



CONONLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL
Inspiring and Challenging Our Children

The Early Years Foundation Stage at Cononley Primary School

Reception - September 2017



Information for Parents and Carers

Cononley Community Primary School
Meadow Lane
Cononley
North Yorkshire
BD20 8NA

Telephone: 01535 633040 email : admin@cononley.n-yorks.sch.uk
<http://www.cononley.n-yorks.sch.uk/>



We hope that the information in this booklet will help you in your preparations for the very exciting first days of school. Your child may have attended a nursery or playgroup and will no doubt be very excited about starting school.

Our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) department is warm and welcoming, bright and colourful and a really fun place to learn. Equipment has been carefully chosen to provide a stimulating and child centred environment where your child will take their next steps on their learning journey. Our most recent Ofsted in December 2016 states that 'children are happy and safe and increasingly independent and get off to a flying start at school'.



Whole School Aims and Values

At Cononley Primary School we are committed to inspiring and challenging our children:

- To become independent life-long learners.
- To value and respect themselves and others.
- To reach their full potential and become the best possible citizens of tomorrow.

We are hard-working.

We try our best.

We enjoy challenges.

We persevere.

We are kind and polite.

We treat others as we want to be treated.

We celebrate differences.

We are honest.

We are responsible.

We make the most of our opportunities.

Whilst in Reception your child's teachers will be Mrs Lucy Holmes (EYFS leader) and Mrs Karen Thompson and the Teaching Assistant in class will be Mrs Dawn Radtke. During the course of the week your child will also come into contact with other members of staff, including teaching assistants and dinner staff.

		
Mrs Karen Thompson (Monday – Wednesday)	Mrs Lucy Holmes (Thursday/Friday)	Mrs Dawn Radtke Teaching Assistant

Open Door Policy

We believe that your child's learning opportunities are enhanced if we work together. We are always happy to see you, either informally for a quick chat or by appointment if more time is needed. We understand that children can become anxious about the smallest detail and it helps if concerns can be addressed quickly – no problem is insignificant to a four year old. Please seek advice from Mrs Holmes or Mrs Thompson or any of the class team before seeing the Head teacher. There are also lots of opportunities throughout the year to visit school during the day, for example, class assembly, parents' evenings, concerts etc.

A Typical Day

8.50am	School starts and registration	Children dropped off at classroom door
9.10am	Session 1	Morning Focus & Freeflow play
12.00 noon	Lunchtime	In the school hall and playtime outside
1.00pm	Registration & Session 2	Afternoon Focus & Freeflow play
2.00pm	Playtime	Whole school
2.15pm	Session 3	Freeflow play and storytime
3.30pm	Home Time	Children collected from classroom door

Curriculum Coverage

As well as daily phonics and maths sessions there will be a wide range of planned activities each week covering the 7 Areas of Learning.

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal and Emotional Development
- Literacy
- Maths
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Children are encouraged to find their own fascinations and interests and access resources independently in both the indoor and outdoor environment as well as spending focussed time with adults.



Learning Journeys

During the EYFS we gather information about your child's development in a Learning Journey. Traditionally these have been in a paper scrap book but we are very excited to launch interactive online learning journeys this year. We will be sharing information with you at a later date about how these can be accessed at home and also how you can make contributions too.

Home Learning

We value the relationship between home and school and ask for you to help your child with basic skills at home to enable them to reach their full potential and grasp early skills to equip them for the rest of their school life. Primarily listening to them read EVERY DAY and revising phonics/key words on a daily basis has been proven to make a significant impact on the first school year.

Snack Time

We operate a 'freeflow' snack system whereby children can get their snack independently whenever they would like it during the morning. Currently fresh fruit or vegetables are provided every day free of charge. Individual cartons of milk are also available - this is **free while your child is under five** and then subsidised thereafter. The 'Coolmilk' company will send us a list each week with a list of children who have paid for milk. Please note we only receive the corresponding number of milk cartons each week so we recommend a new form is completed before your child turns five to ensure they have a smooth transition if still requiring milk. Information about this scheme is in your starting school pack. Fresh water is available throughout the day from the water fountain.



