STARTING SCHOOL

Welcome to Summerfield



Information Booklet for

New Parents and Carers

Welcome to Summerfield School!

This booklet aims to help prepare you and your child for the exciting adventure of starting school. Here you will find the information you need and some ideas about how you can help your child feel ready for school. We believe all children should have a really positive start and go on to have a successful education.

We recognise the value of parental support to children's all-round development and learning, and we want to work in partnership with you to help your child develop as a valuable member of our school community and go on to achieve their full potential.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Mr Ian Fraser-Kirkup, our Executive Headteacher via the school office, or Miss Emily Webb, Assistant Headteacher for Early Years and Key Stage 1 via our email: eyfs@summerfieldschool.org

We look forward to welcoming you to Summerfield School.



Mr Fraser-Kirkup

Executive Headteacher



Miss Daley

Associate Headteacher



Miss Webb

Assistant Headteacher

EYFS/KS1

School Contact Details:

Our school office opening hours are 8:00am to 3:45 pm Monday to Friday, during school term time.

Address:

Summerfield School

Downley Avenue

Bradwell Common

Milton Keynes

MK13 8PG

Telephone:

01908 662585

Email:

office@summerfieldschool.org

eyfs@summerfieldschool.org

Website:

www.summerfieldschool.org

Preparing your child for school

At Summerfield we have a comprehensive transition programme to help children settle into school. This includes:

- 'Stay and Play' sessions after school during the Summer term.
- Our local preschool visit for a morning session in the Summer term.
- Preschool and nursery setting visits and/or calls from our Early Years team.
- Home Visits in July – a really useful tool in getting to know your children and families individually.

We offer parents and carers the choice of a physical Home Visit or a Phone Call.

How will we help to prepare your child for school this year?

- Our Starting School and Curriculum Booklets for Parents and Carers can be accessed via our 'New Starters' page under the 'Parents' tab on our school website.
- A Welcome Booklet for you to share with your child, sent out in July.

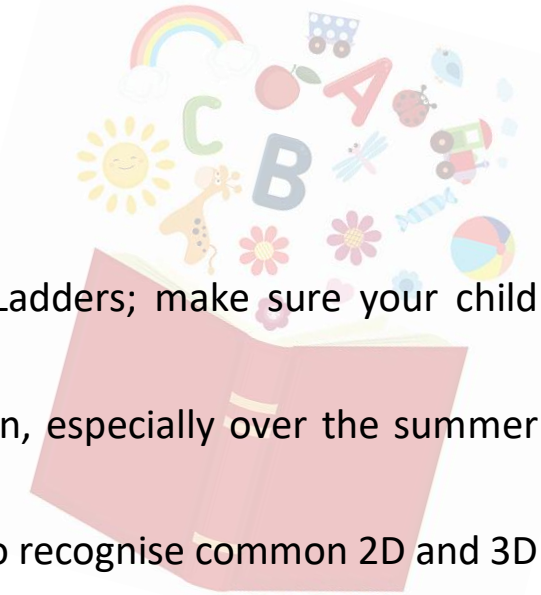
- Home Visits or a Phone call from one of our Early Years team – a great opportunity for us to speak to each other face to face and ask any questions you may have about your child starting school.

- Stay and Play sessions to allow your child time to explore their new environment and begin meeting their peers and teachers.

- The first few weeks of school will be carefully planned to provide your child with many opportunities to get to know each other, explore our setting and what we have to offer, and share their own interests to help them feel settled, safe and supported in school.

How can you help prepare your child for school?

Here are just a few ideas about how you can help your child prepare for school. We are sure you are doing lots of these already and have many more that you could add!



- Teach your child nursery rhymes and songs.
- Share books and stories together.
- Go to the library and share a range of books.
- Play turn-taking games such as Snakes and Ladders; make sure your child learns how to take turns, win and lose as well!
- Have opportunities to play with other children, especially over the summer holidays (if possible).
- Talk about shapes and colours, helping them to recognise common 2D and 3D shapes.
- Talk about numbers and teach your child to count objects accurately. You could involve your child in helping around the house by counting out the bowls or spoons needed to lay the table, counting steps up and down the stairs, look at house numbers, or numbers on cars and buses when you go for a walk.
- Talk about mathematical concepts such as: taller, shorter, heavier, lighter, full, half full, empty, less than, more than, higher, lower.
- Let your child handle money and learn to recognise coins.
- Encourage your child to dress and undress themselves, including having a go at using buttons and zips.
- Ensure your child can manage using the toilet by themselves, including wiping themselves and washing their hands afterwards.
- The National Literacy Trust has a useful website providing further ideas to encourage parents to 'Chat, Play, Read' on a daily basis. This can be found here: SMALL TALK. These regular interactions will support your child's developing communication and language skills.



