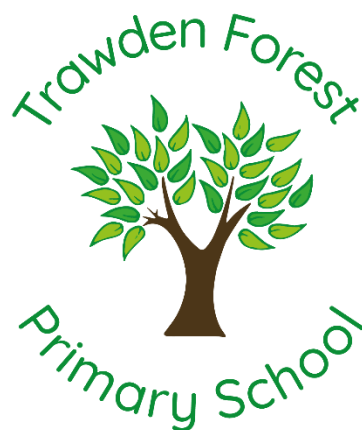


Introduction to the

EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

at

**Trawden Forest Primary
School**



INTRODUCTION

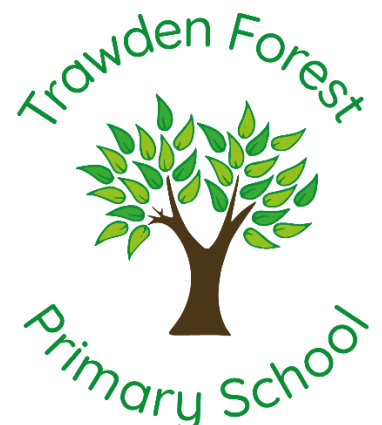
Our Vision

As a school community, we nurture pupils to become motivated and resilient so that they can attain their full potential, whilst encouraged to be curious and develop a life-long love of learning. We understand that each pupil possesses unique qualities and, we seek to recognise their individuality and develop who they are in a safe, respectful and caring environment. Here at Trawden, we aim for every child to acquire essential knowledge to become successful and this is firmly rooted in our ethos where 'every child matters; every moment counts.'

We would like to say hello and welcome to all of the children who will be starting at Trawden Forest Primary School this year. We are really pleased that you have chosen our school and that we will all be working together to ensure that the next seven years of your child's school life are happy and that they achieve their full potential in all areas.

It is hoped that this booklet will help you to prepare for your child starting school. If you have any concerns, or questions you would like to ask, then please contact the school and we will be happy to help.

Your child's class teacher will be Mrs Alcock.





PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR SCHOOL

Starting school can be an apprehensive time for some children. The experience is new and quite often the children will only know one or two others. However, there are ways in which you can help your child to prepare for his or her big day.

One of the biggest things you can do to help your child is to encourage them to be independent in all aspects of daily life.

- Practise putting on and taking off their uniforms and coats.
- Encourage your child to use a tissue to wipe and blow their nose.
- Encourage your child to use the toilet properly, to flush it and to wash their hands afterwards.
- Read stories about starting school, and talk to your child about the kinds of activities that they will carry out in school, e.g. painting, writing, playing, etc.
- Prepare your child for taking turns and sharing toys.
- Prepare your child for lunches at school – all children in EYFS and KS1 are entitled to universal free school meals so please encourage them to use a knife, fork and spoon.

SCHOOL UNIFORM – new colour from September 2021

Your children will be the first cohort to start in our new uniform colour. The change was requested by our school council and voted for by children and parents. It was also passed by our governors. We hope that you like it as much as we do.

GIRLS

- white polo shirt
- checked skirt/pinafore or black skirt/pinafore
- green school logo sweatshirt/cardigan
- white/black socks/tights
- black school shoes
- * bottle green and white checked dress for Summer (optional)
- * black trousers for Winter (optional)



BOYS

- white polo shirt
- black school trousers
- green school logo sweatshirt
- black socks
- black school shoes
- * black school shorts for Summer (optional)

PE KIT

- white t-shirt
 - black shorts
 - black pumps
- (Velcro fastenings are easier)
- drawstring pump bag (green school logo one available)

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

- *green school logo book bag
- *green school logo small rucksack
- *green school logo coat

Our school uniform is available from the middle of May to buy direct from:

<https://www.jeanjunction.com/>

300 Burnley Road, Colne,
Lancashire, BB8 8JN
01282 868743

We are also arranging for orders to be done online – watch this space!

STARTING SCHOOL



When your child starts school, please remember that it is an exhausting business, so don't be surprised if they are extremely tired when they come home!

To make life easier for the children, and for us, please ensure that they have their names on **everything** (PE kits, lunch boxes, coats, skirts, trousers, jumpers etc). It is very easy for a child to pick up the wrong jumper and it can lead to chaos! The stick-on, sew-in or iron-in stickers are the best option, as writing with a pen washes off fairly quickly. Labels can be purchased from many online retailers such as www.mynametags.com and are inexpensive. We cannot take responsibility for any lost items of clothing.