Lunchtime

Children can choose to have a hot dinner or bring their own packed lunch. Our hot meals are cooked freshly onsite in our school kitchen and are simple, tasty and nutritious. Menus for school lunches can be viewed on www.myschoollunch.co.uk/northyorkshire as well as on the school website. Sample menus are also included in your child's starter pack. **School lunches are currently free of charge to all children in Reception.**

Home Time

Please wait for your child in the small playground at the front of school. School staff will ensure that a familiar adult is meeting your child, as they will only be released to adults previously authorised by you. If for whatever reason someone else is picking up your child, please let school staff know and fill in the weekly form on the notice board in the cloakroom or alternatively call the school office on 01535 633040. We cannot allow children to go home with anyone unless we have been told or telephoned.



Outdoor Learning

We have recently updated our outdoor environment with a range of open ended and natural resources to spark the children's imagination and encourage collaborative learning. We have a new amazing sandpit and mud kitchen as well as lots of den building and large scale construction resources. Please note, your child may come home without a clean uniform but this certainly means they've had a brilliant day learning lots and having fun! We have some waterproof trousers and light weight jackets in school that can be used if the weather is bad but we do ask that all children bring a suitable coat (with hood) every day and a pair of wellies that can be left at school on our welly rack. Can we please ask that children (including younger siblings) do not use or play with/on the equipment or run around the outdoor area before or after school.

Absences

Please contact the school office before 9.10am on 01535 633040 if your child is absent from school.



Family Holidays

We **do not** encourage you to take your child out of school during term time. Young children enjoy the routine of coming to school with their friends and can find it difficult to settle back into school on their return. If however absence is unavoidable, forms should be completed to request authorisation for absence during term time (available from the school office).

Illness/Accidents

If your child becomes ill during the school day we will contact you by telephone. We will try not to contact you unnecessarily and will always try to get the balance between sending your child home and jollyng them along. A trained member of staff is available throughout the day and will administer basic first aid as necessary. If we have any cause for concern we will inform you by telephone or catch you at the end of the day. It is school's policy to telephone parents if a child receives a bumped head during the day even for minor bumps and a 'bumped head letter' will be issued.

Diarrhoea & Vomiting – If your child has suffered from a case of o diarrhoea and/or vomiting, they must stay off school until at least 48 hours after the last episode; children returning to school earlier than this will be sent home again. This is School policy based on guidance

Medication

If your child needs **prescribed** medication during the day you should see Mrs Purnell (Mon-Wed) or Mrs Smith (Thurs/Fri) in the school office and complete an 'Authorisation to Administer Medication' form. Please note we can only give **prescribed** medication at school.

If your child needs other specific specialist medication eg an asthma inhaler, epipen etc you must inform school and fill in the necessary paper work.

Sun cream – we ask you to apply this at home before school. If this needs reapplying we can help your child reapply. Please ensure they have their own clearly named sun cream at school in hot weather.

Toilet accidents

If your child has a toilet accident at school we have spare clothes in school for them to use. Please return these when they are clean and dry. We always seem to be short of underpants and knickers so if you have any that become too small or surplus to requirements we would love to rehome them for you. If your child has any specific toileting needs we need to be aware of please speak to any of the class team.

School Uniform (information also available on our website)

- Bright red sweatshirt jumper or cardigan
- White polo shirt
- Plain grey or black trousers, skirt or pinafore
- Plain grey or white socks or tights
- Suitable black flat heeled footwear (not trainers)

During the summer term, the following additional options may be preferred:

- Plain grey shorts
- Gingham dress (red and white)

For safety reasons, children are requested to wear only small studded earrings. No other jewellery is allowed.



PE

- Red 'Cononley' t-shirt
- Black or dark blue PE shorts
- A pair of black pumps
- A hair bobble to tie back long hair
- PE bag
- Red hooded sweatshirts – optional

PE kits stay in school and are taken home at the end of each half term to be washed.

