



Ratby Primary School

Inspiring a love of learning

Headteacher: Mrs Lisa Jones

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Clare Astill **Assistant Headteacher:** Mrs Kayleigh Denton

Welcome to the Foundation Stage

We welcome you and your child to Ratby Primary School and hope that you will find the following information useful. However, if you have any queries or questions before this, please do not hesitate to ask.

We understand that this year may present some difficulties with children settling back into school and we have been planning for many weeks to ensure children are returning to a welcoming environment. We have been working hard to ensure our curriculum is focused on well-being and supports children in settling into school life. We are very happy to report that the children have all settled in incredibly well, and are engaging in all activities with interest and enthusiasm!

We will also be carrying out some assessments in the first few weeks to establish starting points for your child's learning in English and Maths. These assessments will enable us to plan lessons that focus on each child's next steps in learning, supporting your child to make good progress.

The Foundation Stage Team

The class teachers in Foundation Stage are Mrs Anstey (Rainbows) and Miss Hughes and Mrs Hurn (Sunshines). The learning support assistants are Mrs Brooks (Rainbows) and Mrs Wright (Sunshines).

In Foundation Stage, we normally like to operate a very friendly 'open door' policy. However, with social distancing it makes this particularly difficult this year. If you do have any concerns, please feel free to write it in your child's Home School Diary. We are always happy to listen to and answer any questions regarding your child's schooling.

Attendance and Punctuality

Regular and punctual attendance is essential if children are to gain maximum benefit from school, therefore we ask that:

- Your child arrives at school at 8.45am every day.
- If your child is absent, please ring the school before 8.45am to explain why.
- If your child is going to be absent at a future date, please complete an absence form from the main reception.
- Children in Foundation Stage who arrive at school late and after the 9:00 am arrival time must enter the school through the office as the registers will have been taken.
- If your child has had sickness and/or diarrhoea, they are required to remain off school for at least 48 hours after the **last** episode.



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Behaviour

In Foundation Stage we operate a simplified version of the school Behaviour Policy. Children are supported to engage in appropriate play and to develop their social skills, forming positive relationships with other children and adults. Children will receive stickers for their rockets for good behaviour, excellent attitudes to learning and fabulous work. When they have filled their rocket they can choose a prize to take home.

In addition, we give out individual certificates for Handwriting, Super Writing and Reading Ranger.

Inappropriate behaviour is dealt with firstly by reminding the children and supporting them to make better choices. If the behaviour continues then they will have 5 minutes 'Time Out' with a sand timer. You will be informed if your child has required any 'Time Out.'

Characteristics of Effective Learning

You will see observations in your child's learning journey that reflect not just what they are doing, but how they are achieving their outcomes – their characteristics of learning, such as:

- Perseverance
- Having their own ideas
- Solving problems

More information on our School Behaviour Policy and Anti-Bullying Policy can be downloaded on our school website.

Foundation Stage Curriculum

At Ratby Primary School we base our curriculum on Cornerstones, which is a creative and thematic approach to learning that is used by the whole school. We have carefully planned certain topics to engage children at different stages in their development, and adapt our curriculum to meet the needs of our children.

Over the Autumn Term our first Topic will be 'If you go down to the woods today' which is linked to the Cornerstones unit 'Why do squirrels hide their nuts?' Please see the attached Topic Web for more information on how you can help your child at home.

Phonics

We teach phonics 3 times a week, and will teach several phonemes (letter sounds) each week. We will assess the children every half term, but you can work at your own child's pace using the booklets we will send home. You will start with Phase 2, then Phase 3 and then Phase 4. There is a lot to learn!

You are in a position to make the biggest impact on your child's progress. Keep revising phonemes that they already know and as soon as they are ready, help them to blend phonemes together to make words e.g s/a/t **sat**

By the end of the year children are expected to get to the end of Phase 4



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Reading

We will read once a week with your child in school, and will set targets for them with suggestions for how you can help them at home. Please read regularly with your child and make a comment and sign their Reading Journal – if they read at least 3 times a week with you, they will receive a sticker on their bookmark which is at the back of their journal.

By the end of the year children are expected to read and understand simple sentences. They use phonic knowledge to decode regular words and read them aloud accurately. They will learn to read some common irregular words. They will also demonstrate understanding when talking with others about what they have read.

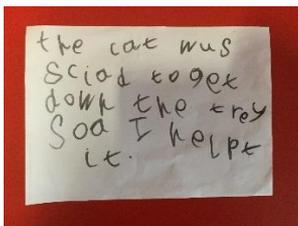
Writing

We model writing skills every day, teaching the children how to plan a sentence, remember the sentence we want to write, use phonic skills to sound out words and leave finger spaces between words.

We provide many opportunities for independent writing in role play areas inside and outside.

Our Teacher guided sessions will specifically target your child's next steps and we will teach, practice and apply new learning. We also teach handwriting each week, following the Penpals scheme of work.

By the end of the year children are expected to use their phonic knowledge to write words in ways which match their spoken sounds. They will also write some irregular common words. They write simple sentences which can be read by themselves and others. Some words are spelt correctly and others are phonetically plausible. Please see below an example of an 'expected' piece of writing:



Maths

Maths is always taught and practiced with practical problems to solve. The children may talk about Marmalade Maths – these are carpet sessions where we teach and practice new skills. Paddington Bear presents us with problems to solve and we follow a Maths Mastery approach, ensuring that all children are challenged but also that everyone achieves the lesson's objectives

Mastery is not just about knowledge- lots of children can count without fully understanding the concepts of calculation. It is about applying what they know to new situations, problem solving, and being able to reason and talk about what they know. We explore numbers in detail for several weeks. Each lesson gives children plenty of time to practice skills and also include challenges for higher achieving children.

Your child will have a turn at bringing home one of Paddington's Maths bags with resources and games for you to play.



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By the end of the year children are expected to have a secure working knowledge of numbers beyond 10: reading, writing, comparing, adding, subtracting, and understanding the concepts of doubling and halving amounts of objects

Other areas of learning

Our curriculum also includes other areas of learning, some of which are taught as lessons, and some are provided in our continuous provision opportunities, such as outdoor play, role play areas, creative tables, small world play and construction.

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

PE kits

In Foundation Stage, our PE session is on a **Wednesday**. We will always do PE in the hall, but please ensure your child arrives to school in their outdoor PE kit because they will need to be warm and comfortable throughout the day. We recommend black joggers or leggings, white T shirt, a black hoody and trainers (preferably Velcro!) At present we are not doing Forest School, but the children are having plenty of big outdoor play, including balance bikes, digging area and the muddy kitchen.

Other Information

Please also ensure that your child's book bag is brought into school every day, and that it returns with them each evening. We would like to encourage that book bags are checked on a daily basis for any notes, and that they are kept tidy.

- Children will **ONLY** be able to bring their own water bottle (clearly name labelled), lunchbox and the school book bag.
- We will be using cloakrooms but we endeavour for these to be as uncluttered as possible.

As mentioned above, please feel free to contact your child's class teacher regarding any aspect to do with your child and their schooling.

We look forward to an exciting year of learning and development.

Many Thanks,

Mrs Anstey, Miss Hughes, Mrs Hurn and the Foundation Stage Team