All areas are of equal importance and often the activities offered to the children will cover more than one aspect. During the final term of the Foundation Stage (F2) there are more teacher-directed activities as children acquire the skills they need to be ready for the next key stage.

The EYFS also encourages practitioners, parents and carers to work together to help children develop to their full potential. If your child has a Special Educational Need (SEN) and/or disability the EYFS enables practitioners to target work specifically and help children to progress.



The School Day in Foundation 2



Usual session times:

Morning session 8.50am - 11.50am

Lunch 11.50am - 1.00pm

Afternoon session 1.00pm - 3.30pm

The doors to Foundation 2 will be opened at 8.50am and all children should arrive by 8.55am. We will meet the children at the gate and bring them into the unit. We help them to hang up their coat and put away their book bags. The children go to their register group - we have two register groups, one for F2a and another for F2b children.

During the morning, we stop for a snack and a drink. Your child may bring in a piece of fruit or order a piece of toast which costs 25p and is payable online through ParentPay. Your child should bring a water bottle from home but they can also order a carton of milk. This has to be completed online as part of your admission paperwork and is free until your child is 5. After their fifth birthday it will need to be reordered. We also have a piece of fruit in the afternoon which is a free entitlement.

During the day the F2 children will take part in a daily Read! Write! lesson and Mathematics lesson. They will also work in small groups and have opportunities to work and play independently. They will learn and play in both the indoor and outdoor environments. They will take part in a weekly P.E. lesson and will wear their P.E. kit to school on a Wednesday. They will begin to bring home a book to read and will need a rectangular book bag.

At the end of the day, we will open the doors and gate and safely hand over your child to your care.

Learning to be with others

One of the main aims of Foundation is to help children learn the social skills required to co-operate with others. Lots of children, especially when they first start Foundation, may have difficulty sharing. This is not unusual and we are used to this! We provide lots of experiences where groups of children take turns, co-operate, share and compromise under supervision - we are firm but kind!



We encourage children to think about their own behaviour, and hopefully become responsible for the best way of interacting with others in awkward or confrontational situations. Some children prefer to play alone, whilst others need company. We offer opportunities for all these needs, but carefully monitor what is happening, encouraging different experiences. Our Behaviour Policy is appropriate to the age of the children and is consistent throughout the school as is our reward system.



What happens before your child starts in the Foundation Unit?

- There will be an Open Evening on Wednesday 25th June at 4.00pm for the children and parents who are new to Arnold Mill. Parents with children in F1 do not need to attend.
- There will be a Moving to F2 meeting for F1 parents on Wednesday 16th July at 3.45pm.
- Tuesday 15th July - all children will visit for the morning from 9.45am to 11.15am.
- Wednesday 3rd September - children will stay for the morning in their classes from 9.00am to 11.30am (a shorter visit)
- Thursday 4th September - Children will stay for the morning and stay for lunch. They will go home for the afternoon
9.00am to 1.00pm
- Friday 5th September - Children will start full-time from 8.50am - 3.30pm

We hope that by building up the time day by day, the children will quickly settle into Arnold Mill. We won't be starting our daily lessons until we are happy that the children have settled into their new class.

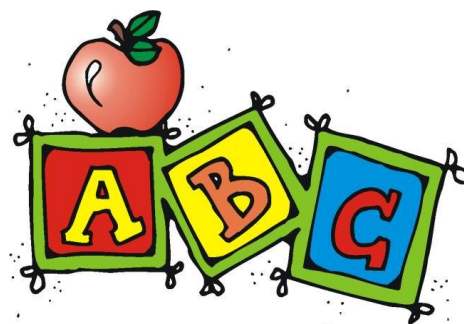
Recording your child's progress

We will keep records of your child's progress through the Foundation Stage. During the first half-term, we complete a baseline assessment of your child to go with the information we receive from your child's previous setting. This is a statutory assessment called the Reception Baseline and is reported to the Department for Education.



During the year we will continue to assess your child against some key benchmarks. You will have opportunities to discuss your child's progress at regular parents' meetings. During your child's last term in Foundation 2 he/she will be assessed against the Early Learning Goals (ELGs) and be supported with their transition into the next key stage.

Each child is given an account on TEAMS and we post class messages and photographs for you to keep up to date with your child's experiences at school. We mark celebrations and special occasions together. At the end of the year your child will bring home some of their special work for you to keep.



Helpful Hints

All F2 children are required to wear school uniform. It helps if the children wear a polo shirt rather than a long sleeve shirt with buttons. Our activities may be messy and wet so it helps if your child does not have buttoned cuffs.

Your child will need to bring a labelled water bottle to school every day. This must only contain water and not juice or flavoured water.

Outside play takes place in all kinds of weather! Remember to send your child with a warm, waterproof coat in chilly or wet weather.

We spend Friday afternoons outside doing Forest School type activities so your child will need to have a pair of wellies in school.

In the summer, your child will need a sun-hat and suncream. Please remember to apply the suncream at home before you drop them off.

Please label all clothing, including outdoor articles such as coats, hats and wellies. Please check that your child takes the right clothes home! Please return clothes to the unit if your child has had to borrow some of our spares.

A book bag is **essential** - this should be a rectangular bag and not a back pack, which may bend the corners of our books.



We always like to celebrate children's birthdays, so we are happy for your child to bring in a treat of their choice to share with their classmates. These treats can be fresh fruit or raisins if you prefer to send a healthy treat.

Please discourage children from bringing toys to school - it can be very upsetting if they get lost or broken. However, if children wish to bring special books to share with the class, we will keep them safe.

Handwashing and Hygiene

We support children to regularly wash their hands using liquid soap and warm, running water. They are encouraged to rub hands together fast for at least 20 seconds and to pay attention to hands, forearms, between fingers and under fingernails. They are also shown how to rinse hands, dry hands with a paper towel and use it to turn off taps and throw away the paper towel.

The children are required to wash their hands several times a day, including before snacks/meals, after using the toilet, before/after playing outside and after sneezing, coughing, or using a tissue.

We also use hand sanitizer.

Try to encourage your child to be independent when going to the toilet and washing their hands before they start school.