PLEASE CLEARLY NAME ALL ITEMS OF SCHOOL UNIFORM AND PE KIT

(even socks, hats, gloves, shoes)

Thankyou 😊

Book bags or back packs

These small red lightweight bags are great for bringing home books and letters and can be bought from the school office. Please can we encourage that only reading books and other school books and letters etc are kept in here and are not crammed full of clothes, drinks or toys.

Newsletters

The school newsletter is produced weekly on Friday and is sent home via email. Your child will also bring home letters which are particularly relevant to their class. Please check your child's school bag regularly for these letters and messages.

Achievement Assemblies

We welcome you to attend our whole school achievement assemblies on Fridays at 3 o'clock in the school hall. This is when we celebrate learning and achievements across the school. Please regularly check the website for dates as these do not take place every single Friday. Younger siblings are welcome to attend but please do take them out of the hall if they are being disruptive as this is very off putting for children who are speaking or performing. Please note that children in Reception will attend these after October half term



FoCS

We have a very active Parent Teacher Association (PTA) known as FoCS (Friends of Cononley School) who work hard throughout the year to raise money for various school projects. They hold a variety of events including; cinema nights, treasure hunts, Christmas/Summer fairs, fashion shows etc. They are always looking for new ideas and welcome new faces and offers of help but most importantly rely on your support in attending these events to help raise funds for school.

Starting School

Before the big day arrives we have organised a transition period to include a new starters Parents' meeting as well as Mrs Holmes and Mrs Thompson visiting all the settings to meet your children. There will also be the opportunity for your child to visit school and to become familiar with their new classroom and to meet other children in their class. This transition period will help ease your child into school life and routines. Please bring your child to the classroom door and collect them from there too.

Transition days

Tuesday 20th June – 1.30-3.00 short session (half the class)

Thursday 29th June – 9.30-11.00 short session (half the class)

Tuesday 4th July – 9.30-1.00 longer session including lunch (full class)

Start Dates

In order to ensure a smooth transition we stagger the intake over a few days in September. This allows us to really get to know every child and show them the routines of school. This year the start dates will be as follows:

Tuesday 5th September
Monday 11th September

Thursday 7th September
Wednesday 13th September

Before the Big Day

This can be an anxious time for both you and your child. To ensure the transition is as smooth as possible there are a number of things you can do. Helping your child to become more independent in lots of different ways is the best preparation for starting school. Listed below are a few ideas to help you, but do not worry, every child is different and each will have their own school starting point.

- Putting on/taking off coat and hanging it up
- Putting on and taking off shoes/pumps/wellies
- Recognise and look after their belongings (coats, book bags, lunchboxes etc)
- Tidy away what they have been using
- Go to the toilet **independently** - including flushing the toilet and washing hands.
- Dress and undress themselves (for PE)
- Blow their own nose
- Use a knife, fork and spoon
- Share and co-operate
- Listen to others as well as share their ideas
- Play number games to become familiar with numbers
- Have a go at recognising their name
- Enjoy books together



First Day at School

The first day at school is an important day for you and your child, but we appreciate that it has the potential to be a little stressful. The most important thing is to be positive, even if you do not feel that way yourself. Have faith that your child will be able to manage. If you show your child that you are upset or worried, they might feel there really is something to worry about! When you bring your child to school for the first day, however difficult, try not to linger. Send them with a smile, a kiss and encouragement to have fun.

If your child is tearful or upset you are welcome to stay but we urge you not to stay too long. Once in the classroom children really do settle down quickly - mum or dad often stay upset for much longer! We will ring you to reassure you if your child has been particularly upset or likewise contact you if they become upset or unsettled. Settling into school life is different for every child, but within a few weeks children all become confident and happy in their new environment.

The cloakroom is a little cramped so we encourage you to leave your child at the cloakroom door if they are happy. During the first term some children need a bit more support from mum or dad or whoever is dropping them off and we welcome you to come in to help them get settled. Please do be mindful of other children and parents as it can be a bit of a squash. After Christmas we ask that all children are left at the door and come into school independently.

Welcome to Cononley School ☺

