

Starting Nursery at Claygate Primary School



2022-2023

Welcome to Nursery

At Claygate, we believe that the job of educating is a never-ending one. It begins before a child comes to school and continues long after they have left. By working in partnership with parents, we can further enhance a child's learning.

We hope that you find this booklet useful and can share it with your child, to show them some of the fun things that they will be doing.

We have also included a little bit of information about the staff so that you can get to know us better!



Acorns Nursery



Miss Dias: EYFS Lead

Red Acorns Class

Red Acorns Class is for our 2-3 year olds.

Blue Acorns Class

Blue Acorns Class is for our 3-4 year olds.

Getting to and from school

The main entrance to our school is via Foley Road.

The car park at the front of the school is for staff and visitors only and the gates are locked to maintain a secure site. We encourage you to walk or cycle to school. If driving, we also ask that parents respect our neighbours and are considerate when parking on Foley Road and in the surrounding streets, ensuring that their driveways are not blocked etc. This also extends to our neighbours at Rowan School.

Morning Routine

Parents and children come into the nursery building at their allocated time slot via the green gates. A member of staff will be there to greet you and share any messages etc.

Most children settle quickly at nursery, and we find that the only difficulties you have will be in persuading them to come home at the end of the day. In a new situation and with new people to get used to, however, it is possible that your child may be reluctant to leave you. If they are a bit 'wobbly', your child's settling in programme will be flexible to meet their needs and there will always be a familiar face to help you and your child enter nursery safely and happily.

If your child is unwell and cannot attend nursery, please call the office (01372 465348) giving your child's name reason for absence and expected duration of absence.

The End of the Day

At the end of your child's session, parents will come into the Nursery via the Early Years playground to collect them.

Please remind your children that they are not allowed to play on the apparatus after school.

This is also a handy time for a quick chat or catch up with a member of the Nursery team.

If for some reason you are unable to collect your child, or if there are different collection arrangements (e.g. they are going to a friend's house), please let us know and ask the person collecting your child to make themselves known to staff when they arrive.

If you are likely to be late for any reason, please ring and let us know - this will prevent your child (and us) from worrying.



Clothing

As Acorns Nursery is part of our school, the children will be introduced to our school values. One of our values at Claygate Primary School is RESPECT. 'Respect' has many facets; we teach and encourage our children to respect themselves, each other, the environment, and our belongings.

We learn outside in all weather conditions so make sure your child is dressed accordingly.

The school uniform is part of the school's identity and ethos. We want all of our pupils to feel a sense of pride in their appearance and in belonging to the CPS family.

- White polo shirt
- Burgundy sweatshirt (with or without our acorn logo)
- Dark grey joggers
- Trainers - please ensure that they have a Velcro fastening

We learn outside in all weather conditions so your child will need:

- A waterproof coat with a hood, warm hat and gloves
- All in one waterproofs (any colour or pattern)
- Wellies (It is handy if you mark their right wellie with a dot so they also begin to learn which goes on which foot!)
- A cap/sunhat is essential during hot weather
- In warmer weather we recommend that you apply long lasting suncream each day before school.



Please ensure that all clothing is marked with your child's name.

Many aspects of the uniform can be purchased through high street retailers. Specific school items of uniform are sold through the Parents' Association. The PA Uniform Shop also stocks a number of other items with the school logo, for example, book bags, rucksacks (KS2 only), fleeces, reversible coats and caps. These are optional, although they are popular items and many children choose to wear them.

What should your child bring to Nursery?

- Book bag which they need to bring to Nursery every day.
 - Water bottle
 - A spare set of clothes (knickers, trousers/skirt, top and socks) to be left at Nursery on their peg
 - Lunchbox (if your child has a packed lunch)
 - Nappies, wipes, nappy bags etc in a named bag
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- All children are expected to wear shoulder length or longer hair tied back.
 - EYFS children should not wear any watches or jewellery.



All items to be clearly labelled with the child's name.

How can parents help?