Settling in during the early days

During the first few weeks of school in September, the Early Years Team spend their time really getting to know the children and helping them to settle into the new routines of school. This also helps us to build up a picture of each child's individual starting points to support us in planning for their future learning at school.

The Early Years Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the statutory framework we follow.

It consists of three Prime areas:

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

These underpin the four specific areas of learning:

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

We use this framework to create our own curriculum which aims to capture the unique interests and needs of all the children in our cohort. This is primarily taught through a combination of indoor and outdoor play-based learning.



We also include a number of daily focussed teaching sessions involving Maths and Phonics. Please see our **Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum Booklet** for more information on the different areas of learning.

Supporting your child with their learning

There are lots of ways for you to support your child's learning at home.



The most important thing we ask is that parents **read** with their child as often as possible. This includes reading stories to your child as this helps them to develop a love of reading and good story language, as well as their understanding.

Children who love stories and are able to talk about and retell stories have a brilliant starting point once they are ready to write.

Reading also includes listening to your child read for around 5-10 minutes per day. Initially this will begin with reading through the sounds they have learnt in Phonics, this will then progress onto word reading and then reading books. This reading support in the early years is paramount in helping to grow their confidence as readers.

We hold a reading and phonics workshop for parents and carers in the Autumn Term. These are a great opportunity for you to understand how we teach your child to read and offers hints and tips on supporting your child's reading at home. We encourage all parents to attend these sessions if they can.

We ask that parents set aside some time each day in a comfortable and quiet space to enjoy reading together. Please feel free to ask if you would like any further advice on how to support your child's reading, we are always more than happy to help.

During the year, once children are ready, we will send home further learning activities, such as number recognition, sight words, letter formation and handwriting activities.

In Early Years we use an online system called 'Class Dojo' in order to document the children's learning and development in school. We post regular updates of their learning which we encourage you to access from home. This is an excellent opportunity for you to see what your child gets up to all day, and for you to contribute with your own observations from home. It also allows us to send out messages and information to all parents and carers.

General Information

The school day



Our school day starts at **8:45am**, when the teachers will open the doors and welcome the children into school via their classroom entrances. During this time, children are encouraged to put away their own belongings and access a variety of activities to support them settling in, and later to support their own learning in all areas.

Registers close at 9:00am in the classrooms.

If your child arrives after 9:00am you will need to go to the school office to sign them in. Children who arrive after 9.00am will receive a late mark in the register.

School finishes at **3:15pm** each day. Please collect your child from the Early Years playground. To ensure we keep all children safe, we ask children to wait inside the classroom until a member of staff has seen their parent or carer. If someone different will be collecting your child, please inform us in the morning, or by contacting the school office during the day where you will be asked to provide a password. We are unable to let children leave with another adult unless we have been given your permission prior to collection.

Attendance

In order for children to make good progress in their learning, it is important for them to attend every day. It can be difficult for children to try and catch up with their learning if they miss days. At Summerfield School, we really believe that every day counts, and we do a lot to encourage good attendance from all children.

If your child is unwell and will be absent from school, please contact the school office in the morning to inform us of the reason for absence. If your child is going to be absent for more than one day, you will need to repeat this each day.

Behaviour for learning – our school values



Our Ethos

At The Blue Sky Federation, we believe every child deserves the very best education, opportunities and life chances, whatever their starting point.

Our purpose is to help every child become the best they can be by nurturing curiosity, ambition, confidence and a love of learning. We develop the whole child, preparing them not only for success in school, but for life beyond it as kind, responsible and resilient members of society.

We celebrate the uniqueness of every individual and recognise that our diversity makes us stronger. We value every child, every family and every member of staff, creating an inclusive community where everyone feels safe, respected and able to flourish.

We know that children and adults achieve their best when they feel supported, challenged and valued. Together, we create a culture of high expectations, strong relationships and continuous improvement, where everyone is encouraged to learn, grow and make a positive difference every day.

This is underpinned by our shared commitment to The Best You Can Be - Everyone, Every Day.

Our Vision

This is our shared commitment across The Blue Sky Federation.

It means striving to be our best in everything we do, whether we are learning, teaching, leading, supporting or governing. It is about making a positive difference every day through the choices we make, the relationships we build and the way we treat one another. Our four values show us how we do this.



