



Lawn
Primary
School

Foundation Stage Booklet



Dream, Believe, Achieve

Welcome to the Foundation Stage at Lawn Primary School

Starting school is a very big and important step for your child and here at Lawn we pride ourselves in doing everything we can to make that transition a happy one. One of the ways we do this is to ensure that school and home work together as a partnership ensuring the best possible start for your child. Our school is a happy, stimulating and engaging place where all children can discover, learn and play.

Our children learn through a wide range of play-based and child-initiated activities as well as more formal methods of learning and adult led group work. Our aim is to inspire a true love of learning in your children by encouraging them to develop their confidence and curiosity through a broad and stimulating topic based story led curriculum.

We value each child for their individual characteristics and activities are designed to follow the interests of the children and to move every child forward no matter what their starting point. The relationship between home and school is one that we value and we welcome communication about your child's interests and achievements outside of school to enable us to celebrate these successes. Throughout the year there will be opportunities for you to attend workshops to see your child's learning in action.

We hope you find this booklet useful in helping you to take the first step on this journey together.

Meet the team

The Foundation Stage consists of two classes of 30 mixed ability children.

Mrs Reardon-Golding

Foundation Stage Teacher

Hi I'm Mrs R-G. I might be your teacher next year when you start school so I thought I'd tell you and your grown ups a little bit about me. I've been working at Lawn Primary School for nearly 8 years now. I first started teaching in year 4, then moved to year 2 and now I'm about to welcome you as my fourth class in Reception. I love teaching Reception and definitely have a huge passion for all things EYFS. As well as being a Reception Class Teacher I have also recently qualified as our schools Early Years Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCo). My role involves supporting those children who start with us who are already recognised as having SEND and also promoting the early identification of children who may present as having SEND so that they can be supported better in the classroom. Any queries or concerns about your child can be discussed with myself and I will do my best to support you and point you in the right direction for advice, support or resources.



Outside of being a teacher, my partner and I are respite foster carers. We have been doing this for about 2 years and have enjoyed providing care and support for lots of different children during this time. We don't have children of our own but we do have a 1 year old wire haired dachshund fur baby called Wilbur who I'm sure you'll hear me talking all about if you're in my class. I love alpacas (I even had them at my wedding last year), holidays in the sunshine and have recently found a new interest for DIY, I'm not very good at it though!

I am really looking forward to meeting you all and teaching you.



Mrs Sally Levesley

Foundation Stage Teacher

Hi I'm Mrs Levesley and I might be your teacher next year. So let me introduce myself to you and your grown-ups. I have been teaching for 24 years (I can't believe it's been that long!) and have taught most year groups during that time. I've had jobs in Lincolnshire, Uttoxeter and worked at two very different schools in Luton. My last post in Luton was as a Deputy Headteacher of an infant school. My husband and I then moved to Derbyshire to settle into family life. Since then I have been at

Lawn Primary School, for 13 years now and 12 of those have been in Foundation Stage. I have worked part time for 12 years, but I am so excited about going back to full time teaching this year to teach a year group that I love. I am passionate about teaching in the Early Years and am fascinated by how young children learn and develop. As well as being a Reception class teacher, I am also training to become an Attachment Lead at the school. This is a fascinating role which is enabling to help many children to overcome possible social and emotional issues and any possible barriers to learning that may have been brought about by trauma, loss, separation, adoption, being in care and a variety of other complex situations that children sometimes bring into school. If this is an area that you or your child feel you may need some help or support with I will do my best to support you by offering advice and directing you to available services.

When I am not teaching I love spending time with my family. I have two children Freddie and Phoebe who are 12 and 10 years old and keep me very busy. We love spending time exploring the Derbyshire countryside, especially the caves! We also love camping when the weather is good and do this at every opportunity.

I am really looking forward to meeting you and teaching you in September.

Mrs Sarah Millington

I'm Mrs Millington and I am a full time Teaching Assistant at Lawn Primary School. I work in the Foundation Stage and support Mrs Levesley's class.



Mrs Victoria Hill

I'm Mrs Hill and I am a full time Teaching assistant at Lawn Primary school. I work in the Foundation Stage and support Mrs R-G's class.

