

Horsford Church of England Primary School  
Foundation Stage Unit



# Welcome



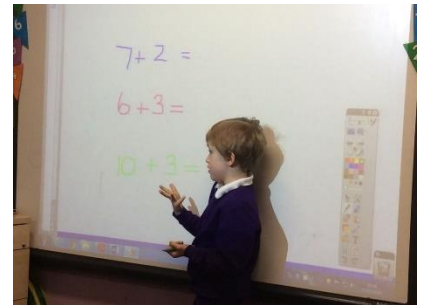
# Welcome

## Our Foundation Stage Unit

Welcome to the Horsford Church of England Primary School Foundation Stage Unit, known as 'Wonderland', because it consists of Cheshire Cat and White Rabbit class.

From the very start of their school life children at our school are encouraged to be independent. The classrooms allow children opportunities to make choices and decisions in a safe environment with adult support and encouragement. Children enter their classrooms from the outdoor classroom each day. Teachers greet the children from 8:45am until 8:55am. At this time parents say goodbye and children come into the classroom to hang their coats and book bags **independently**.

Throughout each day the children access all the areas of the curriculum through both adult directed and independent activities. Each day begins with the children coming together to talk about the daily philosophy question and to share compliments, developing the children's speaking, listening, friendship and thinking skills, the teachers then introduce the day and discuss the activities the children can enjoy. The rest of the day consists of a mixture of time for the children to develop their learning either individually, within a small group, with a teacher or as a whole class. The children are encouraged to use all three classrooms (2 indoor and 1 outdoor) to develop their learning independently through play.



Each day the children will take part in short carpet sessions focusing on the maths topic of the week, phonic skills for reading and writing and a learning review to provide the children the opportunity to reflect on the skills they have been developing through their play. The children take part in a daily 'dough disco', to help develop their fine-motor skills so important for writing. Later on, the day is ended by bringing the children together once again for a story before they go home.

At lunch time the children can choose between having a hot dinner or packed lunch in the hall. When the children have finished their lunch, they will join the rest of the school on the large playground, this gives them the opportunity to mix with other children and experience a range of play equipment and games.

At home time parents wait outside their child's classroom and children will be dismissed at 3:05pm when the teacher can see the parent has arrived. Parents are asked that they do not approach the classroom windows or try and get their child's attention as this can distract from what the class are doing.

## Home Visits

Every child is offered the chance to have a home visit. We feel it is important to meet with parents and carers before the school term begins. By visiting you in the home environment we are able to talk to and interact with your child in their most comfortable surroundings. Please note that the home visit is optional. The Foundation Stage staff will visit your home and give you all the information you require before your child begins school. This will be an opportunity for us to find out more about your child and for you to make us aware of any issues regarding your child's progress or needs.



Each visit lasts around fifteen minutes and you will be given time to talk to the teacher and ask any questions you have about your child starting school. We want to ensure that you and your child have plenty of time to talk to and become familiar with us before school begins. We want your child's start at school to be as smooth as possible, we recognise that as parents you know your child best and any information we can gain from you to help us to settle them will benefit everyone involved.

## What should you expect in your child's first week at school?

The most important thing you must remember during your child's first week at school is that there are lots of other children and their parents going through the same experience. This is a big step in your child's development and a significant shift in their routine. We understand that every parent worries about their child's first week at school. It is our aim to support you and your child as much as we possibly can during this time and in the future.

Below are some tips that will help you support your child during their first week at school.

Have a morning routine at home.

Speak confidently and positively about school.

Get to school promptly.

Reassure them they will have lots of fun

Tell them that all the parents/carers have to go home.

Say goodbye quickly and reassure them that they will have a good day.

Don't give in to refusals before school, if you can get them to school they will be fine.

If your child holds on to you allow their teacher or teaching assistant to take them from you.



# What will your child need to bring to school?

We take pride in our uniform. All items can be ordered using the school order form. Please consider buying elastic or Velcro fastening school shoes, these should be flat shoes.

**Please ensure ALL items of clothing are named, even coats and shoes!**

**Waterproofs and Wellies** We have a wonderful outdoor classroom for the children to learn in and we like to get out there in all weathers. If your child has waterproof clothing and wellies in school, then it will enable them to make the most of these opportunities. We believe there is no such thing as bad weather, just inappropriate clothing.

**P.E. Kit** The children will start to do P.E. in the Summer Term. At this time, they will need a P.E bag, containing shorts and a T-shirt.

**Spare Clothes** Sometimes the children are engrossed in their learning and have an accident we have spare clothes at school for these occasions but if your child would prefer to wear their own clothes please send a spare set in to school, (socks, pants, trousers/skirt, T-shirt) within a plastic bag.

**Book Bag** Any letters from school will be placed in your child's book bag. Your child will also be given a reading diary during the home visit, please keep this and any future school reading books or school library books in this bag for easy access when they are needed in school. *The reading diary forms an ongoing communication about your child's reading at home and at school, and we encourage you to note down comments, about your child's reading in it.*

**Hot Dinners/ Packed lunch** School meals are available for free every day. A menu for the term is available in the entrance area of the school. Your child may have a school dinner every day or may choose to eat when their favourite food features on the menu.

Some children choose to have packed lunch, parents sometimes find it easier to monitor how much their child is eating and know they can provide some of their child's favourite foods. Please ensure that lunch boxes are named and not over filled as this can prove too much for some children to manage.

As we are trying to promote healthy eating within school, we ask that lunchboxes do not contain any of the following items:

Sweets

Chocolate

Fizzy drinks

**Nuts, Peanut Butter or Chocolate Spread products are not allowed due to allergies.**

Fruit snacks and water are available throughout the day, but we do advise that children bring their own **named** water bottle that they can access at any time. Tuck-shop is available every day, with free fruit available or a healthy snack for 20p.