- Do things with your child and talk about it – whether it is everyday things such as shopping, playing outside, a walk or special things, such as buying a birthday present for a friend
- Play games together – board games such as Snap, Lotto, as well as football. Turn taking and losing are life skills they need to experience!
- Read stories to your child, teach him/her songs and rhymes
- Encourage him/her to draw, paint, colour and model with play dough and junk
- Encourage your child to tidy away their toys
- Encourage good manners: 'please', 'thank you', 'good morning' and 'goodbye'

Communication and Language

Many parents worry if their child will be able to tell the teacher when they need something or if they will make friends.

Good communication skills will help them in everything they do. Encourage your child to chat with family and friends and to take turns listening and speaking.

Listening & Attention Skills

Your child will be given many spoken instructions throughout their time at school and will need to be able to shift their attention from what they are doing to listen to what the teacher is saying.

A lovely activity to promote this is to go on a 'listening walk' where your child listens for all the sounds around them in the park or town centre. You could also jot down all the sounds your child notices and talk about these back at home to retell the journey based on the sounds they heard.

Understanding

Classroom instructions often contain several parts for children to remember. A simple game of 'Simon Says' can really help. You could give instructions containing two parts e.g. 'Simon says touch your nose, then clap your hands'. It is a good idea to start off with one step instructions and gradually build up to two or even three.

Speaking

Sorting games help to develop vocabulary. For example sorting sweets, fruit and toys into different piles such as colour, shape and size. Outdoor 'treasure hunts' work well too. Collecting objects found on walks in the park or on the beach help introduce new types of vocabulary such as describing words. Treasure can also then be used to create feely bags, where objects must be described by the way they feel before revealing what the object is.

In Nursery, we will encourage your child to speak in full sentences. When talking to your child model how to speak in full sentences and ask them to repeat it back to you.



School meals and packed lunches

Lunchtime is from 11.30am until 12.00pm, and children may have a school meal or bring their own packed lunch. Speak to a member of the office team if you think you may be eligible for 'free school meals' as this brings further benefits for your child throughout their time at school.

Our meals are cooked in our own kitchens, and are healthy and nutritious. Our caterer is always happy for parents to come in to school to try out a meal for themselves. Information including menus and nutritional information can also be found at www.myschoollunch.co.uk/surrey. If a child brings packed lunch, it should reflect our approach to healthy eating and good nutrition, and **must not** contain nut (or sesame) products, fizzy drinks or sweets.



Milk, Water and Fruit

Throughout the day the nursery children will be able to have fruit and milk as part of their snack time.

As part of the School Fruit and Veg Scheme, children in Reception and Key Stage 1 receive a free piece of fruit every afternoon.

We encourage children to drink plenty of water, and would ask that they bring a named water bottle with them every day; filled with **water** only.



Early Years Curriculum

At CPS we believe children learn best through play with high quality adult interactions to support each child in their next steps of learning development. Our children explore a rich and stimulating curriculum based on the seven areas of learning:

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

This includes developing positive relationships, sharing, and taking turns. We nurture enthusiasm for learning and an appreciation of different cultures.

Our ethos is to be kind, caring and thoughtful to others. Our aim is to develop a sense of belonging and to encourage our children to explore feelings and behaviour towards others.



Communication & Language

This includes developing speaking, listening and thinking skills.



Physical Development

This includes lots of opportunity to be active and improve their skills of coordination, control, manipulation, and movement through indoor and outdoor activities and provision. As well as developing physical skills, such as climbing, jumping, and riding a bike, they will also have a go at threading, using scissors and handling pencils and paintbrushes. We will also be doing lots of work on the importance of keeping healthy and safe.



Literacy

We share books regularly with the children and promote a love of books. In Nursery children will listen to different stories and rhymes to develop early literacy skills.

We encourage the children to attempt their own writing and mark making using a variety of resources and exploring different textures.



Mathematics

This includes counting, sorting, solving practical number problems and exploring shape, space and measures. Early Years maths is very practical and 'hands on'.

There will be lots of opportunities to learn number rhymes and learn how to add and take away through practical daily activities.



Understanding of the World

This includes exploring the world around them through using all their senses. The children will be encouraged to look at similarities and differences and will be given opportunities to build and construct through using a variety of tools and techniques. We will also be developing their computing skills and giving them daily opportunities to use a computer.



