

HARTWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL
A Church of England Academy

FOUNDATION STAGE INDUCTION
BOOKLET



WELCOME TO CLASS R!!



Hartwell Primary
School

Welcome to Class R

Your child's first experiences are very important. Here at Hartwell we recognise that settling into school is a big step for your child and we endeavour to make it a happy transition.

Our aim is to make school a happy, stimulating and rewarding environment for your child to discover, learn and play through a wide range of experiences.

It is very important that home and school work together in developing an effective partnership. This booklet is designed to be the first step towards building a successful relationship. It contains information about some of the learning opportunities and experiences that the children will have. There is also a list of the key things we would like the children to be able to do when they start school and some practical advice on how to help your child achieve these things.

We look forward to working with you to support your child in school.



The Reception Year at Hartwell School

Between the ages of 3-6 your child learns faster and develops more rapidly than at any other time during his/her life. We believe this learning should be a pleasurable and rewarding experience, in which he/she explores, investigates, creates, practices, rehearses, repeats, revises and consolidates his/her developing knowledge, skills, understanding and attitudes.

The skills and ideas acquired during your child's year in Class R provide them with a firm foundation for their future development.

Class R is an exciting place where children learn through:

- Learning play
- Talking to others
- Investigating and discovering
- Making choices
- Thinking and reflecting
- Working in groups and independently

All of these opportunities are designed to develop confident, kind, well-behaved children, who make the most of their school experience and enjoy high levels of success.

The Foundation Stage Curriculum

During the reception year your child will be working within the Foundation Stage curriculum towards the Early Learning Goals. This curriculum is followed nationally by all reception classes.

Your child will be involved in a wide range of activities every day, developing his/her skills in many different areas. The seven areas of the Foundation Stage curriculum are:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

Sometimes your child will be involved in a task that focuses on developing a skill in one specific area, such as practising handwriting, but at other times he/she will be involved in tasks that encompass a wide range of skills, such as building with large bricks or playing with puppets. The class teacher or learning support assistant will support your child through every step of their learning development. He/she will be encouraged to practice his/her skills to a high standard and to celebrate achievements.



Special Snack Day

As part of our Personal and Social development, Class R have a day each week where they enjoy having a snack together. Groups take turns once a week cooking or preparing the snacks for the whole class. These will be both sweet and savoury. Snack time provides the children with an opportunity to:-

- Share in a social situation with a large number of children
- Learn about healthy eating
- Understand the importance of hygiene in relation to food
- Use tools safely and appropriately to make and divide snacks
- Show their best table manners
- Talk about taste, flavours and textures of different foods
- Discuss where different foods come from

In order that our costs are met we ask for a contribution of £10 per year from parents.



Outdoor Curriculum

Our outdoor area is key to our learning environment. Just like the indoor classroom the children will experience a balance of learning play and adult led activities. Our children will experience large scale construction, our mud kitchen, water play and much, much more.

We also utilise our school grounds, including the pond, garden, playground and field. We also go out into the locality to visit the church, the pocket park and the forest.

Assessment

During your child's first few weeks in school he/she will be assessed in a range of basic skills, this is known as the baseline assessment. This is to enable your child's class teacher to find out your child's level of knowledge and understanding. This information is then used to inform planning, so that tasks are matched to your child's ability in order for them to build on strengths and support any areas in need of development. These assessments are carried out by observing how your child engages and interacts with activities and the learning environment.

During the year regular observations and assessments are carried out. At the end of the Reception Year this information is collated into a final Foundation Stage Assessment.

Helping your child in school

- Listen and talk about school with your child. Every day in school is an extremely busy one and your child will be full of new ideas and experiences they want to share with you. It can be helpful to ask questions to help them focus, for example, 'what was your favourite thing you did today?' or 'what was today's sound?'
- Please read with your child as often as you can. Ideally this should be at least 4 times a week. Sharing a book with your child helps to foster a love of reading. During the Autumn Term school will provide a parent session on how to support your child's Literacy skills.
- Please maintain regular contact with your child's class teacher in the home/school reading record book. This is used as a diary of your child's reading progress. Please write a brief note in it each time you read with your child, noting something they did really well, or something they found a challenge.
- We use 'Read, Write, Inc Phonics' in school so if you are on the look-out for phonics ideas use your preferred search engine to look for this.
- Keep us informed of any changes e.g personal (change of telephone numbers), medical and social that may have an effect on your child in school.
- Please help your child with any tasks they bring home with them.
- If you do have anything you want to discuss please do not hesitate to telephone the school office, or pop in after school to make an appointment to see your child's class teacher.

Each child is unique and this is reflected in the level of maturity, attainment and development reached. It is important to remember that by the end of the reception year every child will have developed a wide range of interests and skills. By working together we can ensure a happy, confident child who has a positive attitude to learning and who enjoys school life.



Preparing your child for school

There are some key skills we would like your child to have developed before coming into school. These are very simple things used in everyday life and will help make coming to school a smooth process.

➤ *Getting dressed*

1. Putting on / taking off clothes in the correct order - children often find socks and tights particularly tricky so lots of practise is needed!
2. Zips / buttons / shoe fastening
3. Turning a jumper the right way when it is inside-out
4. Coats / gloves / hats

➤ *Going to the toilet by themselves*

➤ *Being independent at home*

1. Tidying away own possessions
2. Concentrating on an activity for a short period of time
3. Writing own name starting with a capital and then the rest of name in lower case
4. Completing a task (ask your child to work on a short task and encourage them to keep going until they have finished it)

Your child will be very excited about starting school, but also may feel a little apprehensive about what will happen each day. It will help them if you:

1. Speak to them enthusiastically about school
2. Help your child make a friend - so they have a familiar face to look out for at school.
3. Read stories about going to school.

4. Encourage reading, writing and number activities as part of your daily play
5. 'Play' schools at home - role play is a very effective way of helping your child to understand what will happen.