Our Values

	**Resilience** **We Keep Going** We believe everyone can improve through effort, perseverance and support. When things are difficult, we stay positive, learn from mistakes and keep moving forward. **We:** Keep trying. Learn from mistakes. Stay calm and find solutions. Ask for help and help others. Celebrate effort and progress.
	**Responsibility** **We Do What Is Right** We take ownership of our actions, our learning and our work. We understand that our choices matter and that everyone plays an important part in our federation. **We:** Do what we say we will do. Come prepared and ready. Are honest. Look after our school and each other. Put things right when we make mistakes.
	**Respect** **We Treat Everyone Well** We create a community where everyone feels valued, included and safe. We listen, show kindness and recognise that everyone has something to contribute. **We:** Listen to understand. Speak kindly. Include others. Value different ideas and experiences. Care for people, property and our environment.
	**Restorative** **We Make Things Better** We know that everyone makes mistakes. What matters is how we respond. We reflect, repair relationships and learn so that we can move forward together. **We:** Tell the truth. Reflect on our actions. Apologise when needed. Forgive and move forward. Learn and improve every day.

Open door

At Summerfield School, teachers are always happy to speak to you about any questions or concerns you have both before and after school.

If, for any reason, you are unable to speak to us during this time, please make a note in your child's Home School Communication Book or send us a message via Class Dojo and we will contact you as soon as possible. If your question or concern is urgent, please call the school office.

School Uniform

AUTUMN TERM

- Red sweatshirt / cardigan (with or without logo) (Foundation to Year 5)
- Black sweatshirt (with or without logo) (Year 6 pupils only)
- Black trousers / skirt / pinafore dress
- White polo shirts (with or without logo)
- Plain dark school shoes or black trainers

SPRING/SUMMER TERM

- Red sweatshirt / cardigan (with or without logo) (Foundation to Year 5)
- Black sweatshirt (with or without logo) (Year 6 pupils only)
- Black tailored shorts or Red gingham dress
- White polo shirts (with or without logo)
- Plain dark school shoes or black trainers

P.E. KIT

- Plain black shorts or tracksuit trousers
- Red t-shirt with Summerfield logo or plain red t-shirt
- Black Plimsolls / Dark trainers

All kit should be named and brought to school in a named drawstring PE bag (no logo)





Lunchtimes



All children in Early Years have the option of a free school lunch (hot and cold options available). Children eat together in the hall. Information about how to order your child's meals will be provided when your child starts school. Most parents and carers prefer to order meals half termly to ensure some weeks are not missed.

In order to support your child's transition into school, we do ask that **all children bring a home packed lunch containing familiar foods and a drink for their first day of school**.



We are an **ALLERGY AWARE** school. Please do not include any nuts, or foods containing nuts (e.g. cereal bars and chocolate spread) in lunch boxes.

You can book free school lunches for your child from their second day of school.

Snack times

All Early Years children are provided with milk free of charge until they are 5 years old. Children in Early Years and Key Stage 1 are also provided with fruit each day. This is delivered to school each week and the children share this together mid-morning. Children have the choice of milk, or water if they prefer. No time is wasted at Summerfield and we use snack time as an excellent opportunity for conversations and stories which helps to develop their language skills and vocabulary.

Children must bring a named water bottle to school each day too. These will be kept in the classrooms for children to access at any time.

If your child is unable to drink cow's milk, you are welcome to send in an alternative such as soya milk.

Further Information

When your child starts school, we will ask for information regarding your child's medical and dietary needs, as well as any foods they should avoid.

- **Walks** - You will be asked to sign a consent form at the beginning of the year to enable us to take your child on walks within our local area.
- **P.E.** – Children will have a P.E. lesson every week and will also have a term of Dance sessions with our dance teacher Miss Wendy. Children come to school dressed in their P.E. kit on their P.E. day which will be shared at the start of the term.
- **Coats** – Children should have a coat in school appropriate for the time of year, preferably with a hood.
- **Label Clothes** - Please ensure all children's belongings and items of clothing are **clearly labelled** with their name, so we can return them if they get lost.
- **Cooking** – Children will have regular opportunities to cook and try different foods in school. We will send out a letter with further information in the Autumn term.
- **Water bottles** – children must bring a **named** water bottle to school each day which they will have access to throughout the day.

If you require any other information or have further questions, please visit our school website, contact the school office or contact Miss Webb via eyfs@summerfieldschool.org.



