



Welcome to Porters Grange Primary School & Nursery

Starting school at Porters Grange



Dear and family,

Welcome to Porter's Grange Primary School. The information in this booklet will help prepare your child for their first year at school. Our aim is to work together in partnership to make this transition to school a smooth, pleasant and happy experience for you and your child.

Any queries please call 01702 468047.

With thanks,

The EYFS Team.



Our Vision

Children – we want our children to be happy, engaged, active, independent, chatty confident explorers!

Adults – our adults are organised, happy, calm, playful, talkative, confident, friendly and observant!

Interactions – we aim for all of our interactions to involve creativity, concentration, energy, persistence, interest and enjoyment!

Environment – our environment is safe, engaging, exciting, child friendly, uncluttered, accessible and provides opportunities for a variety of learning styles.

Timetable – we have a daily timetable that is shared, flexible, relevant, age appropriate and includes large amounts of indoor and outdoor free flow play.

Parents – we want our parents to work in partnership with us and hope that they are supportive, engaged, polite, caring and happy!

Planning – our planning is flexible, child centred, annotated, reflective of the EYFS curriculum, shared, exciting, practical.



Parent responsibilities

When collecting your child from school at the end of the day please let your child and class teacher know -

- Who is meeting them (if it is different from the person who brought them to school)
- To wait with the class teacher if, for some unfortunate reason, you are not there.
- Please inform the school office of any changes to who will be picking up your child at the end of the day.

Please help your child by not being late, but if you are late in the morning then please take your child to the school office, so they can be signed in.

If your child is ill, please telephone and leave a message with the school office on the first morning of illness.

Things to bring on a daily basis

- Book bag (for reading book, newsletters, home/school book, letters and sounds book -please bring this every day).

Back packs and ruck sacks are not suitable as they do not fit the storage provided.

- Water bottle (named and kept in the classroom) - taken home each day for refilling;
- Lunchbox (if required).



Lunch options

All infant children can have a free school dinner. There is a menu available from the office so you can check that your child likes what is on offer.

There is always a vegetarian option.

You can also provide your child with a packed lunch. We support healthy eating. All children must have either water or a carton of 100% fruit juice/smoothie. Please make sure this is a healthy lunch with some fruit and vegetables and no fizzy drinks, sweets or chocolate.

Your child will need to tell the teacher in the morning during registration what they are having for lunch.

To ensure the safety of children in the school with nut allergies, please do not include any food that may contain nuts in packed lunches.



Early Years School Uniform

Children should wear sensible clothing and shoes. Children should be able to dress and undress themselves. We like to see our pupils wearing uniform and having a clear Porter's Grange identity. We would ask parents to provide children with sensible black shoes.

Girls' Uniform

Grey pinafore, grey skirt or jogging bottoms; white blouse or white polo shirt; blue sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan; blue/white check dress (summer term); blue fleece (optional).

Boys' Uniform

Grey short or jogging bottoms, white shirt or polo shirt; blue sweatshirt or jumper; blue fleece (optional).

Parents may purchase blue sweatshirts, cardigans, fleeces and white polo shirts embroidered with the school's name and logo from 'Pauls Discount Clothing' on Southchurch Road.

There is no need to purchase a PE kit at this stage of the school year. Children will be having PE lessons in the summer term.

Waterproof clothing

Wellington boots, waterproof jackets and trousers can be kept in school for nursery and reception children only.

Please label all items of clothing with your child's name.

Useful hints

It is helpful if your child wears clothes that are easy for them to get on and take off, and shoes that do not have laces. **Please label all items of clothing with your child's full name, and show your child where their name is on their clothes.** Please remember there will be 29 other blue sweatshirts/cardigans and 29 other white polo shirts that all look very similar!

It is also helpful if your child can:

- Dress and undress him/herself
- Use a tissue or handkerchief
- Use a knife and fork (if school dinners)
- Wash hands and dry carefully
- Tidy toys
- Share toys and take turns
- Use the toilet independently



Your child will start on the date stated at the front of the booklet. The children have different start dates so they can settle with ease, get to know the school routine and enable them to get to know all the practitioners in our early years setting.

Our starting school process gives a greater opportunity for your child to feel secure and the practitioners to get to know your child well.



It is important that you understand our criteria for your child to begin full time school. At Porters Grange we believe starting school should be a positive and happy experience for children and their families. Therefore, we have agreed statements to help us judge school readiness for children. It is important that you know and understand our criteria and work with us to settle your child into school life.

Children will only start full school days when they are able to:

1. Separate from their carers easily
2. Move independently around the playground and class (both indoors and outdoors)
3. Stay wake and alert all day
4. Be happy in the large playground
5. Cope with changes in adults in the classroom without distress
6. Stay within the set boundaries of the classroom
7. Behave appropriately (non-aggressively) for the majority of the time
8. Manage their own needs and personal hygiene.

Settling into School

Remember all children respond differently to starting school. As the practitioners working with your children, we endeavour to make their experience of school fun, familiar and secure. As a parent/ carer you can help us by reassuring your child, being positive about school and being careful that your own anxieties do not influence your child. Remember some children will tell you every detail of their school day. Other children tell you nothing!

If you or your child has a particular worries or concerns, just have a chat with the teacher (sometimes out of earshot of your child may be appropriate). The best time to do this is at the end of the school day once the teacher has safely handed over all the children to their parents/carers.

Remember your child is only four years old and may have 'misread' situations. Set your mind at rest and chat to the practitioners. On the other hand you'll be surprised how independent your four year old can be when allowed.

Learning through play

Play helps young children to learn and develop their physical, social, emotional and intellectual skills through doing and talking, which research has shown to be the means by which young children learn to think. It is also how they learn to socialise, as children engage in learning experiences with other children and adults.

The Early Years Foundation Stage us a play based framework that childcare providers use as a tool to ensure that children from birth to five are developing and learning to their full potential.



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Prime Areas

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Physical development
- Communication and language development

Specific areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

We will observe your child to assess how they are learning and developing using photos, videos and work samples. We will update you on their progress through formal discussions when you collect your child. We will work together with you on how to move your child to the next stage of progress.

We welcome any contributions to your child's in school learning journey. We look forward to seeing you at your home vist.

The EY Team at Porters Grange.

Your new school



When you arrive at the school the ladies in the office will welcome you and help with any questions you may have.





These photos above are of the Reception areas and classrooms.



These are the toilets which are in the Reception area, just outside the classrooms.



The school hall is where we have our lunch and do our PE lessons. The school library is where you will be able to look through and share books.



Above you can see our KS1 playground and below are some photos of our sensory rooms.





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