THE SCHOOL DAY

School Start
Times



Please see our school web page for up to date start and finish times and holiday details as these times may change slightly depending on the circumstances:-

<https://www.trawden.lancs.sch.uk/parents/termdates>

SCHOOL DINNERS

All children are entitled to universal free school meals in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.



A selection of healthy lunch choices is prepared freshly on site each day and we recommend that all children have a school dinner.

If the reason is due to allergies or a medical condition children may bring a healthy packed lunch in a named lunch box (no glass bottles or containers please). Within school, we encourage healthy eating and we ask that you please DO NOT send chocolate, sweets or fizzy pop to school in lunchboxes.



DRINKS AND SNACKS

All children are entitled to free milk until they are 5 years old.
This is provided direct to school via COOL MILK.

You have the option to pay for your child's milk after they turn 5. You will be sent information from our milk suppliers before your child starts school with all the details on how to apply online for milk. By logging in directly with our suppliers, Cool Milk Ltd, you are able to opt in or out when needed. The lists are updated weekly in school. Children will be given the opportunity to drink their milk during the afternoon.



All the infant children in school are provided with a free piece of fruit or a vegetable each morning as a snack.

In addition, if you wish for your child to have a small snack for the afternoon, please ensure it is healthy and only 1 e.g. fresh fruit, raisins, plain biscuit (no chocolate biscuits, no crisps).

All children will need to bring their own named water bottle into school which they are encouraged to access throughout the day. Please can you ensure that the bottle is only filled with water. The children keep these in class in the drinks box and at the end of each day, they are sent home so that they can be washed thoroughly and then refilled for the following day. If a child drinks all of their water, then the children are able to refill it at school.





CONTACT DETAILS

We use ParentMail - a parent's text messaging service to keep you up to date with newsletters, important events and notices. This system is also used to make payments to school, so please make sure you give your details so that you will receive your registering email/text from us then you can be added to this service. Further information can be found here.

<https://www.parentmail.co.uk/help/parenthelp/>



Please inform us of any phone number or address changes as soon as possible. This can be done by sending a letter to the class teacher or by telephoning the school.

Who can collect your child from school?

You will be filling in a data collection sheet asking you to name the people that you authorise to be contacted by school and who can pick up your child.

This is a statutory requirement for the Early Years Foundation Stage. It is important that you make us aware of any changes which need to be made to the list.

We will also ask you to provide a password so that if, for any reason, a different person is collecting your child you can give them the password so that we are aware that they have been authorised by you.

Attendance

Due to changes in government legislation as of September 2013, Head Teachers cannot authorise any leave of absence, such as family holidays, during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

If you do take your child out during term time and it has not been authorised, your child will receive an unauthorised absence.

Lancashire County Council school attendance officers regularly monitor school attendance. If any issues arise, appropriate action may be taken.



Appointments in School Time

We politely request that you make appointments for your child outside school time. On occasions we do realise that sometime it is just not possible to get an appointment after school - especially if it is an emergency. Therefore, any appointments taken during the day will be unauthorised unless we are provided with evidence (letter/appointment card). Thank you for your support and understanding.

What if my child is ill?

If your child is ill, please phone school on the first morning of their absence by 9.30am. Also, if you know in advance that your child will be absent e.g. doctor's appointment, please ring or send a note to their teacher so we can mark it as authorised in the register.

What if my child has medication to take during school hours?

Staff will administer medication prescribed by a doctor (if it is required 4 times a day) but you must complete a consent form from the school office. Please hand the medication to the office staff.

Also could you please ensure the medication is clearly labelled with your child's name and class.

Please note: If your child requires Paracetamol, Calpol etc. then you are more than welcome to come in to school and administer it yourself.

School telephone number:

01282 865242



THE EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE CURRICULUM

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) applies to all children from birth to five. The EYFS is important in its own right, and in preparing children for later schooling. The **Early Learning Goals** set out what is expected of most children by the end of the Foundation Stage.

The principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage are aimed at:

- Allowing your child to develop as a unique child.
- Allowing your child to develop positive relationships.
- Allowing your child to learn within enabling environments.
- Allowing your child to experience opportunities that will enable them to learn and develop.

