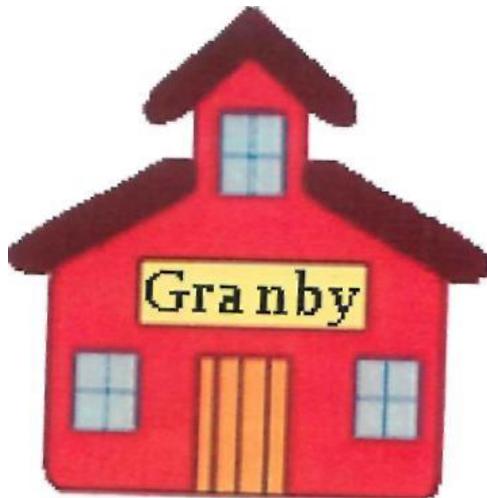


# Granby Primary School Handbook



## Nursery

Children from 3 years.

Information Book For Parents



# Welcome to Nursery

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to Granby Primary School Nursery (also known by our class name of 'The Cubs').

For those of you who have older children at Granby we hope that you already feel part of the school and will be aware of our many aims. For those of you who are new to the school please familiarise yourself with our aims by picking up a school prospectus and feel free to ask any questions you may have at this stage.

Starting school can be an anxious time for both child and parent but we aim to make it as easy and as enjoyable as possible. There are many opportunities for parents to meet staff as their child progresses through the year and we are always happy to help in any way that we can.

We have put together this booklet to inform you about the Nursery and our aims and also to offer you a few suggestions regarding how to help your child before they start in the Nursery.

We will be glad to answer any further questions not covered in this booklet.

Liz Smith

**Early Years Foundation Stage Phase Leader**



# What is the usual daily school routine?

## Nursery times

<b>Morning</b>	<b>Afternoon</b>	
8.45 – 9.00	12.30 – 12.45	The nursery doors open. Parents are welcome to stay and play for 15 minutes to help settle the children, play a game or share a story.
9.00 – 9.20	12.45 – 1.05	Key worker group time
9.20 – 10.15	1.05 – 2.00	Child initiated learning
10.15 - 10.30	2.00 – 2.15	Key worker group time
10.30 – 11.15	2.15 – 3.00	Child initiated learning
11.15 – 11.30	3.00 – 3.15	Key worker group time
11.30 – 11.45	3.15 – 3.30	Lunch / Preparation for home time

For the paramount reason of children's safety, parent/primary carers are asked to wait in the cloakroom area so that children may be sent out one at a time.

## 30 Hours

We also offer the 30 hour funded places which means that children can stay all day. Lunchtime is added in at 11.30 – 12.30. We ask that children bring a packed lunch and they will go to the dinner hall to eat. The cost for this service is £2 per child per day to contribute towards the staffing costs.

# Our Curriculum



Nursery accesses the curriculum through several topics throughout the year and planning is differentiated depending upon the individual child. Our topics are based on individual children's interests and have included Ourselves, Traditional Tales, Festivals, Food Glorious Food, Living Things, The Seaside and Water. We encourage the children to become independent learners and thinkers. Learning takes place through play with open access to our secure outdoor area.

## **The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)**

All schools and early years providers have to follow a structure of learning, development and care for children from birth to five years old. This is called the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and it enables all children to learn through a range of activities. The EYFS Framework describes how early years practitioners should work with children and their families to support their development and learning. It describes how your child should be kept safe and cared for and how all concerned can make sure that your child achieves the most that they can in their earliest years of life.

### **There are four themes in the EYFS:**

#### ***A Unique Child:***

This theme is about how children develop - they are all different and their learning needs and styles are unique too. Positive relationships and good communication are vital so that we can plan for individual learning needs. Children achieve best when all their physical and emotional needs are met, and this is what we aim to do at Granby. We understand and observe each child's development and learning and we assess their progress, planning for their next steps. Together we identify any areas which may need some additional support and arrange for this if necessary.

#### ***Positive Relationships:***

This theme is about children learning to manage their feelings and build friendships. We respect all families and aim to develop a positive two-way relationship with parents and carers. Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships. We are sensitive and responsive to children's feelings and support their efforts and encourage independence. Children need to learn about risks and safety, how to make good choices, and how to stick to boundaries.

#### ***Enabling Environments:***

This theme looks at how we plan for and check on each child's progress.

Children learn and develop well in environments in which the adults provide experiences based on children's individual needs and there is a strong partnership between staff and parents/carers. These environments value everyone's learning and offer stimulating resources relevant to all the children's cultures and communities. We offer rich learning opportunities through play and teacher-led activities and support children to take risks and to explore.

