

**Carnforth Community
Primary School**



Early Years Foundation Stage
Parents' Information Booklet
2025/26

“Believe and Achieve”



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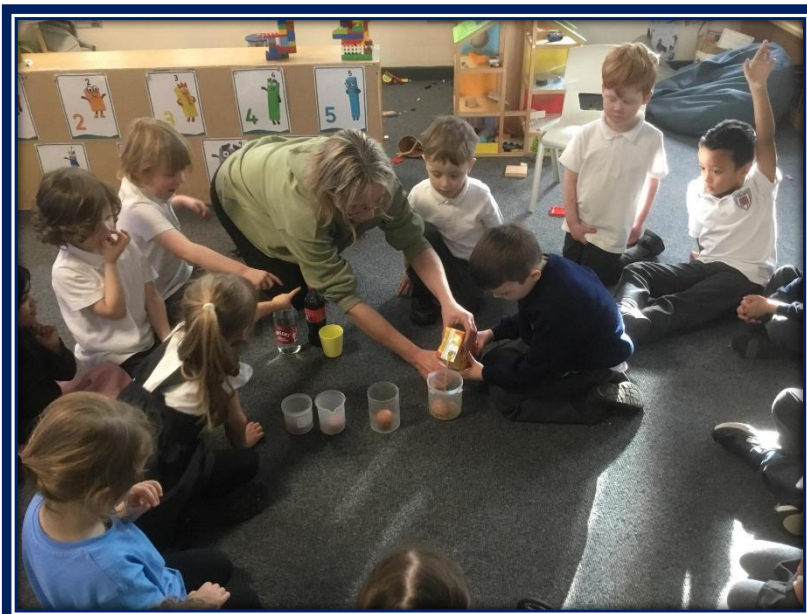


School Aims

At our School, we strive to provide a happy, safe and caring environment for each and every child and where all learners have the opportunity to recognise and achieve their potential through a wide variety of rich learning opportunities. We believe that every child is special. They have their own skills and talents, which we must identify and celebrate, but also areas that we need to support them with and develop.

At Carnforth Community Primary School we aim to:

- See children treating everyone, including themselves, with respect and recognise and support their individuality.
- Identify, nurture and foster the skills, abilities and talents of all.
- Provide a wide range of enriched learning opportunities with an emphasis on the growth and the development of the whole person, social, spiritual, emotional, physical, cultural, intellectual and moral.
- Encourage and instil a curiosity and enthusiasm for lifelong learning, by developing a strong sense of ambition, resilience, independence and desire to achieve.
- Ensure the learning process is a partnership between families, community and school.



Welcome to Early Years Foundation Stage

Squirrel Class

Starting school is a significant time for you and your child. There will be lots of new things to learn and do, so you and your child will want to be as prepared as you can be for this new and exciting journey. This booklet contains some of the information you will need to help your child (and you) settle into school life smoothly and enjoyably. We look forward to meeting you and your child properly in the near future.

Meet the Team

Mrs Gleave is the Class Teacher and your child will also be supported by Mrs Winterburn and Mrs Greenland our class teaching assistants. Mrs Molloy is our PPA teacher and will teach in Reception each week. These are the adults you and your child will have close links with throughout the whole year.

			
Mrs Gleave Teacher	Mrs Molloy PPA Teacher	Mrs Grey Teaching Assistant	Mrs Greenland Teaching Assistant

Partnership with Parents

The relationship between home and school is a key part in your child's happiness and successful learning at school. We aim to create a partnership where we can all learn and thrive together, aiming for the highest of standards and making our school a place to be really proud of.

We understand that you are your child's first educator and you are the people that know your child the best, therefore we value any input, opinions and information you can provide us with. To make this an easy process we have lots of opportunities for you to communicate with us and for us to share your child's school learning and progress with you.

Your child will have a Class Dojo login, this account can be used to pass on any messages e.g. if your child is going home with somebody new or they have a medical appointment.