These principles are delivered through seven areas of learning.

Three are considered 'prime' areas. These are :-

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

The four 'specific' areas, through which the prime areas are developed, are :-

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



Each of the seven areas of learning hold equal importance and are delivered through a careful balance of adult-directed and child-initiated activities, with learning becoming more formal towards the end of the Reception year, to prepare children for transition to Year 1.

PLAY IN THE EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

Play is a vital part of learning. Through play, the children explore and develop learning experiences, which help them to make sense of the world. They practise and build up ideas and learn how to control themselves, take responsibility for their actions and understand the need for rules. They are given the opportunity to think creatively alongside other children as well as on their own. They communicate with others as they investigate and solve problems. They are able to express fears or make mistakes in a controlled and safe environment.



THEMES AND TOPICS

The themes and topics which are explored within the Early Years Foundation Stage, will largely be directed by the interests of the children. You can help to enhance your child's learning by allowing them to bring in artefacts and books relating to the theme, or if you



have a particular interest/ work within an area which is linked to the theme, then you would be welcome to come and talk to the children.

FOREST SCHOOL

At Trawden Forest Primary School, we are extremely lucky to have access to nature on our doorstep. Whilst playing outdoors children can closely observe chickens, geese and sheep in the adjacent fields. We see lambs as soon as they are born and often have to shoo chickens out of our plants! We feel very strongly that experiencing nature is extremely beneficial to children's learning and development.

We have our own Forest School area which the children in Reception visit every week. There we find out about plants and animals, learn to climb trees and work together to create sculptures and structures. Children are allowed to explore the area freely, take supervised risks and get messy.

Often they get very, very messy!



HOME LEARNING



At Trawden Forest Primary School, we believe that learning to read is much more than just being taught the mechanics of reading. We want to foster a love of reading and an appreciation of books. We share books and stories regularly and each class has a 'bucket list' of texts to share throughout the year.

The children are taught phonics using the government scheme of 'Letters and Sounds' and this is reinforced with games and activities. Your child will be given a sound pot. As children are taught a new sound, the letter will be added to their pot for you to practise with them at home. They will also bring home a letter formation sheet to help them to practise writing their new sound. Practising these letters and sounds with your child on a regular basis, will reinforce the work taking place in school and enhance their progress.

As children develop the skill of blending sounds together, they will be introduced to Home Readers. They will also be given high frequency words to learn: some that they will be able to sound out and others they will need to learn by sight. Reading at home will help the children to practise the skills that they are learning in the classroom. Whatever level of reading your child is at, it is also an advantage for the children to regularly share a variety of books with an adult, as this encourages them to recognise the features of a book and understand how they are organised.

Home reading books will be changed regularly in school, provided they have been read at home and a record has been made in their reading diary. If a Home Reading book becomes lost or damaged, please inform school as soon as possible so that your child does not miss out on reading opportunities. There is a charge for replacement books.

