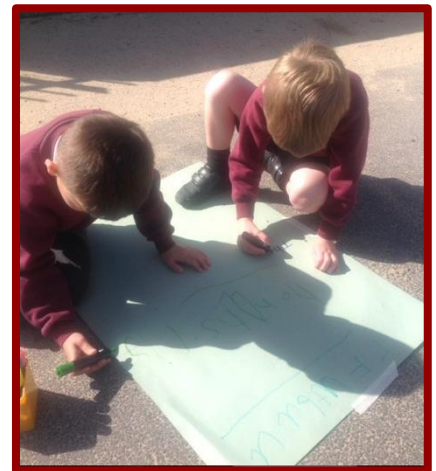


Welcome to Reception

A guide for Ladysmith parents and carers



Ladysmith Infant & Nursery School
Ladysmith Road, Exeter, Devon, EX1 2PS

Telephone No. 01392 271596
E-mail: infant.admin@ladysmithfederation.net
Website: www.ladysmithfederation.net

CONTENTS

Included in this pack:

Welcome to Ladysmith Infant & Nursery School

- Ethos
- Reception Team
- Transition
- The School Day
- Lunchtimes
- EYFS Curriculum
- Special Educational Needs
- Free School Meals
- Snacks
- Birthdays
- Allergies (*inc Peanut allergy*)
- Medication
- Asthma Sufferers
- Photographs/Images of children

Ambition  Adventure  Achievement

Welcome

On behalf of the school community; governors, the staff and partners, welcome. We hope that this will be the start of a very happy time in your child's education.

These pages provide you with information on Ladysmith Infant and Nursery School, its aims, curriculum and activities and what to expect in your child's first year at school. If you have any questions, at any time, please ask. There are no silly questions when it comes to ensuring that your child has a smooth transition to school.

Confidence in Ladysmith comes from knowing and understanding what is happening. We hope that you are able to take an active and positive interest in what your child is doing at our school. We have shared responsibility for your children's learning together with personal, social and emotional development. This underpins our philosophy. It is therefore essential that mutual understanding, involvement and trust form the basis of this partnership.

We welcome your involvement and look forward to developing our partnership while your child is in the School.

Ethos

At Ladysmith Infant and Nursery School we aim to establish an atmosphere that is secure and reassuring, continuing to foster the warmth, care and trust of home. We seek to encourage and develop positive attitudes - such as respect for each other's ideas, taking turns, sharing and tolerance - whereby each child can be accepted as an individual with different needs, skills and interests. Each child's contribution is valued and care is taken to explore ways to celebrate success and ambition, adventure, achievement.

Ambition  Adventure  Achievement

Reception Team



Squirrel Class



**Mrs Amy Joomun
Teacher**



**Mrs Amy Youde
Teacher**



**Miss Helen Moore
Teaching Assistant**



Rabbit Class



**Mrs Liz Martin
Teacher**



**Mrs Karen Steer
Teaching Assistar**



**Mrs Abi Brown
Teaching Assistant**



Hedgehog Class



**Mr Lee Bastyan
Teacher**

**Mrs Mandy Edwards
Teaching Assistant**

Transition

Transitions are milestone events for children and have an effect on their development. They are times of exciting change certainly and times of new opportunities and growth for every child. They can also be times of uncertainty where surroundings are not the same, expectations and procedures different and faces are unfamiliar, so getting transition right is vital for every child. Our transition process is designed to ease children into school gradually. This ensures that your child is totally familiar with routines and the new school environment before they start school.

This year, transition will look different due to the corona virus pandemic. We have planned around this to make transition as smooth as possible, but we know that these plans may well change over time. The following is a plan which will be confirmed nearer to the time.

Important Transition Dates

Week Beginning 22nd June

You will receive a letter through ParentMail with details relating to next steps. This will include how to access more information on the website and how to sign-up for Tapestry. Tapestry is an online app that will enable you, your child and class teacher to get to know each other in a safe and secure manner. There is more information on Tapestry on page 9 in this guide.

Week Beginning 29th June

You will be able to access a video in which you are introduced to your child's class teacher. Your child, the teacher and class teaching assistant (s) will be able to post messages and start to get to know each other. There will be videos posted relating to the school environment, so that your child can start to orientate her/himself. It will not look the same as it usually does. This is due to the measures that we have taken to open in line with being safe during the pandemic, but should give them a flavour of the school.

