



JOLESFIELD CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



WELCOME TO JOLESFIELD CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

OUR SCHOOL VISION

Our school vision is to create an inclusive Christian community where children develop a love of learning, grow in confidence and flourish. Our approach is underpinned by the Bible verse from John 10, 'Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life and live it to the full."

We are proud to be a Church of England primary school and our vision is firmly based upon the Christian principle of 'life in all its fullness'. At Jolesfield, we believe that as children of God we are all equally valued, plus, a happy child is a learning child. We pursue academic rigour and excellence in all we do, whilst prioritising emotional wellbeing, to enable the whole school community to flourish.

OUR SCHOOL VALUES

Our approach to learning is firmly built upon our school values, which are underpinned by our Christian values. This enables every child to grow spiritually and emotionally, fostering imagination and a deep sense of personal identity and self-worth, with guidance provided through the loving example of Jesus Christ.

We are committed to not only developing learners but raising principled citizens to flourish in our community. Our children memorise these values and they are an intrinsic part of our daily life.

These are our values: Thankfulness; Respect; Teamwork; Positivity; Kindness

OUR CURRICULUM IS ...

- progressive
- personalised
- inclusive
- collaborative
- aspirational
- purposeful
- broad
- balanced
- rich
- creative
- inspiring
- fun!





We are delighted that you have chosen our school for your child and we look forward to welcoming them into our Reception year in September. Starting school is an important event which we aim to make as stress-free, as possible. The aim of this booklet is to support a smooth transition into school and to help your child settle quickly into their class. Please take some time to read it before your child starts school and let us know if you have any questions.

Children settle into new situations at different rates, bringing with them a range of different experiences. Our first priority is for your child to feel secure, valued and included. Your child will need to adapt to the daily school routines, become familiar with a new environment and also begin to form positive friendships and relationships with lots of new children and adults.

Partnership

From experience we know that the transition into school is most successful when parents, carers, schools and other adults (such as pre-school/nursery colleagues; health visitors) work in partnership. Good partnerships require a two-way flow of information and are promoted by valuing and building on children's previous experiences and learning. These partnerships begin before your child starts school and will continue throughout their time at Jolesfield Church of England Primary School.

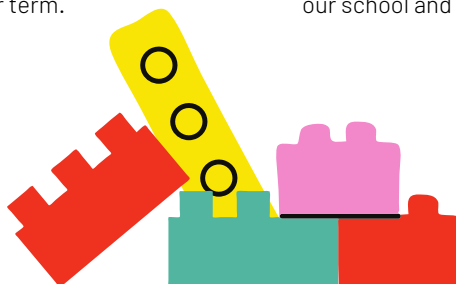
Promoting Partnerships

We want to work with parents and carers to support your child's transition into school. Therefore, we offer an appointment with class teachers in the summer term.

The first meetings with new families will take place in your homes. Meetings with parents, who are already a part of the Jolesfield community will take place in school. 1:1 meetings help teachers build up a picture of your child so that they can accommodate their needs efficiently from the first day. In addition, these are a good opportunity for parents to ask questions. A strong home school partnership has been shown to have a huge positive impact on children at school.

The first meeting in school will be a welcome meeting for parents and carers to attend. (Children do not need to attend this session). This meeting will allow you to get some information about your child's school and you will also have a meet and greet with your child's class teacher.

The next important dates will be dates for stay and play sessions. During this time your child will be invited into school for their first experience of Reception and will allow them to get to know new friends, teachers and their classroom environments. All of these dates are important (even if you have a child already at our school and know us well).



STARTING SCHOOL



Getting ready for school

Below are a few things that you can do before your child begins school that will help them to settle in:

- Clearly label all items of clothing – including coats, hats, gloves and shoes, lunch boxes and book bags. (Also, please check from time to time that the labels are still in place and clear.)
- Encourage your child to be responsible for putting away their own things. They will be encouraged in school to put book bags, books, lunch boxes, water bottles, coats and jumpers in their correct places from the beginning of the school year.
- Allow your child to practise dressing and undressing, including using fasteners that they find difficult. Encourage your child to be as independent as possible. We are happy to support your child with dressing and undressing when necessary but do encourage them to have a go.
- Encourage your child to feed him/herself and use a knife and fork independently. Praise your child for showing good table manners.
- Reinforce independent toileting and also hand washing and drying.
- Encourage your child to listen carefully at appropriate times and follow simple instructions.
- Support your child to take turns when sharing games and activities.
- Encourage a sense of responsibility by asking your child to clear away their toys independently, take their own plate to the sink etc.



