

# Starting School at Melbourne Infant School



September 2025

# Our Vision

To inspire, motivate and engage all children to become life-long learners, who reach for the stars.

## Our Values

Our school values are reflected through our STAR Standards:



Melbourne Infant School

STAR Standards

**S** - Show resilience, and work together.

**T** - Try our best, and solve problems.

**A** - Always make good choices, looking after our school and each other.

**R** - Rise to challenges, and learn from our mistakes.

We aim to achieve our vision by working together as a team – staff, parents, governors and local community – to enable our school to **SHINE**.

We offer a **S**upportive, fun and caring atmosphere, where children access an ambitious, globally diverse, purposeful and creative curriculum where achievement in all areas is celebrated

Create a **H**appy, safe and stimulating environment where all individuals are valued, diversity is embraced, and **STAR** potential realised

Foster self-belief and a positive self-image, which encourage **I**ndividual talents to shine, and children engage collaboratively with our school community

Provide opportunities to **N**urture curiosity and exploration so that children develop emotional literacy and a lifelong love of learning

Respect ourselves and each other, **E**nabling us to be active participants in the world around us.

## Our Motto

Shine brightly together and reach for the stars.



# The school day

## Arrival and collection

Children arrive at school between 8.45am and 8.55am. They arrive with their parents at their classroom door, where a member of staff is waiting to welcome them.

School finishes at 3.20pm. Parents should line up to collect their child from outside their classroom, and we ask that parents are patient whilst each child is allocated to their respective adult.

## Morning session

Once children have arrived at school, the morning session will commence with self-registration and a selection of morning activities. The morning will then involve a short, whole class learning activity, followed by a period of continuous provision where children will be involved in free-choice, play-based activities.

Children will play both indoors in their classroom, and outside in the EYFS outdoor area. They will also work with an adult in group activities throughout the week, focusing on reading, writing, mathematics and topic-based skills.

Adults will support the children in their learning, being involved in their play and observing what they are doing.



The session will end with another whole class learning activity, before preparing for lunch time.

# Afternoon session

After lunch, the children will return to their classroom for the afternoon session. This will involve a short, whole class learning activity, and periods of indoor and outdoor continuous provision.

The afternoon will end with a story, singing and snack time, before getting ready to go home.



# Learning outdoors

We spend lots of time learning and playing outdoors. We have our very own outdoor garden, which is just for us! We are outside every day, so children need to come to school with clothing that is appropriate for the weather.

In cold and wet weather, children must bring a suitable coat, and hats, scarves and gloves when it is very cold. In summer, children need to have sun cream applied before school and bring a sun hat each day.

We ask that all children bring a pair of wellington boots to leave at school for use during outdoor play.





# Time to eat!

## Snack time

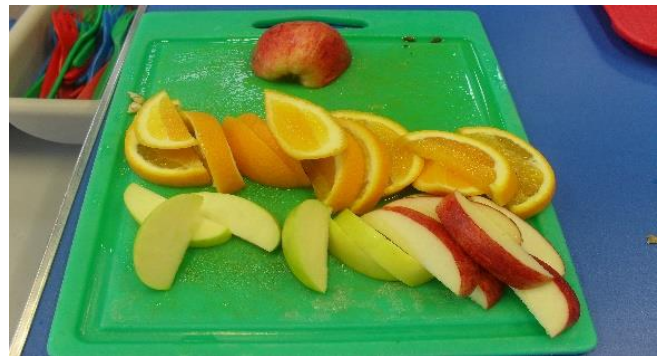
Children will have a snack in the morning and also one in the afternoon. Children bring in one snack from home in a named container, and we ask that this is fresh fruit or raisins. The other snack is a piece of fruit provided by school.

Children need to bring a named, non-spill drinks container each day, filled with water only.

## Lunch time

At lunch time, Reception children eat in the school hall. All children at Melbourne Infant School are eligible for a free school meal each day.

Alternatively if you prefer, you can bring in a packed lunch from home. We ask that parents choose one or other option, and do not frequently switch between the two.



# The Curriculum

## Characteristics of Effective Learning

In our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), learning is play based, both inside and outside of the classroom. It is a balance between child initiated and adult led or adult initiated activities. It gives children a chance to:

- Play independently or with others
- Play with adult support
- Work in a group or independently
- Work together as a whole class

We focus on providing an interesting and stimulating curriculum across all seven areas of learning. We support all children to achieve a good level of development in their early years, ensuring they are ready to learn as they progress through the school.

The Characteristics of Effective Learning are fundamental to all children's early development. We constantly strive to provide an environment that enables the children to develop these skills through:

### Playing and exploring – engagement

- Finding out and exploring
- Playing with what they know
- Being willing to have a go

### Active learning – motivation

- Being involved and concentrating
- Keep on trying
- Enjoying and achieving what they set out to do



## Creating and thinking critically

- Having their own ideas
- Making links
- Choosing ways of doing things

## Emotional well-being

- Emotional literacy
- Being connected
- Demonstrating positive self-esteem and self-worth



These fundamental skills are at the forefront of our planning and assessment - children in EYFS learn through practical experiences, developing their thinking skills and solving problems.

## The areas of learning

We follow the Department for Education Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. Our curriculum covers seven areas of learning. Each area of the curriculum is broken down into further subgroups to allow us to plan for and assess the children's learning effectively. All seven areas are of equal importance, but they fall into two groups- Prime Areas and Specific Areas. The aim is for all children to achieve 'a good level of development'- this means achieving the Early Learning Goals by the end of the year in the prime areas of learning, plus Literacy and Mathematics.