Starting School in September

Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th September

Home – School video conferences will take place on these dates for all children. Teachers will be able to chat to you at an allocated time, in your home environment. These will last for approximately 20 minutes. Research and experience shows that this could be hugely important for children, enabling them to see our partnership as a two-way relationship.

Wednesday 9th September until Friday 10th September

All the children will be in for a morning session 8.50am - 11.30am.

On one of these days, children and their parents are invited to our Rainbow Café for either a packed lunch or a hot dinner, so you can join the children for their first lunch time at school (*details to follow*).

Monday 13th September onwards

All children stay all day, unless on a part-time timetable. This would need to be agreed with the parents, teacher and Headteacher. Children stay all day from 8.50am and can have either a packed lunch a hot dinner or go home for lunch. If your child goes home

for lunch he/she must be back for registration at 1.00pm promptly. Children are picked up at the end of the school day at 3.20pm.

The School Day

The school day begins at 8.50am with a lunch break from 11.45am to 1.00pm and ends at 3.20pm. When arriving please spend a few moments settling your child in for the session. You will need to choose their lunch option, hang up their belongings and settle them into an activity.

Please remember when picking up your child, whether for lunch or at the end of the day, to do so promptly, as being late is unsettling for young children.

If children are being collected by someone who is not the regular named collector, it is important that you inform the class teacher or school office, otherwise they will stay with us until we can confirm the arrangements.

It is essential that if your child arrives late or you have to take them out of school early, that you report to the office. Please report the reason for any absence to the office staff or to your child's class teacher before 9.10am on the first morning of absence.

Lunch times

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 at Ladysmith Infant and Nursery School automatically get free school meals. We encourage children to try the school meals, which are freshly cooked on site, and there is plenty of choice each day. Termly dinner menus are given out in advance so you can look through the options with your child. It is possible to have a mixture of packed lunches and school meals in the same week.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

We want children to be happy, secure, lifelong learners and we promote this through the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) Characteristics of Effective Learning:

Playing and Exploring - Engagement

- Finding out and exploring (Curious Cat)
- Playing with what they know (Playful Puppy)
- Being willing to have a go (Can-do Bird)

Active Learning - Motivation

- Being involved and concentrating (Concentrating Dolphin)
- Keeping trying (Persevering Bear)
- Enjoying and achieving what they set out to do (Achieving Beaver)

Creating and Thinking Critically - Thinking

- Having their own ideas (Thinking Chimp)
- Making links (Linking Spider)
- Choosing ways to do things (Strategy Squirrel)

Our curriculum (what the children learn) links these characteristics to animals, which we use throughout the school. If a child is ready to learn and understands their learning behaviours, they will make good progress. Recognising the learning behaviours that we

use and reinforcing them at home will help your child to understand their own strengths when learning and those that are developing.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

Children learn and develop through playing, exploring, being active, creative and being asked questions to help their thinking. Throughout their time in reception at Ladysmith, your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development.

The Prime areas:

1. Communication and language: *This area of learning includes attention, listening, speaking and understanding in different situations and for different purposes*
2. Physical development: *This aspect helps children gain confidence in what they can do and enables them to feel the benefits of being healthy and active*
3. Personal, social and emotional development: *Children learn best when they feel happy and safe. PSE development gives children the best opportunity for success in all other areas of learning*

These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning. As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in 4 specific areas.

The Specific areas:

- Literacy: *This focuses on reading and writing including synthetic phonic teaching alongside fostering a love of books and opportunities to mark make and write*
- Mathematics: *Maths will be developed through stories, songs, games and imaginative play, as well as direct teaching allowing children to explore numbers, shapes and measures whilst continually solving problems*
- Understanding the world: *Forming the foundations for later work in Science, Humanities and Computing, this aspect allows the children to explore and develop their understanding of the world and other people through observations and first hand experiences*
- Expressive arts and design: *This aspect is where we get creative, exploring media and materials, developing ideas and making choices about how to express themselves*