The children will also encounter many other members of staff during their time at school, here a few of the main people they will meet.

Mrs Karen Hambleton our Headteacher



I am so looking forward to becoming the new Head teacher of Lawn Primary School. You have made an excellent choice for your most precious possession, your child, and together we will work to provide the best possible learning experience for each and every one. The well-being, safety, happiness and academic success for all the pupils at Lawn is our priority and I value open and honest dialogue with parents so to drive the school in being the very best it can be. So do remember that my door is always open and I look forward to developing a very special and successful partnership with you all.

Mrs Donna Hallam our Deputy Headteacher



Hi, I am the Deputy Head at Lawn and in September 2020 it will be the start of my 7th year and I have loved every minute. I don't have my own class which means I am incredibly fortunate in that I am able to work with lots of children from all year groups. Along with Mrs O' Hare I am also the attachment lead within school to help any of our children or families that need extra support. I am also a trained Mental Health First Aider for adults – so please remember I am here for you as well as the children. Family is incredibly important to me and I feel we have a wonderful Lawn family which I know you are going to love being part of.

Mrs Jo O'Hare our Learning Mentor

I work with children who may need some support to be happy and settled in school. I will use a variety of fun and interesting ways to support your child. I strive to build strong, positive relationships with both yourself and your child. Hopefully, your child will learn how to better negotiate the classroom environment; be better able to understand the social side of school life and become more confident within school and home.



Mrs Natahsa Dumelow Tree House Manager

I am Mrs Dumelow and I look after everything to do with our Treehouse Club which provides before and after school care for your children. If this is something that you require all of the information can be found on the school website or contact me via the school.

Learning, discovering and exploring

At Lawn we strive to provide high quality early education in a happy secure and caring environment as they transition from nursery or home to school. We aim to provide a stimulating and experience rich curriculum both indoors and outdoors enabling the children to explore the world around them. We enable the children to establish their own sense of identity and to grow and develop their own sets of skills as speakers, listeners, readers, writers, scientists, historians, geographers, musicians, mathematicians, and artists.



Play is a fundamental part of the EYFS curriculum which is carefully observed and led. It will help your child:

- become creative and imaginative
- work alongside or co-operate with other children
- communicate
- investigate and discover
- be happy
- express feelings
- extend their experiences in a safe environment
- care for others
- develop and express new ideas
- explore
- develop concentration
- share
- make sense of the world
- practise and develop skills
- take risks
- learn self-control
- understand the need for rules

As a school we are passionate about reading instilling a love of books in all of our children as such our curriculum is story led. For example when we learn about mini-beasts we start with familiar stories about mini-beasts such as 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. We provide many opportunities throughout the day for children to be engaged in looking at books in our vibrant reading corners. Each classroom has its own well stocked, inviting reading corner where children can choose to come and look at a book, either on their own or sharing with a friend. We also provide puppets and objects linked to stories to encourage the retelling of familiar stories.

We use stories to help deliver the curriculum but we also advocate the reading of stories simply for pleasure and we gather together to share stories at regular times throughout the day. With our aim being to instill a love of books into all of our children.

We engage in daily DEAR (Drop Everything And Read time) which is a school wide initiative where every member of the school children and adults alike stop everything to read a book at 1.15pm.

Curriculum

We follow the EYFS curriculum which is broadly divided into 7 areas of learning.

The Prime Areas: Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)
Communication, Language and Literacy (CLL)
Physical Development (PD)

The Specific Areas: Literacy (L)
Maths (M)
Understanding the World (UW)
Expressive Arts and Design (EAD)

The classrooms are organised so that the children will have easy access to all of the areas of learning.

Both classroom have a:

Stimulating well-resourced writing area where they can build their confidence in becoming independent writers.



Reading corner to inspire a love of reading and storytelling.

Funky fingers area where children can access a range of activities to develop their fine motor skills such as play dough, bead threading, peg boards etc.



Maths area where children can explore a wide range of activities associated with number and shape space and measure.

