

FAQ's for parents new to Hambrook Primary School

CLUBS	
Question	Answer
What are the timings of Breakfast Club?	Breakfast Club is from 8am to 8:45am.
What are the timings of Early Bird Club?	Early Bird Club is from 8:30am to 8:45am; no breakfast or drinks are provided. This is a supervisory service that is free of charge. The club was introduced to improve the parking situation so that parents no longer all arrive at 8.45am.
Where do we leave our children for Breakfast Club and Early Bird Club?	All children, apart from year 6, must be taken to the school office/foyer area, where they will be let in by a member of staff. Children attending Breakfast club pay and are signed in at the office, and children attending Early Bird are admitted at the office but sign in with a member of staff at the School Hall.
Do we need to pre-book for Breakfast Club or Early Bird Club?	No, just turn up on the day and speak to a member of staff.
What is the cost of Breakfast Club and what service is provided?	£1.50 per session. Cereals & drinks are available. A member of staff will supervise the children from 8am. We provide activities for the children and in the good weather they play outside too. Reception children are escorted from the hall to line up outside their classroom at 8.50am.
Does the school provide After School Childcare?	After School Care is provided by Hambrook Hedgehogs who are situated in our annex building. They are OFSTED registered with a qualified and experienced team. They provide two lengths of sessions from end of school until 4:45pm or 6pm. Please check with them directly for details on fees and session availability. Children are free to choose how they spend their time at the club with a number of planned craft and outdoor activities available together with a wide selection of age appropriate toys and games for play at your child's own pace.
How do I find out which clubs are available for my child?	When a club is starting you will be informed by text or letter, if your child is eligible to join. You will then need to collect/complete the relevant form and return to the office. If a club is organised by a member of staff it is free; if it is an outside provider there will be a charge. Information about our clubs can be found on the website in the 'Children's Zone'.

CURRICULUM and LEARNING	
Question	Answer
How do we find out how our children are progressing?	<u>Reception</u> We record each child's progress and development in an ongoing 'Learning Diary'. Parents are encouraged to add 'News From Home' comments on slips that we place in book bags, so that we get a full picture of the child's

	<p>abilities at home and at school. These Diaries also show a child's 'next step's (i.e. what they need to learn next).</p> <p><u>KS1 & 2</u></p> <p>At parent consultation evenings the children's new targets in reading, writing and maths are set. As part of this process their current levels of attainment are shared with parents. These levels can be used to track progress from term to term and year to year. Please bear in mind that children do not progress at a consistent rate. Sometimes there will have been considerable progress and at other times progress may have been minimal.</p>
<p>How can we help to support our children's learning?</p>	<p>At the beginning of September, every teacher holds a class meeting and this is one of the things covered during that meeting. There is also an information evening for parents every year focusing on different areas of the curriculum. This gives parents the chance to find out how we teach that subject in school and how they can support their children at home. Information on how to support learning can also be found on the school website and in the children's Reading Record books.</p> <p>For individual guidance please ask the class teacher how you can best help your child.</p>
<p>How often is PE, where is it and are there arrangements for places to leave our children's clothes?</p>	<p>PE usually happens twice per week. It either takes place in the hall, on the playground or on the common. Children should keep their PE kit in a bag on their peg. Please label the bag and clothes with the name of your child. It is not necessary to wash the PE kit regularly – once a term is adequate. Children need their PE kits from the very start of every term so please ensure they always bring them in on the first day of term.</p>
<p>How do I know which days PE lessons are on?</p>	<p>This information will be shared with you during the class meeting at the start of each year. There is also a weekly timetable displayed in each classroom.</p>
<p>What do I need to know about the National Curriculum levels in reading, writing and maths?</p>	<p>National Curriculum levels were abolished in 2014. Updated information on what has replaced levels can be found on the website under 'Our learning.</p>
<p>Where can I find information about the colour banding of reading books?</p>	<p>We do not publicise information about the colour coding scheme because in the past it has led to too much focus being placed on moving up the colours rather than on enjoying reading and developing reading skills. The children are aware of their colour and which colour comes next.</p>
<p>How can I find out what my child is learning each week?</p>	<p>It's always good to talk to your child about what they are learning. To help support this a curriculum map for each year group can be found on the website (in 'Our Learning') this gives an overview of every term's topic and the learning focus for subject areas.</p> <p>Reception topic plans are put on the website at the start of each topic, which is every 2 – 3weeks, and a text is sent out to notify parents.</p>
<p>What is 'show and tell' and when does it happen?</p>	<p>'Show and tell' is the name of an activity that gives the children the chance to bring something to school to share with the other children in their class. Not all classes call it 'show and tell', but they do encourage the children to share</p>