# The Curriculum

Throughout their time in school the children learn a wide range of skills. Activities are planned in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

The curriculum is split into **seven** main areas of learning, these are:

## Personal Social and Emotional Development

Talking about personal experiences, getting to know ourselves and the people around us. An introduction to Religion and Religious festivals.

## Communication and Language

Speaking and listening skills and the understanding of language.



## Literacy

Letter recognition, reading, writing, letter formation, pencil control and the knowledge of books.

## Mathematics

Number, counting, shape, pattern, money, measure and estimation.

## Understanding the World

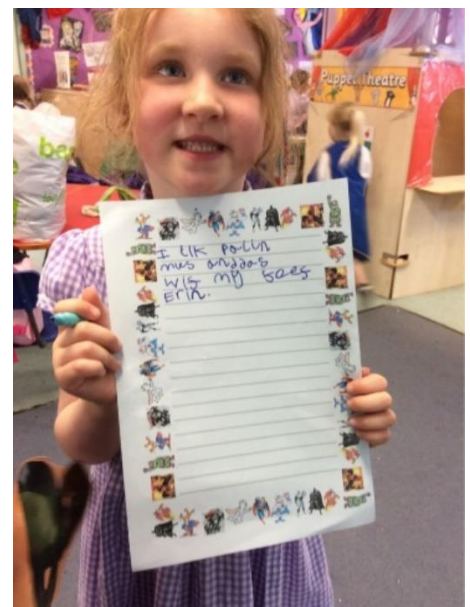
Life processes, understanding of living things and how to care for them, our environment, life in the past, designing and constructing and using ICT in everyday life.

## Physical Development

Understanding how the body develops and changes, ball skills, balancing, following instructions, sequencing actions and controlling movements.

## Expressive Arts and Design

Pencil control, drawing, pattern, colour, paint, colour mixing, using powder paints, texture, collage, 3d construction and modelling, music and role-play.



# The Foundation Stage Profile

The Foundation Stage Profile focuses on your child's achievements in the seven areas of learning. In order to keep track of what your child has achieved during the year we will make observations, take photos and keep notes on what they are doing. We use an online system to record our observations called Tapestry. This allows us to upload photos and make notes about the children's achievements and share them in a secure way with parents.

When your child has achieved something in one of the seven areas of learning we will record their achievement on their Foundation Stage Profile. Each child is taught according to their own learning style and needs. All children are individual and we recognise that they each have their own strengths and areas for development. By keeping a record of what your child is achieving we are able to focus our teaching to your child's individual next steps, it is our aim to ensure that they get exactly what they need to enthuse, encourage and move them on.

## Whole School Routines

### Assertive Mentoring

Teachers are available and happy to speak with parents after school most days. If you have something that you would like to discuss with them, please make an appointment. During the year there are a few formal occasions where you can meet with your child's teacher to find out how your child is progressing and how you can support them at home. Towards the end of the Summer term you and your child will have final assertive mentoring meeting and a report will be sent home which records their progress and achievements for the year.



### Friday Reading

Every Friday morning parents are invited into school to read a book with their child in the classroom. Children really enjoy this time and it is a chance for parents to look at displays in the classroom and get a feel for where their child spends their day. This begins after the first term.

### Helping in Class

All parents and carers are encouraged to come into their child's class during the year to help and join in with activities. Parents are welcome to come into school from Term Two (Spring Term) onwards, as this allows children time to settle in. If you would like to help in school or on school trips you must complete a CRB check form which are available from Mrs Richardson in the school office.

# Class Routines

## P.E.

From the start of the third term your child will take part in regular PE sessions. Please ensure your child brings their P.E kit into school after the Easter break and takes it home during the holidays.

## Playtimes

The children have two set playtimes each day.

Mid-morning - playtime of 15 minutes.

Lunchtime - eating/playtime 12pm until 1pm

Playtimes are also an opportunity for children to go to the toilet. These facilities are available throughout the day and children are encouraged to go as and when they need to.

## Library

Children are able to choose one library book to borrow when they visit as a class each week.

## Class Books

Children will have their reading books changed once a week by their class teacher or a member of school staff. Children must bring their reading book and diary to school everyday. They will also be able to choose a class book as often as they like. Parents are welcome to come into the classroom after school to help their child obtain a new class book. Each time a child reads at home they are given a raffle ticket for the grand draw at the end of each week.



## Supporting your child

Throughout your child's time at school the teachers will work hard to ensure that they make the most amount of progress possible. It is important that this is reflected at home also with the support parents and carers provide. Here at Horsford C of E Primary School we provide many opportunities for parents to come into school to find out what the children are doing. Each week we send home information about our weekly theme with ideas for parents to be able to support their child at home alongside school.

### Reading and 'Tricky' Words

Each child is given a reading diary to keep in their book bag. Parents are encouraged to write positive comments in this book when they have heard their child read. Teachers and Teaching Assistants will also do this weekly when they hear your child read.

Throughout the year there are 'words of the week'. The words are the focus 'tricky words' for the week in school. These are displayed in the classroom windows for parents to see. This is a good opportunity for parents to continue their child's learning at home. 'Tricky words' are words with sounds in them that do not match the way they are pronounced, such as 'the'.

### Stay and Play

During the first term of school you will be invited into the unit to join the children for a few afternoon sessions. During these sessions you will be given the opportunity to listen to a short talk about each of the areas of the curriculum, how they are taught at Horsford C of E Primary School and how you can support your child at home. After the talk you can spend the rest of the afternoon exploring the activities available with your child.