If your child is going to be absent please telephone the school office on 01524 732435 and leave a message before 9:30am.



Home Learning is also a vital part of our partnership as this allows you to be a part of your child's continuing



learning journey seeing the progress they make every day as well as allowing you to spend quality time with your child one-to-one. We expect 5-10 minutes of reading at least three times a week; there is also a home learning menu that your child can engage with over each half term.

Parents are invited into school for many events during the year including:

- The Christmas performance
- Sporting events including sports day
- Learning workshops
- A variety of in class sessions



We believe communication is key to maintaining a strong relationship. Our website and Squirrels ClassDojo story page are regularly updated with photo's, learning and events, we also send out regular newsletters to inform you of any upcoming dates, events within school, competitions and reminders. We operate a 'meet and greet' policy where we encourage you to come and discuss any worries or concerns you may have at the earliest opportunity. Mrs Gleave and Mrs Hudd can be contacted via Class Dojo message and are available after school on most days.



Preparing for school

You will find that your child may talk about 'playing' in the water area, or 'playing' with their friends. They may even say to you that they have done 'nothing' all day. In Early Years Foundation Stage play underpins our learning. There are some things that we would ideally like your child to be able to do before they start school.

However, we believe that Einstein's quote best reflects our philosophy "the most effective way children find out about the world around them is to experience opportunities that enable them to play, explore and experiment." We would encourage you to spend lots of time with your child doing things that provide opportunities to be creative, imaginative and expressive. Being exposed to various types of play, will in turn, encourage lots of discussion, turn taking, thinking, problem solving and generate questions whilst developing physical skills such as co-ordination and fundamental movements.

Skills for School



Your child will be in a mixed class of Nursery and Reception children so it will be a much more enjoyable experience for them if they are as independent as possible. Here are some things you can do to help your child to become more independent as well as the things we would like them to be able to do:

- Practise getting dressed independently.
- Allow your child to fasten their own coat using the zip or buttons.
- Teach them how to wipe their own bottom after going to the toilet.
- Ensure they understand the importance of washing their hands properly after using the toilet, sneezing, coughing and messy play activities.
- Teach your child how to hold and use a knife, fork and spoon correctly to eat their dinner.
- Encourage your child to tidy up their toys after they have finished playing with them.
- Do lots of work developing your child's ability to listen to and follow instructions.
- Encourage your child to communicate with adults if they need help or are unsure of anything whilst they are in school.

Routines

School is open from 8:30am and the register is taken at 8:45am. We use a 'meet and greet' system in a morning where children can arrive any time between 8:30am and 8:45am. Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 use the main entrance. Teachers will be in their classrooms from 8.30am, ready to welcome children for the start of their day. We find this supports parents who need to dash by having the quicker and earlier drop off time and also allows children to settle into class in a more relaxed manner.

Nursery sessions run from 8:30am – 11:30am and 12:00pm – 3:00pm unless the children are staying for the full day.

School finishes at 3.00pm, the collection point for the EYFS and KS1 children is at the main entrance. If your child is being collected by somebody other than the adults on their information form then a message will need to be passed onto staff via Class Dojo. This is to ensure that the children remain safe.



In Reception your child will receive two hours of PE each week. Nursery children will join these sessions if they attend on PE days. On their PE days they should come to school in their PE hoody, ready to change for PE in school. The PE kit should all be names and in a drawstring bag to hang on their pegs.



Your child will join in with a phonics session every day and the new sounds and words that your child has learnt will be updated and shared with you accordingly. When your child is ready for a reading book these will be sent home along with a reading journal for you to write in and share your reading experiences with us. Books will be changed at least once a week and should be read 2 or 3 times each to be of maximum benefit to your child.

Your child will have snack every morning consisting of a piece of fruit and milk or water. Water is available throughout the day in your child's school water bottle, these remain in school at all times. There is also the opportunity for your child to buy tuck at break time.