SETTLING IN

Children are given a 'staggered start' into Reception at Jolesfield CE Primary School. Even if they have spent whole days at nursery, school is very different. There are lots of new faces, new buildings, routines and expectations to get used to. It is very demanding and tiring for your child, however independent and capable they are. A gradual introduction helps children have the space to process their new experiences.

We know that as parents this can involve a great deal of planning and organisation, especially if you are working. We have, as a staff team, discussed the best way to introduce your child to school and have reviewed the responses from our current Early Years parents regarding the way we implement our induction, and consider this to be the best way. We apologise if this will be difficult for some, but have found that the children settle easier this way and it is their needs that are paramount at this time.

STAGGERED START AUTUMN 2023

Monday 4th September: Group A 9 - 12
Group B 1 - 3

Tuesday 5th September: Group B 9 - 12
Group A 1 - 3

Wednesday 6th September: All 9 - 12

Thursday 7th September: All 9 - 1 (including lunch at school)

Friday 8th September: All 8:50 - 1 (including lunch at school)



From Monday 11th September onwards, the whole class will be full-time. Our school day starts between 8:40 and 8:50am and the Reception children's day ends at 3:15pm. Children are greeted by a member of teaching staff at the classroom entrance (external door from the playground) and collected from the same place.

On Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th September, please bring your child to the school office for the start of their session. However, from Wednesday 6th September, please bring your child through the playground to a member of teaching staff, who will be at the playground door of Ladybird classroom. During our staggered start week, all children should be collected from outside the main school entrance at the end of their session.

OPEN DOOR POLICY

It is important to keep us informed about circumstances that might affect your child. Your child's class teacher will be available to briefly talk to and can take short messages at the start of the day. Obviously as mornings are very busy, if you need to talk for more than a brief moment, please make an appointment to see your child's class teacher outside of their teaching time. This can be done in person or by telephone. Similarly, a staff team member will inform you of anything significant that has taken place, during the school day or your child's class teacher might request an appointment with you.



PARENTS AND CARERS IN SCHOOL

Parents and Carers are invited to join many events throughout the school term to celebrate your child's efforts and find out more about their learning journey. Invites are shared primarily through newsletters. The first event in the autumn term is Thursday 28th September. This is an opportunity for all parents to join their child in class from 9am - 10am in order to join in with a phonics, maths and self-initiated play session.

We welcome helpers in Jolesfield CE Primary School. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you are able to come into school and help. This could involve listening to readers in other year groups. Please note that regular volunteers must be DBS checked to help in school.

HOME LEARNING

In Autumn Term, we will send home a reading journal. This reading journal will log our reading sessions at school. It is also for you to share the reading you are doing at home. Whether this be sharing the school book, a school library book or a book from home. Please keep an eye on our google classroom as we may send home some activities for home, such as bringing in a photo of when you were little or asking you whether you have spotted any of our learning at home.

'WOW!' MOMENTS

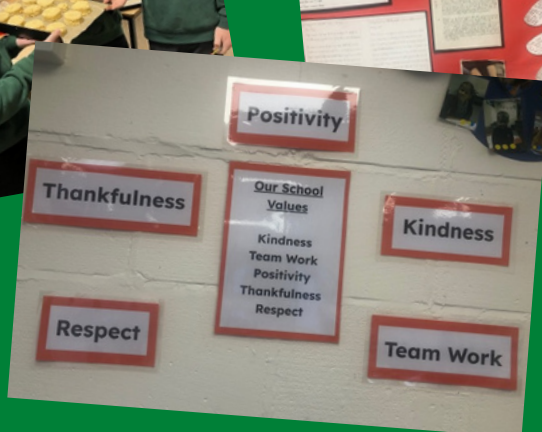
We like to hear about your child's achievements at home. This may be events such as counting to twenty for the first time, writing some words, brushing teeth independently, retelling a story, a new baby in the family, talking about insects your child has found... or anything else that you feel is important! Please share these at drop off, send a note or email the office. In addition, through Google Classroom, teachers will often ask a question regarding an area of learning and ask about your observations at home. Please share your observations, directly to the class teacher through Google Classroom. We also have weekly 'Show and Tell' sessions in class, linked to our learning. If your child has something they would like to share linked to the term's learning, this is their opportunity. Plus, if your child attends a club outside school and has something to celebrate, then this can be added to our 'Suitcase of Success'. Parents are invited weekly to our celebration worship (Fridays 2:45pm) where individual children are celebrated for a wide variety of reasons.