Understanding the World area for the children to explore science geography and history style activities,

Creative area for the children to express their inner artists and designers through drawing, painting, printing, collaging and modelling,



Construction area for the children to build models and act our stories.

Role play area for the children to develop their communication and language skills. This changes on a regular basis to give the children different experiences.



An outside classroom where the children can learn all of the areas of the curriculum in a different environments, we have a large sandpit and a mud kitchen a garden and a trim trail, a wooden stage and mirror to inspire our budding actors, literacy and numeracy sheds, scooters and bikes for gross motor skills as well as many other resources to support all areas of the curriculum that are added to the outdoor area.



Characteristics of Effective Learning

Both the indoor and outdoor environment will have open ended opportunities for children to focus more on the characteristics of effective learning and how they learn.

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 creating
- Keeping trying
- Enjoying achieving what they set out to do.

Creating and thinking critically - thinking

- Having their own ideas
- Making links
- Choosing ways to do things

During a typical day your child will learn through a variety of methods:

Whole Class Focused Activity: The children will all work together with the teacher.

An Adult led Group Focused Activity: The children will work with the teacher or Teaching Assistant in a small group.

Self- Initiated Learning: The children access the well prepared provision independently.

A day in the life of your child at Lawn

8.45 Children are welcomed into school and they go and 'get busy' at the wide range of activities on offer in the classroom.

9.05 We gather together for carpet time and welcome everyone to the learning for the day. The children then go to the activities.

10.15 Snack time

- 10.30 Playtime
- 10.45 Daily Phonics session
- 11.00 Activity time where the children go and get busy at a range of activities covering all areas of the curriculum including the use of our outside classroom.
- 12.00 Lunchtime – The children take their school lunch in the main dinner hall (include picture) served by our fabulous dinner staff. They will then spend time outside on the playground or the field enjoying time with their friends.
- 1.15 Carpet time
- 1.30 Time to 'get busy' on the afternoons activities, again covering the wider curriculum.
- 2.45 Afternoon playtime.
- 3.00 Story time on the carpet together to enjoy a wide range of books. Reading is our passion at Lawn and we take every opportunity to share stories together simply for enjoyment.
- 3.30 Home time We walk to the children down to the Foundation Stage gate and we will and them over to the adult collecting them (if this is not going to be someone who has parental responsibility for your child you will need to let the office know)

Physical Education

PE is introduced gently during the first couple of weeks and changing into the PE kit is managed in stages. We start with taking our socks, shoes and jumpers/cardigans off and work up to the full PE kit!

In PE we play games, dance, use small equipment such as balls, quoits, bean bags and skipping ropes and we move our bodies in different ways both on the floor and on the large apparatus.

Playtime

The children go onto the small playground at playtime with the children from year 1 and year 2. There will be two members of staff on duty to look after them. Each class has a designated day when it is their turn to use the large trim trail. We encourage the children to go to the toilet and wash their hands before they go out to play. During the first half of the Autumn Term the children will eat their snack time fruit in the classroom before they go out to play. We all sit in a circle and use it as a getting to know you/ chatting time. As the term progresses the children can eat their fruit at the snack table during the morning or take it out with them at playtime.

Lunchtime

School dinners are free for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. The teacher will take the children to the lunch hall every day and help them to collect their food. The children are given a place at the table with their friends. The lunchtime playworkers will help them during lunchtime and when they have finished eating will take them to the playground.

Settling your child into school

The school gates open at 8.45 a.m. You must walk around the school with your child (please do not come through the hall). For the first couple of weeks you are welcome to come into the classroom with your child but we ask that you please leave by 9 o'clock so that we can start our activities.

After two weeks we would encourage you to leave your child at the small gates leading into the Foundation Stage area where there will be a member of staff to greet them.

Collecting from School At Home time

Please wait outside of the small gates leading to the Foundation Stage area. The teacher will bring the children down to the gate. We send one child at a time through the gate when we see the parent/carer who has come to collect.

If your child is going to Tree House After School Club then a member of staff will come to the classroom to collect them.

Preparing your child for school

Let's get ready for the beginning of an exciting journey together. How can you best prepare your child for school to make the transition to the next stage of their lives as easy as possible?