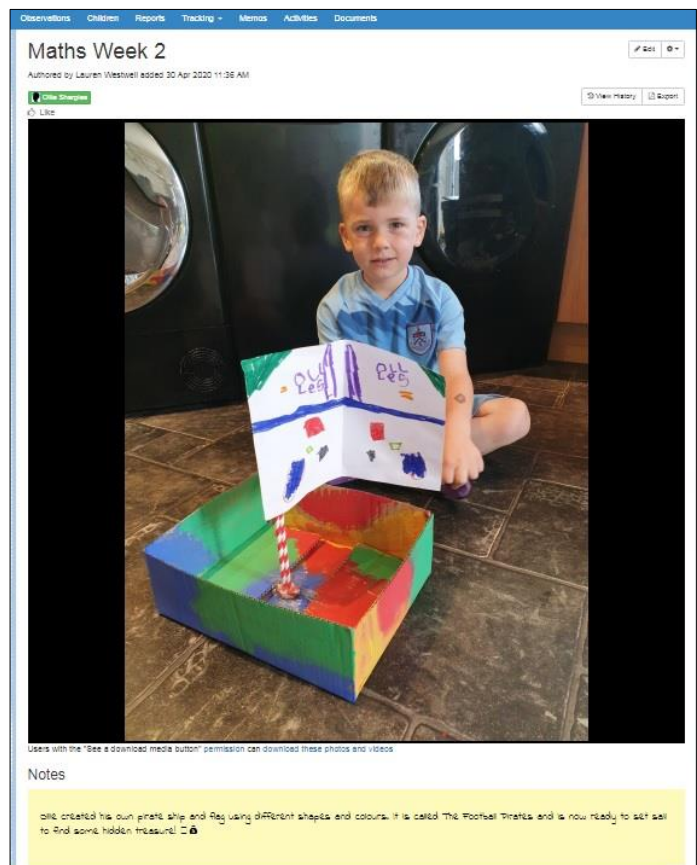
TAPESTRY



In Early Years at Trawden Forest Primary School we use an online educational package called 'Tapestry' to document your child's learning throughout the year.

Tapestry is a system which is hosted in the UK on secure servers. Filenames are encoded for uploaded videos and images and all data is GDPR secure.

By logging on with a secure username and password (details of which will follow once you return the permission slip) you will be able to view all of your child's observations, photographs and even videos from their time in Reception. You will even receive an e-mail telling you when a new observation or piece of work is available for you to view. This will enable you to follow your child's progress closely and allows you to reflect upon their achievements with your child. You can add comments to observations and can also add your own observations, photographs and videos so that we, as a staff, can find out about the learning that goes on at home.



Observations and comments are used to inform our planning and assessments.

KEY WORKER SYSTEM



In Reception, all children should have a Key worker.

A key worker has responsibilities for the well-being of a small group of children; to ensure that their emotional and physical needs are met and to help those children in the group feel safe and cared for.

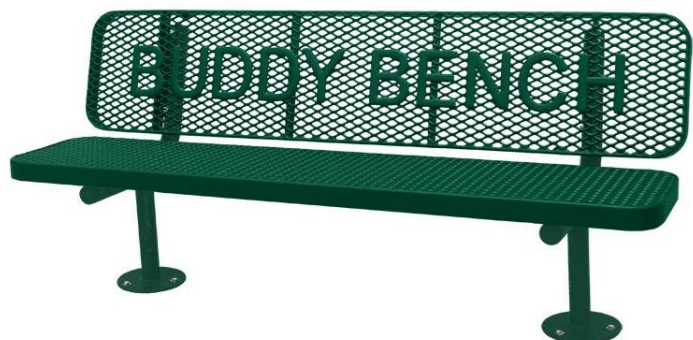
Small groups foster close bonds between the child and the key worker in a way that large groups cannot easily do. These groups allow the key worker to better 'tune into' children's play and their conversation to really get to know the children in the group well. Children feel settled and happy and are more confident to explore and as a result become more capable learners.

At Trawden Forest, we use Key Worker group sessions to give children these opportunities alongside whole class and individual activities.

SCHOOL BUDDY

In Reception, all children will have an appointed school buddy from Year 6. These children will be a friend and a guide to our school on their visit days, their first weeks of school and other sessions throughout the year. This gives them someone to help them settle in, talk to and look up to.

These "buddy" relationships will last all year.



CELEBRATING SUCCESS

At Trawden Forest Primary School, we always encourage the children to do their best and they are rewarded for good and improved work, behaviour and attitude.



In our Celebration Assembly, each Friday morning, a child / children from every year group will receive a 'Star Award' in recognition of achievement and progress in class. Children may also receive awards for achieving targets in reading, handwriting and mathematics. They will also receive a birthday card from school on the Friday assembly before their birthday.

Attendance is also very important to us and whole class attendance is calculated on a weekly basis. The class with 100% attendance for the week is awarded a certificate. The class with the most 100% certificates in a term receives a reward.

We celebrate, not only what the children have achieved within school, but also any extracurricular successes that they may have and children are encouraged to bring in any certificates or awards from out-of-school activities to be given in assembly.

All parents are warmly invited to join us for Friday's special Celebration Assembly and you will be sent a text message, on Thursday lunch time, to notify you when your child is to be presented with an award.



FINALLY!



In this booklet, we have tried to suggest ways in which your child's entry into school can be made as easy as possible, both for them and for you! We hope that both you and your child will feel confident and relaxed about joining us and becoming part of the Trawden Forest Primary School family.

If you have any questions or concerns, then please feel free to contact us at any point – we are always happy to help!

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Contact details:

01282 865242

head@trawden.lancs.sch.uk

bursar@trawden.lancs.sch.uk

calcock@trawden.lancs.sch.uk