KEEPING YOUR CHILD SAFE

Our top priority is to provide as safe an environment as possible for your child. You can help with this in a number of ways...

- Provide us with at least two emergency contact numbers and please do let the school office know straight away if they change.
- Please let us know if there are any changes in the person who usually picks up your child. If it is an emergency or you only find out at short notice please telephone the school office. We will only let your child go with another adult if we are informed beforehand.
- All children must be brought to and collected from school by an adult; we will not let anyone under the age of 18 collect your child.
- Please let us know of any medical conditions affecting your child or any other factor affecting their wellbeing.
- If your child is unwell, you should call the school office to report the absence before 9.00am. Alternatively, you can report the absence via ParentMail.
- Children with diarrhoea or vomiting should stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 2 days (48 hours).
- Please let us know of any allergies or dietary requirements your child may have.
- If you visit the school during the day please report to the school office via the main school entrance. It is essential that we know who is in school at all times.





TEACHING AND LEARNING

We firmly believe that the experience we offer and provide at Jolesfield in the Early Years is vital to ensure a strong start to a child's education as EYFS is the bedrock where the foundation knowledge and skills begin in readiness for KS1, KS2 and beyond.

Children choose from a wide range of stimulating and relevant activities which engage them fully and allow them to effectively demonstrate the characteristics of effective learning. The classrooms and the outdoor areas are stimulating and organised to enable children to make progress in all areas of learning whilst developing their own ideas.

Learning opportunities are promoted through loose parts play provision allowing children to 'tinker' with and move materials around, design and redesign in order to develop thinking skills through an 'I wonder....' approach. This encourages creative thinking and imagination by allowing pupils to assign their own meaning and purpose to objects.



THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

We have a large reception classroom, which we continuously adapt, to support the development of specific skills and learning for each child. We also have a well-resourced outdoor area.

The Reception space is equipped with a reading corner, home corner, sand area, water area, creative station, listening area, a small world area, construction zone, writing area, maths area, computers and interactive whiteboard.

Our outside area also includes a digging pit, mud kitchen and a large space to enable physical development.

DEVELOPING ORACY SKILLS

We recognise the importance of developing 'word rich' pupils rather than 'word poor'. In order to thrive socially, emotionally and academically, we equip children with the skills and opportunities to become confident orators. From EYFS to Year 6, pupils are immersed within a rich vocabulary and encouraged to use precise and ambitious language.

The skills of being a good communicator are taught and shaped progressively through our curriculum and school values. Lessons are structured to ensure there is time for children to express their own opinions and share these with a partner, small group or class. Children are taught how to respectfully disagree and use evidence to support their thinking.

Further opportunities to develop oracy are provided through participation in our many pupil-led groups. Communication skills are an essential component of being a successful buddy for a younger child or through being a librarian, digital leader, school ambassador or member of sports crew.





THE CURRICULUM

We firmly believe that the experience we offer and provide at Jolesfield in the Early Years is vital to ensure a strong start to a child's education. EYFS is the bedrock, where the foundation knowledge and skills begin in readiness for KS1, 2 and beyond.

Our curriculum meets the requirements of all seven areas of the Foundation Stage curriculum, while specifically meeting the needs of our children. In addition, we teach Religious Education.