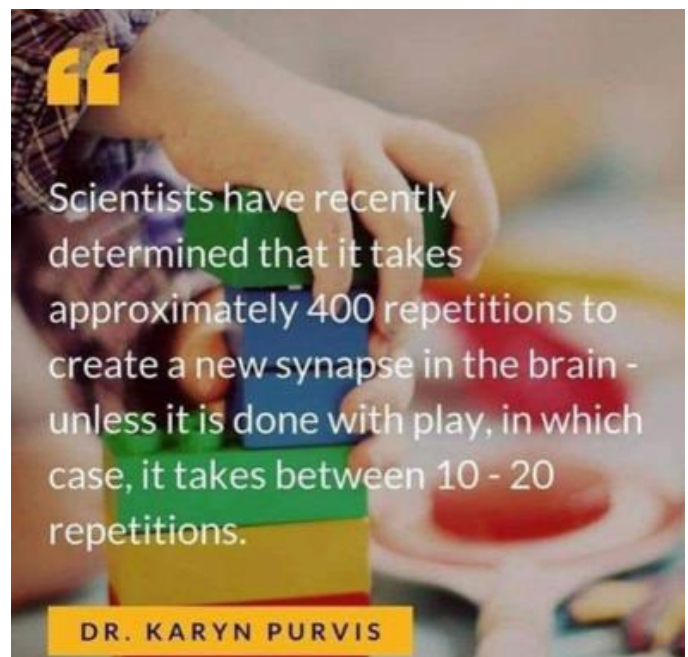
The EYFS Curriculum forms the basis for our planning and what we provide for the reception children at Ladysmith. All the children have access to a stimulating and challenging curriculum where the central element is play. This is carefully planned to extend and build on the children's experiences from pre-school and home.

Using careful observation and detailed record keeping, the learning experiences of all children will be developed and their progress will be monitored as they work towards the Early Learning Goals. These observations inform the EYFS Profile which is completed at the end of your child's reception year and forms the basis of the annual report which you will receive in July.

We also send out termly curriculum letters that will allow you to support your child in their learning.

The Importance of Play

The link between play and learning is central to the Early Years Foundation Stage. Through play, children develop language skills, their emotions and creativity, social and intellectual skills. Play enables children to develop confidence and an early independence, which gives them skills to tackle simple problems and challenges. Our Ladysmith reception team recognise the importance of play and ensure that there is plenty of time throughout the day for children to develop their learning indoors and outdoors through exploring and discovering their immediate world. It is here they practise new ideas and skills, they take risks, show imagination and solve problems on their own or with others.



The role that adults have is crucial. For most children their play is natural and spontaneous although some children may need extra help from adults. Our teachers and teaching assistants observe and play with the children to see how they learn, what their interests are, what inspires them and how to best support them in their learning journey. They value play and provide safe but challenging environments that support and extend learning and development. Staff take their lead from each child's stage of development. Activities designed to stretch and challenge combine with repetition and practice. We recognise that children develop in different ways and we celebrate the uniqueness of every child. Learning is not a race.



Tapestry

At Ladysmith Infant and Nursery school, we are using an online system of recording your child's learning in Reception. Instead of using the old paper book style way of recording, we are able to instantly upload photos, videos and observations of your children while they are learning.



We are using Tapestry, a system, which is hosted in the UK on secure servers. Tapestry is a website which can be accessed on a computer or laptop, and also on any Apple or Android device such as a tablet or smart phone. You will have secure access (via email address and password) to your child's Learning Journey and, in addition to viewing our contributions; we will also be encouraging you to add to it by uploading photos and comments, or commenting on observations made by us, therefore building up a complete profile of your child's learning journey whilst in their Reception year.

The safeguarding of our children is very important to us. Everything that is added to Tapestry will be added to our school account and can only be viewed by school staff that use the system, and also yourself, using your own log on. You will only have access to your child's learning journey and this cannot be seen by other parents.

Special Educational Needs

You can find the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, which includes the Early Learning Goals at www.foundationyears.org.uk
The foundation years website also includes a range of resources and contacts

It is really helpful to gather as much information about your child before the term begins, as this will enable us to cater for any individual needs your child may have.

If you have any concerns that you feel the school should know about, could you please make contact with the school, by telephone or by having a chat with the Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Co-ordinator or your child's teacher.

These concerns may include;

- You think your child has some learning difficulties
- He/she has a medical need [e.g. hearing problem, speech difficulties etc.] that may affect their learning
- Has had support from outside agencies [e.g. Speech and Language Therapist, Physiotherapist]
- He/she finds it difficult to interact with other children

Pupil Premium

Currently, pupils in Years 1 and 2 as well as Reception children all receive free school meals, these are paid by government funding. This provision is called Universal Free School Meals or UFSM.