## The Prime areas of learning

**Communication and Language-  
Listening, Attention  
& Understanding;  
Speaking**

Involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment, and develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves. Children are encouraged to speak and listen in a range of situations.

**Personal, Social &  
Emotional  
Development-  
Self-regulation;  
Managing Self;  
Building**

**Relationships**  
Children learn to develop a positive sense of themselves and others and form positive relationships, developing respect for others. Children learn how to manage their feelings, behaviour and personal needs.

**Physical  
Development-  
Gross Motor Skills,  
Fine Motor Skills**  
Children are given opportunities to be active and move in a range of ways; develop their co-ordination, strength and balance; and develop fine motor skills when using a pencil for writing and drawing, and using a range of small tools.

## The Four Specific Areas

**Literacy –  
Comprehension; Word  
Reading; Writing**

We teach early reading skills in our daily phonics sessions where children learn sounds and how to blend and segment simple words. Books play a key part in the learning experience and are integral to children's enjoyment and learning at school. Children are encouraged to mark make, establish good pencil control and letter formation. Their writing gradually develops throughout the year.

**Mathematics –  
Number; Numerical  
Patterns**

Children explore number, shape and measures in a variety of contexts. We use many different resources to develop mathematics skills and concepts. The children develop a deep understanding of numbers to 10. They also count with numbers to 20 and beyond and look for patterns in the number system.

## Understanding the World – Past and Present; People, Culture and Communities; The Natural World

Children discover the world around them by exploring the local environment, growing plants, experiencing life cycles and researching animals and habitats in the wider world. Children also learn about their local community, different religions and cultures, and compare life in this and other countries. The children learn about roles in society, and explore the past and present and how things change.

## Expressive Arts & Design – Creating with Materials; Being Imaginative and Expressive

We offer a wide range of creative experiences to give children the opportunity to develop their skills using a variety of materials, tools and techniques. Imagination can be developed through role play, small world play, building, making, drawing, painting, modelling, singing, music making, storytelling, puppets and a range of other mediums.



# Preparing for School and Settling in

We have a phased start to the school year, to help children to settle in gradually to school life. Your child will feel part of the school family in no time at all!

The following suggestions may help your child with the settling in period and make their transition into Melbourne Infant School easier. Please also refer to the Derbyshire 'Ten keys for school readiness'. This document can be found on our website.

Please encourage him/her to:

- Play and share with other children
- Go to the toilet independently
- Hang up his/her own coat
- Dress and undress independently
- Eat with a knife and fork and use table manners
- Tidy up toys and games.
- Communicate his/her needs and feelings to a grown up
- Follow verbal instructions when given.

To help your child's day run smoothly:

- Please label all items entering school with their name.
- Please send in reading books, snack and a named water bottle every day, along with appropriate clothing for outdoors.
- Please arrive on time, and collect your child promptly, ensuring their journey to school is as relaxed as possible.

- Please make drop-offs quick, even if your child is upset when leaving you- they will calm down much quicker once you are out of sight!

## What to bring:

Each day children will need:

- A bookbag or rucksack which is big enough to hold an A4 reading wallet, and other items
- A4 reading wallet containing reading books (this will be provided by school)
- Named non-spill drinks container filled with water only
- Fresh fruit or raisins in a plastic container for snack time
- Coat/rain coat
- Hats, scarves, gloves/ sun hat
- If possible: spare uniform / underwear left in your child's bag in case of accidents

At the start of each term children need to bring in a pair of wellington boots for outdoor learning. These can be taken home in the holidays to be size-checked.

**All** items brought into school need to be **labelled** with your child's name.

## What to wear:

At Melbourne Infant School, the uniform is as follows:

- Royal blue sweatshirt/ cardigan or jumper
- White/blue shirt or polo shirt
- Grey skirt/ pinafore dress or trousers
- Grey/ black/ white tights or socks

- Black sensible shoes

In summer, items as above or:

- Blue and white gingham dress
- Grey mid length shorts
- Sensible sandals (worn with socks).

All uniform items need to be labelled with your child's name.

As a school we understand that school uniform can be expensive. Therefore, our uniform does not need to have the branded logo on. You can buy the uniform from a range of places including local supermarkets, as well as from Pupils Schoolwear: 35 West St, Swadlincote, DE11 9DN / [www.pupilsschoolwear.co.uk](http://www.pupilsschoolwear.co.uk) (please note Pupils Schoolwear operate on a 2-3 week lead time which can increase during very busy periods).

On days when your child will be involved in lots of physical activity, they will come to school in PE uniform (white t shirt, black/navy shorts, Velcro fastening trainers. On colder days a black/navy zip-up hoody and joggers can be worn). Parents will be notified in advance of these days.

## Before and after school clubs:

We have a before-school club run by Premier Sports which takes place in the school hall. Children can be dropped off from 7.30am for breakfast and activities.

After school, there are a variety of paid clubs which children may sign up to which run until 4.30pm.



You can find more information on before and after school clubs on our website here: -

<https://melbourne-inf.derbyshire.sch.uk/parents/activities>

## Contact details

Should you have any queries, you may contact school using the following:

Tel: 01332 862325

Email: [enquiries@melbourne-inf.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@melbourne-inf.derbyshire.sch.uk)

You may also find further useful information on our school website, including a virtual tour of the school:

<https://www.melbourne-inf.derbyshire.sch.uk/>