### ***Learning and Development:***

This theme is about how children develop and learn in different ways. The EYFS Framework covers the education and care of all children in preschool, including children with additional needs. We teach children by providing challenging, playful opportunities across the prime and specific areas of learning and development. We aim to foster the characteristics of effective learning: 'Playing and exploring', 'Active learning', and 'Creating and thinking critically'.

The EYFS is divided into two areas:

**The Prime Areas** begin to develop quickly in response to relationships and experiences, and run through and support learning in all other areas. The Prime areas continue to be essential throughout the whole EYFS.

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development:** 'Making relationships', 'Self-confidence and self-awareness', 'Managing feelings and behaviour'.
- **Communication and Language:** 'Listening and attention', 'Understanding', 'Speaking'.
- **Physical Development:** 'Moving and handling', 'Health and self-care'.

**The Specific Areas** include essential skills and knowledge for children to participate successfully in society. They grow out of the Prime areas and provide important contexts for learning.

- **Literacy:** 'Reading', 'Writing'.
- **Mathematics:** 'Numbers', 'Shape, space and measure'.
- **Understanding the World:** 'People and communities', 'The world', 'Technology'.
- **Expressive Arts and Design:** 'Exploring and using media and materials', 'Being imaginative'.

## **Regular Activities in the Nursery**

We realise that three and four year-olds are not always very forthcoming when it comes to telling you what they have done at school on a particular day! Listed below are activities that we will do regularly in the Nursery; this information may help you in your conversations with your child about school, both before and after they start.

### **Every day we will:**

Sit on the carpet to do the register and to talk about the day/date, the weather and how we travelled to school.

Have a drink and a snack at our snack bar.

Listen to a story.

Have 'choosing time' – free play when colouring, play dough, books, the role-play area, writing activities, number games, small world toys and the computers will always be available. Weather permitting, children will always be able to play outside during their nursery session.

### **Every week we will:**

Do activities in small groups, looking at sounds and letters.

Do activities in small groups, working on numbers.

Do conversational groups, based on areas of personal interest.

Do activities in small groups, looking at areas connected with 'understanding of the world'.

Do a piece of adult-led work for inclusion in the 'Learning Journey' book.

Sing songs and rhymes with actions.

Do P.E.

Do a planned supervised craft activity (sometimes children will bring their work home and on some occasions, we keep it to display in the classroom).

**On a regular basis we will:**

Do baking and cooking activities.

Explore different foods.

Do activities connected with nature and gardening.

Celebrate specific occasions and festivals (sometimes with performances for our families!).

Join in with wider activities taking part within the school – assemblies, dressing-up days, performances, visiting storytellers etc.

# **General Nursery Information**

## **If your Child is away from School**

Please keep us informed about reasons for any absences. Reasons for absences are recorded in the school register. If you do not let us know, the absence will be listed as unauthorised.

## **If you're Child has a problem at School**

Try to keep any problems in perspective. Talk to the class teacher. We would rather you discuss any problems with us immediately rather than allowing a concern that could otherwise be sorted out quickly to become a more significant problem. If it is not a convenient time we will make an appointment to suit both parties.

## **Collection of your Child from School**

It is essential that you inform us if anyone other than a parent/primary carer will be collecting your child on a particular day. If you make a change to usual collection arrangements while your child is at school, please telephone the office so that a message can be passed to us before the end of school.

## **First Aid and Medicines**

If your child is taken ill and needs to be at home, or has an injury needing further medical advice, you or someone designated by you will be telephoned immediately. Children on special medication such as inhalers will have special arrangements made for them. Asthma inhalers may be used and may be kept in the child's classroom, however you must obtain a form from the office so that this information can be kept on our records. It is essential that we are made aware of any allergies or ongoing medical concerns.

## **Toilet Training**

The majority of children start Nursery having already progressed to wearing pants and using the toilet. However, occasionally, this stage has not been reached and we will ensure that we support you as parents through this period of development. If, at the time when they start school, your child is in the early stages of toilet training, please let us know so that we can make the appropriate provision.

# What your Child will need to bring to School

## Book Bag

These bags are used **every day** to bring your child's reading book and homework book to and from school. **It is important that book bags come in everyday as we read throughout the week.** These can be purchased from the School Office or the TESCO's Online at ([www.tesco.com/ues](http://www.tesco.com/ues)).

