



Starting School

September 2024

Headteacher: Mrs D Burnett

www.fittleworthschool.org.uk

Starting School Information for parents

Welcome to Fittleworth C of E Village School. Your child will be in Beech class. The adults in Beech class are:

Mrs McKee – Class Teacher

Mrs Enticknap - Class Teacher

Mrs Barron – Learning Support Assistant

Mrs Allfrey – Learning support Assistant

All children can attend school full time from September.

Children born between January 1st and August 31st may attend school part time until Christmas but a fixed timetable for attendance must be arranged with the teacher. There will be an opportunity for each child to attend a session during the summer term.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

Since September 2000 a 'Foundation Stage' has been established for children aged 0 to 5. It gives this very important stage of education a distinct identity and is rooted in play based learning and practical activity both indoors and out of doors. The updated Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (2021) has 3 prime and 4 specific areas of learning:

Prime Areas

Personal Social and Emotional Development

Communication and Language

Physical Development

These areas are particularly important for building a foundation for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, forming relationships and thriving.

Specific areas

Literacy

Maths

Understanding the World

Expressive arts and design

The three prime areas are strengthened and applied with these 4 specific areas.

The curriculum is delivered through a mix of play-based activities and adult led activities.

During each half term your child will be identified as a 'Focus child' for a week. During this week the teachers and teaching assistants will be looking closely at your child's learning and development.

Our School day

Beginning of the school day

In the morning the children should arrive in the playground at 8.45am when the gate will be opened to the classroom. The children will be met at the classroom door by one of the Beech class staff members.

For the first week you will have a visit from your child's teacher – the children are not in school.

For the second week the children are here for the morning on Monday and Tuesday. They can stay for lunch, pick up will be at 1pm. From the Wednesday of the second week the children will be here full time. You are welcome to come in with the children into the classroom and help them settle. We aim to get the children coming in independently after a couple of weeks if not sooner if they are ready.

Collecting your child after school

The children are dismissed at 3.20pm. Please wait outside the gate on the far left of the playground to collect your child at the end of the school day.

Please telephone or email the school office if your child is to be collected by a different person.

Visits and Visitors

Outings and visiting speakers are arranged to support our topics. During the year we regularly visit St Mary's Church, Fittleworth and go for walks on the common. Parents are given details of forthcoming visits or changes to our usual routine well in advance.

Collective Worship

A whole school assembly takes place each day of the week. These can include lessons around our Christian values, singing and quiet reflection. Our Christian values are empathy, service, love, respect, responsibility and forgiveness Reception will attend some of these assemblies. Fittleworth is a Church of England Controlled Primary School and we value our Christian character.

Reward Systems

We award stickers to children whose behaviour links directly to our values.

Phonics and Reading

Phonics is an integral part of our daily literacy sessions. We use a phonics scheme called Supersonic Phonic friends. Once settled into school routines, your child will bring home a sound book, each week we will add to this book the sounds we have learnt. At home, please try to set aside a few minutes each day to look at this with your child.

Your child will also be given a reading book and diary which is linked to the sounds we have learnt in class. It is helpful if you complete the reading diary each time you share the book with your child.

Comments about children's reading at home help us to make holistic assessments of their progress.

Parent Helpers

If you have an interesting occupation, hobby and/or area of expertise linked to our topics and can spare some time to pay us a visit we would love to hear from you!

Fittleworth Village School PTA

There is a very active parent fund-raising (and social) group at the school. If you would like to help with any events you will be very welcome. Details of upcoming events will be shared ahead of time. There will be a chance to meet some of the committee members during the first term.

Newsletters & Communications with Parents & Carers

Letters giving general information are generally emailed to you. We use MCAS and our website to keep you connected with news and events at school.

Please check MCAS or your child's book bag every day for letters and communications. We try to eliminate paper waste and use electronic communications wherever possible. We also use text messaging as an instant and effective means of contacting parents with short reminders and updates. You will be asked to provide and keep us updated with your preferred contact details.

Our web site is informative and your class page is updated weekly with what the children will be doing and learning about that week. It is also updated with school news including dates, clubs, newsletters and policies. You will find us at www.fittleworthschool.org.uk

Parent Consultations

We value close liaison with parents. There will be opportunities for discussion at the end of the school day if you have any urgent concerns. A more formal opportunity to discuss your child's progress will take place during each term. Details will be given nearer the time.

Fruit time

A piece of fruit or vegetable is provided daily for each child. Every child is encouraged to try the snack.

Milk Time

All children under the age of 5 are entitled to a free drink of milk at breaktime. After their 5th birthday you need to sign up with CoolMilk- a flyer is in the bookbag. If your child has an allergy to cows' milk then you may provide them with an alternative. Please note we are a NUT FREE school at all times, so almond milk is not acceptable.

Lunch

A free hot school lunch is provided for your child until the end of Year 2. We are **nut free and chocolate free** and urge you to support our ambitions for healthy eating. You will need to choose a meal for your child

for every day they are at school. This is done using ParentPay. You will find a letter relating to this in your child's book bag. It gives instructions about how to logon, but if you have any problems please do not hesitate to contact the school office. 01798 865419. Please ask for Mrs Wilmshurst.

Toys

We cannot accept any responsibility for toys or other items brought into school and for this reason **do not allow** these in school. There will be opportunities for your child to bring and share toys with their class in show and tell time.

Mixed year groups

In common with many small village schools we have 7 year groups and 5 class bases. This means that at some point in your child's journey through school they may have the same class teacher for 2 years running and/or be in a mixed year group. These decisions are always taken after much professional discussion and with your child's developmental needs at the forefront.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Our telephone number is 01798 865419. Mrs Ball (School Business Manager) and Mrs. Wilmshurst (School Administrative Manager) will be on hand to help you.

School Governing Body

The Chair of Fittleworth CE Village School Governing Body is Mr Jon Nodding.

Parent Governors are Sarah Bloomfield, Bea Lepine, Nigel Sneller, Louise Josey and Charlotte Allin.

Contact can be made with any of the Governors via the school office.

Things your child needs to bring to school...

Water Bottle

We ask you to provide a drink of water in a spill proof bottle for classroom use. Children have access to this throughout the day and the bottle will be refilled with water as necessary. Please can you ensure that water bottles are named.

Book Bag

Your child needs to bring their book bag into school with them each day.

Wet Weather

As outdoor play is an integral part of our curriculum, it is essential that your child wears appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear every day. The children will go outside in showery weather; please send a waterproof coat and wellies that will be kept at school.