Independence is something we strive for at school so encourage your child to be as independent as possible, even if this means getting dressed in the morning takes a bit longer!

Give your child the opportunities to:

- Dress and undress themselves.
- Use the toilet independently
- Tidy up after themselves.

- Recognise their own name
- Feed themselves.
- Share toys and equipment with others.
- Sing songs or nursery rhymes
- Count to 10.
- Listen to stories and follow simple instructions.

Other ways to help over the summer holidays

- Give your child as many varied experiences as possible, drawing, painting, cooking, gardening, making models, singing, playing, games, doing jigsaws etc.
- Get them used to holding and using pencils, crayons, felt tips, chalk, paintbrushes, play dough, scissors.
- Share stories, books and rhymes.
- Count out objects,
- Talk to them and engage them in conversation about what they are doing
- Role play schools at home – this is an effective way of helping your child to understand what will happen

Settling your child into school

The children will arrive at school at 8.45am and be brought round to the entrance to the Foundation Stage classrooms (COVID permitting) you will be able to bring your child into the classroom and help them settle to an activity. We do however ask that parents leave by 8.55 am to enable us to start our activities promptly. After the first few weeks we will encourage your child to walk in to the classroom from the Foundation Stage gate by themselves to develop their independence.

Once in the classroom the children soon settle and get busy.

General Information

Reward / Sanctions Systems

- Especially at the beginning of the year we give stickers to children for trying hard, doing something wonderful, for being helpful and kind.
- **Sun, Star, Cloud:** All of the children's names are on the sun at the beginning of the day. If they make a bad choice their name goes to the cloud. If they do something good; are kind, try hard etc. they will go on the star. The children love this and we do make sure that if a child's name does go on the cloud they get lots of opportunities to redeem themselves and get back on the sun.

- **Yellow and Red Cards:** We do not use these in the classroom but the play workers do at lunchtime. If your child receives a warning because of bad behaviour, they will be given a yellow card. If this behaviour persists then they will receive a red card and you the parent will be informed.

Water: Please send a full named water bottle everyday (only water, NOT squash)

Fruit: The children are given fruit at snack time. If you want to send your own snack then it must be fresh fruit, not fruit bars.

Name Labels: Please label all of your child's clothing with their name. Show your child where the name label is.

PE Kit: Your child needs a PE kit, T-shirt in house colours, black shorts, an old pair of jogging bottoms and an old jumper or sweatshirt, training shoes that can be left at school. Please put names in everything.

Wellington Boots that can be left at school.

WOW slips: If your child does anything at home that they are proud of then write it on a wow slip and post in the box. This can be anything from swimming, reading a road sign, noticing numbers, riding a bike for the first time. This will help us build a bigger picture of what your child can do and what they are interested in at home.

Activity Sacks: Your child can borrow an activity sack to take home. These contain stories and non-fiction books to read to your child. They also include games for you all to play. They can be borrowed on a Monday and return it school on Thursday or borrow it Friday and return it on Monday. There will be a small cost to replace damaged or lost items.

Parents as Partners

We recognise the importance of parents and carers' in a child's developing stages. As their primary care provider you are your child's first educators and we greatly value your input, opinions and information you can share with us about your child's learning and progress.



Class Dojo

You will have received and invite to sign up for Class Dojo this is our primary way of communicating with you during your child's time at school. This is the place where you can send quick questions to the class teacher and it is where we can upload letters and documents for you to view. It is used by the Senior Leadership Team and

often subject leaders to communicate on a whole school level too. It is really important that you sign up for this as it is a great way to keep in touch, we also love to share your child's success on here too!

If I have a concern

Please contact us if you are concerned about anything, no worry is too small. You can talk to the class teacher at the end of the day at the school gate, send a query via Class Dojo (see above), leave a message with the TA on the gate if it doesn't need a conversation with the class teacher, or you can make an appointment to speak to your child's class teacher if you wish.

For any queries please contact your child's class teacher on the following email address:

s.levesley@lawn.derby.sch.uk

k.golding@lawn.derby.sch.uk