Expressive Arts & Design

This includes having the opportunity to use a wide variety of different materials, tools and techniques for painting, printing, collage, and model making. From taking telephone messages, to selling fruit and vegetables in a shop, we aim to provide a wide range of stimulating role-play areas to develop children's imagination.

There will also be lots of opportunity to sing and learn songs and engage in music making. The children will also enjoy music and drama sessions with our specialist Music and Drama Teacher, Mr Davies.



Outside Learning

Great importance is placed on nurturing your child's love of the outdoors.

They will have daily access to an 'outdoor classroom' where provision for all the seven areas of learning will be made.

They will also be able to go and explore their bespoke EYFS woodland area, Mini-Woodies where they will have many rich opportunities to experience the wonders of nature and develop many skills including collaboration and independence.



Assessment in EYFS

At CPS, we observe children's innovation, their creativity, their ideas, their intents and feelings. The insight this provides the staff team enables us to discuss, reflect and plan our environment to support and shape future learning. We want to shift the focus to the child, not the assessment.

All staff feel privileged to be able to observe, play, interact and share in every child's daily learning experiences - being able to share their fascinations, their curiosities and the awe and wonder they experience through their play. We share learning observations with parents through Class Dojo and these observations support both parents and staff in understanding each child's learning journey and successes.

In line with our vision and ethos, we selected 'OPAL' to support the assessment of children in Nursery and Reception as this allows us to tell and celebrate each child's story and focus on the opportunities and support they need next.

Developmental milestones help guide us as we monitor each child's development based on their 'real' age and at six monthly intervals. These milestones reflect what the Department for Education (DfE) feels a 'typical' child, should achieve although at CPS we recognise that children do not always follow a 'typical' developmental trajectory. The government's chosen vocabulary regarding each milestone is 'met' or 'not yet (met)' their age related milestones.

- When children meet milestones, we consider their individual development holistically, ie what we can do to inspire and challenge them further
- If milestones are not yet met, we are tasked with thinking about why, and what we could do to support their next steps.

Parents are part of this process, working in close collaboration sharing thoughts on their child's learning.

In September, children across the country have a 'baseline' assessment. At CPS, this information is shared with parents who are also invited to add their thoughts.

Every month, depending on birthdays or half-birthdays the staff team will focus again on the milestones and a Record of Achievement will again be shared with parents and their views on their child's development will also be included.

At the end of Reception, each child will be assessed against the Early Learning Goals (ELGs). The Early Learning Goals summarise the knowledge, skills and understanding that all children should have gained by the end of the academic year in which they turn 5, ie at the end of Reception in the Summer term.

The Early Learning Goals were updated in the new EYFS Framework 2021 to make them clearer and more specific. They are now more focused on the main factors that support child development at age 5. The seven areas of learning and development are:

1. Communication and Language
2. Personal, Social and Emotional Development
3. Physical Development

4. Literacy
5. Mathematics
6. Understanding the World
7. Expressive Arts and Design

Sharing Achievements Together

At CPS, we aim to establish a partnership with our parents, from initial family information meetings to your child's first visits and beyond. We strongly believe in supporting your child and giving them the best learning opportunities possible.

Your child's 'Learning Journey' is a celebration of your child's achievements and we will ask for your input and your child's voice.

At CPS, we also use Class Dojo online to share and celebrate successes with you and for you, as parents to capture and share 'wow moments' captured at home with us.

We host parents' evenings throughout the year (linked to your child's birth month) to discuss your child's achievements, successes and next steps. In addition, we hold half-termly parent pop-ins which are an opportunity for your child to share and celebrate their learning with you.

Throughout the year, we also organise curriculum workshops (to share ideas with you about how you can support your child's learning at home) and learning together sessions (to welcome you in class to participate in a learning activity with your child).

Weekly celebration assemblies recognise children who have demonstrated the Claygate Values. Children's successes are recognised in these assemblies and shared with you through our weekly EYFS newsletters and the whole school newsletters. We look forward to meeting you and working with you and your child. Please do come and see us if you have any further questions or concerns.

Please do follow our Facebook CPS page, website, our CPS Twitter account and of course our very own EYFS Instagram.