	<p>outside interests in different ways.</p> <p>You will be given more details about this in the class meeting at the start of the year. If your child joins mid-year, please ask the class teacher for information.</p>
What are the Positive Attitude awards?	<p>The 'Positive Attitude' trophy is awarded to one child from each class every Friday during celebration assembly. It is not automatic that every child will receive it once every year.</p> <p>It is dependent on their attitude in school and so some may get it more than once and others not at all. It is taken home by the winner for the week and needs to be returned to the class teacher by the following Thursday.</p>
How do the class sticker charts work?	<p>Children earn animal or star points for good work, attitude, behaviour etc. When they have achieved the required number (Foundation Stage and KS1 – 5 points and KS2 15 points) they are awarded an animal sticker/point for their team. This is celebrated during the Friday assembly. The team with the most points at the end of the year wins the Animal Team cup.</p> <p>The idea is to reinforce children thinking about others/their community and working together rather than just earning rewards for themselves.</p>
What is a 'Child of the Week'?	<p>In the Reception class one child is chosen as 'Child of the Week'. This means he/she is given a small suitcase on Friday, which they can fill over the weekend (with help from parents) with things that tell us more about your child's personality (what they like), their family e.g. photo(s), and something to represent what activities they like doing e.g. football, rugby. During the following week, the 'Child of the Week' is encouraged to talk to the class about the things they have in the suitcase. This develops the child's confidence and presentation skills and allows all the children to quickly learn about each other to accelerate bonding.</p>

FINANCE	
Question	Answer
Can we use cheques to make payment e.g. for school trips or school lunches etc? If so, to whom do we make cheques payable and where do we leave these?	<p>Yes, cheques can be used for payments. They need to be given in at the office. They can also go to the class teacher who will send the cheque to the office with the daily register.</p> <p>Depending on what the money is for, cheques should be made payable to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School trips – Hambrook School Fund Residential Visits – South Glos Council Music Fees - South Glos Council School Meals - South Glos Council
What if we don't have exact cash for breakfast club or school meals?	<p>A credit note is usually put against the child's name to pay for the next session/meal. At the end of term any over/under payment is addressed.</p> <p>If a child is absent on days that school meals/ breakfast club have been paid in advance for, the money will be credited or a refund given.</p>

HOMWORK	
Question	Answer
How often can my child's reading book be changed? Who is responsible for this?	In the Reception class and year 1 the teacher or teaching assistant is responsible for changing all reading books. This will be done at least twice every week. From year 2 onwards the children are responsible for changing their own books.
What should I know about the homework project?	There is an expectation that all KS2 children will complete a homework project and it is optional for KS1. Details of the project can be found on the website.

PARKING	
Question	Answer
What is the voluntary one way system?	In order to ease congestion at the start and end of the school day, we operate a voluntary one way system in front of the school. Parents are requested to enter Moorend Road from the Worrel's Lane end and exit past the Sports Club.
Where can we park?	There is no car park at school, so parents park along the roads and in the Sports Club car park. Parents are asked to park with consideration at all times. It is important to remember to leave sufficient time to travel to school and to find a parking space. If you drop your child at Early Bird Club to avoid the congestion, please do this quickly (i.e. don't stand in the playground talking) to free up your space for others.
What can I do if I see someone parking, illegally, dangerously or in an inconsiderate place?	We encourage all parents to report incidents such as these to the police.

SCHOOL MEALS	
Question	Answer
What is the cost of school meals, and are these paid weekly or termly?	Meals cost £2.00 per day. This can be paid weekly or termly. Please place your payment in an envelope labelled 'School Meal' with your child's name and the value of the contents on the front and leave this either in the office or with the class teacher or teaching assistant.
Do parents need to pre-book/indicate which meals their children would like for school meals in advance?	No, we publish termly menus on our school website to show what meals will be on offer. The children then choose what they would like to eat on the day; this can be affected by what choices are left when they get to the front of the queue. Occasionally the menu will differ from what is planned due to a variety of reasons e.g. delivery problems.

GENERAL

Question	Answer
How can parents volunteer to support the school?	Each class of parents is encouraged to have two volunteers on the PTA (Parent Teacher Association). This is a fund raising group that organises activities throughout the year to pay for luxuries for the children that the school budget cannot afford. For details please ask at the school office. We also have a Parent Council that meets, on average, four times per year. Each class has an elected representative whose views are sought on a variety of school issues. It is a forum where parents can suggest items to be included on the agenda as long as they are about whole school issues and not individuals. On an ad hoc basis, parents can volunteer to assist teachers e.g. in the classroom or to walk with children to and from the school to the church – which the school uses for Harvest Festival, Easter service etc
How do parents know what school activities are coming up and what the arrangements are for these?	A yearly diary of events is put on the website every September. If extra events are organised or existing events changed, parents will be notified in the newsletter or by text. Newsletters are published on the school website and include a reminder of upcoming events.
Do we need to provide anything else for our children other than the school uniform?	We ask parents to provide a bottle of water for the children to drink throughout the day. School policy does not allow for squash or fruit juice etc. in water bottles but these drinks are allowed with packed lunches. Water bottles must be labelled with the child's name and class. They are stored in the class tray. It is optional to provide a healthy morning snack e.g. carrots, apple, dried fruit etc. These must be labelled. In the infant classes snacks are provided in the afternoon by the government free of charge (e.g. satsuma, carrot). Children require a book bag and a PE bag (each clearly labelled with the child's name). These can be any type of bag including a carrier bag. The PE bag is hung on each child's peg and the book bag is placed inside the classroom in plastic box.
Where can we get school uniform from?	It is available locally from 'Initially Yours' – Old Gloucester Rd, Waverley Units. Tel: 0117 9560909
When can I look at my child's books other than on Parent Evenings?	Open Afternoons are held regularly throughout the year, they will be publicised in the newsletter. If for any reason you would like to see your child's books at another time please speak to the class teacher.
What is a buddy class?	Each class has a 'buddy class' from the opposite key stage. On occasions throughout the year the classes will get together to carry out joint activities.