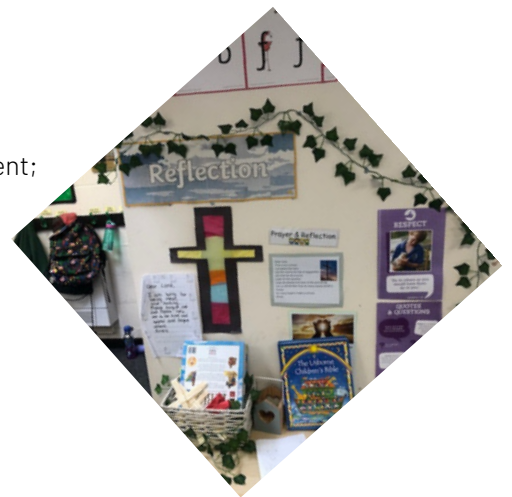
The EYFS curriculum is split into Prime and Specific areas. The prime areas are important because they lay the foundations for children's success in all other areas of learning and of life. The specific areas provide the range of experiences and opportunities for children to broaden their knowledge and skills:

The Prime Areas of learning are:

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

The Specific Areas of learning are:

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



ASSESSMENT AND RECORD KEEPING

Throughout your child's time in Reception at Jolesfield CE Primary School, we will be forming a picture of their attainment and progress from our observations. These will help us to identify your child's strengths and needs. During the Summer Term, these are used as the basis for a report to you on your child's development and progress in Reception. Your child's learning record will also provide valuable information concerning your child for their Year 1 class teacher.

You will have an opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher at Parents' Evening sessions held in the Autumn and Spring Terms to discuss their progress. Together, we will agree on some learning targets and next steps for your child.

We welcome your contributions regarding your child's development and any comments about significant events in your child's life. Parents are also encouraged to contact us with comments, observations and photographs at any time throughout the year.

We use Google classroom to share some of your child's experiences across a week. From time to time we will also post information about what is coming up and suggestions for ways that you can support your child at home. Our primary source of communication, regarding school life, is our fortnightly newsletter which is sent via Parentmail. In addition, our website is a wealth of information and contains in depth information about the curriculum your child is following.



ASSESSMENT AT THE END OF THE EYFS

In the final term of the year, the EYFS Profile is completed for each child.

The Profile provides parents and carers, with a well rounded picture of a child's knowledge, understanding and abilities, their attainment against expected levels, and their readiness for year 1.

Each child's level of development is assessed against the early learning goals.

For each early learning goal, teachers will assess whether a child is meeting the level of development expected at the end of the Reception year ('expected'), or not yet reaching this level ('emerging').



THE SCHOOL DAY

WHAT DOES THE SCHOOL DAY LOOK LIKE?

The school day begins at 8.40am and the children should be brought to the classroom door at the top of the ramp.

Below is an example of the timings of the school day.

8.40 - 9.00 Start of the day activities and registration

9.00 - 9.30 Reading Groups

9.30 - 10.30 Self initiation and adult led learning

10.30 - 10.45 Playtime and Snack

10.45 - 11.00 Phonics

11.00 - 12.00 Self initiated and adult led learning

12.00 - 1.00 Lunch

1.00 - 1.30 Funky Fingers

1.30 - 2.45 Self initiated and adult led learning

2.45 - Worship

3.10-3:15 Class story and Hometime



The school day ends at 3.15 pm. children are seen out to parents or guardians one at a time by their teacher or teaching assistant. Children will leave through the gate on to the main playground once we have seen the person collecting. We will only let children go to the adult we are expecting to collect them.

If you are not collecting your child yourself it is important to let the school know in advance. Please speak to the class teacher in the morning or ring the school during the day if your arrangements change.

If you have any concerns, however small, please speak to the class teacher before or after school.



OUR STAFF TEAM

Our committed, caring Early Years staff team enjoy being in an environment where they are fully supported and encouraged to be innovative. We have a team of adults who possess a high level of skills and make a significant contribution to the children's learning and development. Please refer to our 'who's who' document to become familiar with the names and faces of those adults who will be working with your child.

Teachers: Mrs Parr and Mrs Johnston

Assistants: Mrs Balicki and Mrs Andrews

There will be times during the week when your child may be taught by other school staff for some sessions. In addition, two sports coaches from Albion in the Community will lead one PE session.



DRINKS AND SNACKS

Please ensure that your child has a named water bottle (containing water only) in school every day. Fresh fruit is provided everyday as part of the Healthy Schools Initiative. It is essential that we are made aware of any special dietary requirements or allergies.



LUNCH

Under the Government's Universal Infant Free School meals initiative all hot school meals at lunchtime in our school are free for children in Reception-Year 2. We would strongly request you to encourage your children to take advantage of this.