In addition to this funding, parents in low income families or those that are unemployed can also apply for Pupil Premium funding so that their children can receive free school meals in subsequent school years (Year 3 and onwards). Pupil Premium funding can also give children access to some discounted educational trips and events throughout their school years, and provides much needed targeted funds to schools, equating to **£1320** per pupil in the school budget.

Please read on to find out how to check if you are eligible and if so, how to apply for this financial support.

Introduction to Pupil Premium

The Government is giving money to schools to help children from lower income families do their very best. This funding is called a 'Pupil Premium'. If you qualify, your child/children can receive free school meals and reduced costs towards some after school activities, trips and clothing. For every child registered, Ladysmith Infant and Nursery School gets £1,320 per year. This additional funding allows us to provide an even better education for your child through the purchase of additional resources or staff to support learning.

Are you eligible?

All children in reception, year 1 and year 2 at state schools in England automatically get free school meals. However, parents and guardians are encouraged to apply for free school meals when they enrol their child in school, as this can help their child's school to attract additional 'pupil premium' funding to support learning.

From year 3 onwards, children whose parents are getting any of the following are entitled to free school meals:

- *Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).*
- *Income Support (IS).*
- *Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (IBSJA).*

- *Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IRESA).*
- *The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.*
- *Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.*
- *Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, that does not exceed £16,190).*
- *Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment you get for a further 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).*

Children who receive a qualifying benefit in their own right can also get free school meals.

How to apply

Apply through the Citizen Portal. This is the quickest and easiest way to apply and will result in you getting an instant decision. Alternatively, call the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019.

Please note that from 1 April 2018, all children currently getting free school meals will continue to do so while Universal Credit is rolled out. This will apply even if their parents' earnings rise above the new threshold during that time. In addition, any child who becomes eligible for free school meals after 1 April 2018 will be protected against losing these during the Universal Credit rollout period.

Once Universal Credit is fully rolled out, any existing claimants that no longer meet the eligibility criteria at that point (because their earnings are above the threshold or are no longer a recipient of Universal Credit) will continue to receive free school meals until the end of their current phase of education (such as primary or secondary).

The Universal Credit rollout is currently expected to complete in March 2023.

No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.

Attendance

Regular attendance at school is essential for all children. There is an expectation from the Local Authority and the school, that children will achieve 96% attendance or above. It is important that parents carefully consider the implications of taking their child out of school during term time. Our Attendance Policy can be found in this booklet.

Snacks

In Foundation Stage we have snacks which cover a variety of fruit, breads, milk and water. On Fridays the children have toast with preserves and there is a small charge of £5.00 per term to cover this and the ingredients for Food Technology.

Birthdays

Birthdays are special days for many and in all our classes teachers and children celebrate everyone's birthday. As a healthy school we would ask for your support in not sending in cakes, sweets or chocolates.

Allergies

We are a nut-free school. Please do not give your child anything containing nuts or chocolate products in their lunchbox; this is important due to children and staff's allergies to both products.

If your child has eaten a product containing nuts or chocolate before coming to school, please make sure they have thoroughly washed their hands before arriving.

Medication

School staff will administer medication to children for whom it has been prescribed by a doctor. If your child takes medication that needs/may need to be given at school (*including a Ventolin inhaler*), a separate form will need to be completed for each medication.

Asthma

If your child suffers from asthma and is likely to need an inhaler whilst in school please remember to complete the necessary medical form and give it, together with your child's named inhaler, to the class teacher. The school is not allowed to keep an emergency supply.

Additional Information

- Please do not allow children to bring toys or keepsakes into school as they are often lost or broken.
- We welcome and value parental help in the classroom. If you would like to come in on a regular basis – or just have a spare afternoon – we would be happy for you to work with us. Please arrange with the class teacher to help later in the term when the new children have settled in. Before helping in school or on a trip everyone has to obtain a D.B.S. (Disclosure and Barring Certificate). Application forms are available from the school office.
- Safeguarding, attendance and other important policies can be found on our website www.ladysmithfederation.net
- Our Family Support Worker is on hand to offer advice and re-assurance to families. Her name is Sandy Williams and she can be contacted via our infant.admin@ladysmithfederation.net email address or on 01392271596