Children will have an hour for their lunch including a playtime from 12pm. Our kitchen staff cook our delicious meals in the school kitchen and there is always plenty of choice. Before your child starts school you will be given the menu for the first term, the children can choose their meal each day but it is useful if you have talked to them about their choice first.

The children will visit Carnforth library to enjoy story time and choose books they would like to take home. We request that you return these books to the library at your own convenience. If your child does not already have a library card we ask that you sign them up before they start school in September if you possibly can.

The Early Years Curriculum



The Early Years Foundation Stage is the most important part of your child's educational life, it is within these early years that your child develops a foundation for lifelong learning, social skills, respect, tolerance and communication. Reception is where the fun begins! We have fantastic indoor and outdoor environments that change and evolve every year based on the interests of our new group of children. There is plenty of opportunity for independent learning, exploration and challenge. Your child will be taught through a creative topic based curriculum which will allow a breadth of learning and understanding but also allows them to learn through a child lead curriculum. Reception is a mixture of both child initiated learning and adult directed tasks which comprises of hands on practical and real life problem solving activities. This means that your child is free to explore and learn in their own way through play based learning but, is also required to complete certain activities throughout each week which are planned around their individual next steps of learning. These next steps are identified and planned for through our on-going observations and interactions with your child.

Uniform

At Carnforth Community we have options for uniform so that children are as comfortable as they can be for their learning. While we give the children a choice, we also expect them to look smart and tidy. Nursery children can choose to wear uniform or their own, school appropriate, clothes.

PE Kit must be worn for PE:

- Team coloured t-shirt
- Navy blue or black shorts
- Trainers
- Navy blue tracksuit pants or leggings
- School Hoodie
- Earrings **MUST BE REMOVED** for all PE sessions

Tops



Bottoms

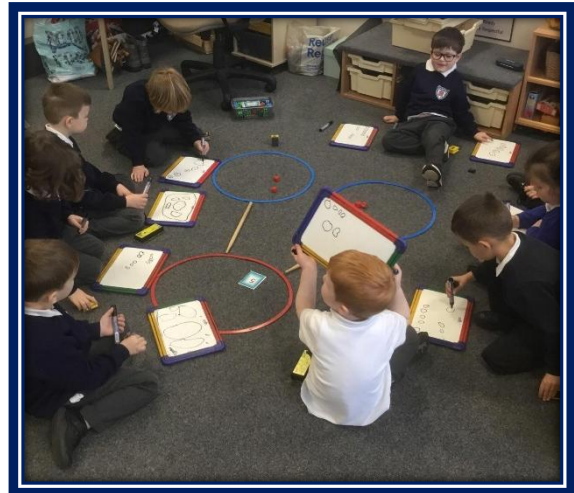


Shoes



What Your Child Need's in School

- A suitable coat (remember it may get dirty or wet!)
- Hats, scarves and gloves in the cold weather.
- Sun hats in the sunny weather (sun cream is to be applied at home before school.)
- A full set of spare clothes including underwear, socks / tights and uniform (in case of accidents including slipping in the mud or getting very wet in the water area!) these will stay on your child's peg until they are needed!
- Water Bottle.
- Book bags with reading book and reading record (these need to be in school daily!)



Additional Needs and Early Identification

As a school, we are committed to ensuring every child receives the support they need to thrive. We place a strong emphasis on early identification of special educational needs by closely observing each child's development, working in partnership with families, and using ongoing assessment to recognise any emerging areas of difficulty. When a need is identified, we create tailored support plans and collaborate with parents, staff, and external professionals to ensure each child's individual strengths and challenges are understood and nurtured. Our inclusive approach ensures that all children feel valued, supported, and able to make meaningful progress in a caring and stimulating environment.

A Last Note

We are very excited and honoured that you have chosen Carnforth Community Primary School for your child's primary education. We are a welcoming and happy school and are certain that your child will thrive in our school family as an important and treasured member.

If there is anything that is not covered in this booklet or has not been explained clearly to you please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you,
Sarah Hudd



School Information

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