The ethos behind this Government initiative comes from The School Food Plan which presented evidence that "universal free school meals leads to positive improvements in health, attainment and social interaction as well as helping families with the cost of living". Lunches are provided by Easy Lunch, we have attached further information for you with this pack. The menu for school lunches can be found on our school website.

CLOTHING

Although we provide aprons and take care, the children are often working with messy materials which can spread everywhere. We do have a limited supply of spare clothes which we can change your child into.

It is important that your child brings a suitable coat with them every day as they may choose to spend extended periods outdoors. We have waterproof jumpsuits for children to wear in the outdoor areas. We require all children to have named wellies in school. In cold weather your child will need warm clothing, including a hat and gloves. It is very important that all of your child's clothes are marked clearly with their name. In summer it is important your child has a sunhat (again named).

BEHAVIOUR

We expect high standards of behaviour from all our children. On arriving at school we make clear to the children our school values and together we make "rules", based on these, so that we can all operate happily together. We make clear the boundaries of good and unacceptable behaviour. Children are praised for their good behaviour and given the reasons why they are being praised. Children are encouraged to talk about any difficulties and problems with their peers, should these arise, and start to feel confident in seeking their own solutions. If we find there are difficulties concerned with your child's behaviour or any other matters we may ask to discuss these with you.



ATTENDANCE

Please refer to our main policies and procedures with regards to attendance in school. It is important for you to contact the school office by 8.50am if your child is absent due to illness or any other reason. We also require you to let us know if your child will be arriving to school later than the normal start time (8.50am) or leaving school before normal dismissal time (3.15pm).

The school will:

- Contact parents if their child is absent and we do not know why
- Hold family meetings if parents are persistently struggling with attendance
- Visit the home of families who have poor attendance and offer support
- Have regular meetings and report to governors on figures, examine closely trends and patterns

AND FINALLY...

Remember that the teachers and teaching assistants working in Reception are there to help you and your child enjoy the best possible start to their time at Jolesfield.

If you have any problems, no matter how trivial you think they seem, please come into school and talk them through.

We firmly believe that school and home need to work together to ensure the success of our school ethos:

Jesus said 'I came that they may have life and have it to the full.'

John 10:10



Your Back-to-School

CHECKLIST



SCHOOL UNIFORM

- Dark green sweatshirt or cardigan
- Grey or black shorts or trousers or skirt
- White or Green polo shirt
- Black shoes (no trainers or canvas shoes)
- Green and White checked summer dress



PE UNIFORM

- Black shorts
- White T-shirt
- socks
- Plimsols or trainers
- A drawstring bag - homemade or available from the school office



EXTRAS

- Black tracksuit bottoms to be kept in PE bag
- A water bottle
- Lunchbox (if not having school meal)
- Wellies to be kept at school



BOOK BAGS

The children will also need a book bag to keep their reading books and reading record in. These can be purchased from the school office.



SNACKS

Children do not need to bring a snack to school as every child is provided with a piece of fruit each day. Your child will need to bring a water bottle to be used in the classroom every day. This bottle will come home every day to be washed and refilled. These are available to purchase from the school office or they can bring their own.

ALL ITEMS OF UNIFORM SHOULD BE NAMED WITH FIRST AND SECOND NAME.

Uniform can be purchased from Your School Uniform - www.yourschooluniform.com, or from supermarkets.

The school also has a supply of second hand uniform - please speak to the office if this is of interest.

Children Learn What They Live

If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.

If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.

If children live with fear, they learn to be apprehensive.

If children live with pity, they learn to feel sorry for themselves.

If children live with ridicule, they learn to feel shy.

If children live with jealousy, they learn to feel envy.

If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.

If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.

If children live with tolerance, they learn patience.

If children live with praise, they learn appreciation.

If children live with acceptance, they learn to love.

If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.

If children live with recognition, they learn it is good to have a goal.

If children live with sharing, they learn generosity.

If children live with honesty, they learn truthfulness.

If children live with fairness, they learn justice.

If children live with kindness and consideration, they learn respect.

If children live with security,

they learn to have faith in themselves and in those about them.

If children live with friendliness,

they learn the world is a nice place in which to live.



Dorothy Law Nolte, Ph.D.