## School Uniform;

Your child needs to come in School Uniform, which is detailed below and can be ordered online from TESCO's for Granby branded clothing ([www.tesco.com/ues](http://www.tesco.com/ues)) or purchased from any retail outlet:

It is expected that all children attending Granby Primary School wear school colours. In order for children to participate in extracurricular activities, they will be expected to wear:

- a red sweatshirt or cardigan (no other colour is acceptable)
- red, white or yellow blouse or shirt
- black, grey or navy skirts or trousers
- appropriate footwear - no heels (safety on stairs). All shoes must have a heel strap ensuring the shoe is securely fitted to your child's foot.
- Shoes should be Velcro fastening or slip on. **No laces please!**
- **No jeans**

## Change of Clothes

We do ask that all children keep a change of clothing in school in case it is needed. Spare pairs of pants and socks are very advisable. Even very securely toilet-trained children have the occasional 'accident' and there are times when clothes get wet as a result of water-play etc. Spare clothes can also be kept in the PE bag.

## PE Kit

Children change into PE kit for our PE sessions. This consists of black shorts, red/white/yellow t-shirt and plimsolls. PE kits can be kept in a drawstring bag on their peg. We advise that you bring the PE kit in on Monday each week; this will ensure it is available for your child's specific PE day. It is very much appreciated when all clothes are clearly labelled – all school clothes look very much alike and it is often difficult to match cardigans and jumpers to their correct owners at the end of the day!

## Homework

Your child will have a homework book, in which homework will be placed

on a weekly basis.

### **Milk and Snacks**

Each child in the Nursery is entitled to a drink of milk which is free until your child's 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday, when there will be a charge. Children have access to water throughout the session and we provide a healthy snack of fruit, toast, bread sticks, crackers, etc which varies from day to day.

### **Water Bottles**

Some children like to bring their own water bottle to school, although we do have water available throughout the nursery session. We would ask that you do not send juice in the bottle as we are keen to promote good dental health.

### **Birthday Sweets**

Many children like to bring in sweets for their friends when it is their birthday. If you do this, we would ask that you purchase fruit lollipops or small bags of fruit sweets rather than send in chocolate or cakes (these can cause problems for children affected by food allergies).

### **Toys**

Please discourage your child from bringing toys to school. They can cause disputes and children can become distressed if they are damaged or lost.

## **How you can help your Child**

### **Reading**

Each week your child will bring home a library book that we encourage you to share together; this is changed each Friday. At first we suggest that you read the book to your child and together discuss the story by looking at the pictures and predicting what might happen next.

### **Writing**

Many children have begun to make marks on paper before they come to the Nursery - it is important that you continue to encourage this and to encourage your child to give meanings to these marks. When your child is ready to form letters please use the enclosed letter chart to help them to develop good habits. However, the most important thing at this age is that you encourage your child to hold a pencil correctly.

Nursery children are introduced to phase one phonics. It is important that you do not push your child too much to begin with; it is more valuable at this stage to encourage children to build upon what they already know. The

main aim is to build your child's confidence so please offer lots of praise and rewards, even for the smallest efforts.

Phase one phonics concentrates on developing children's speaking and listening skills and lays the foundation for the phase two phonics work which starts in Reception. The emphasis on phase one phonics is to get the children attuned to the sounds around them and to begin to develop **oral** blending and segmenting skills.

### **Mathematics**

Mathematical skills in Nursery are developed through play, fun activities and games. During the early years it is important that children gain an interest in numbers and counting and this area of learning can be enjoyed at home during every day routines. Reciting numbers and counting during shopping, climbing stairs, cooking etc. are all valuable learning experiences.

### **Personal Social and Emotional Development**

The greatest help you, as a parent, can be at this stage is to encourage your child to become an independent learner, encouraging them to dress themselves and also informing them of the importance of sharing and being kind towards others.



## **Admissions to full time school: Reception.**

Children will start full time education in the September after they are 4 years old. All children start at the same time and we have 1 intake in September.

Admissions to Reception are managed by Leicester City Council. They will need your application form in before the end of January, the year in which your child is due to start at school. For further details please look at the Leicester City Council website or contact admissions on the details below.

**Admissions:** 0116 454 1009

[Admissions.online@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Admissions.online@leicester.gov.uk)

School Admissions

Leicester City Council,

Customer Service Centre

York House

91 Granby Street

Leicester LE1 6FB

### Writing Support.

We are often asked how letters are taught at school. The following shows how the basic cursive letters are formed.

a b c d e f g h  
i j k l m n o p q  
r s t u v w x y z