

Starting Reception at Claygate Primary School



2021-2022

Welcome to Reception

At Claygate, we believe that the job of educating is a never-ending one. It begins before a child comes to school and continues long after they have left. By working in partnership with parents, we can further enhance a child's learning.

We hope that you find this booklet useful and can share it with your child, to show them some of the fun things that they will be doing.

We have also included a little bit of information about the staff so that you can get to know us better!



Willow Class



Miss Dias

Mrs Crich



Holly Class



Miss Spalton-Woods

Mrs Cooper



Getting to and from school

We have two entrances to school: the main entrance via Foley Road, and a pedestrian entrance via the Recreation Ground.

The car park at the front of the school is for staff and visitors only and the gates are locked to maintain a secure site. We encourage you to walk or cycle to school. If driving, we also ask that parents respect our neighbours and are considerate when parking on Foley Road and in the surrounding streets, ensuring that their driveways are not blocked etc. This also extends to our neighbours at Rowan School.

The path via the Recreation Ground gives easier access for families living to the north and east of the village. We ask parents to respect our neighbours in Dalmore Avenue by not parking in the road, as it is a cul-de-sac with limited turning space. The car park in Hare Lane (next to Champions) has ample parking and is free before 10.00am. We also have an arrangement with Elmbridge Borough Council for Claygate Primary parents to park for free between 3.00 and 4.00pm. To take advantage of this, give your name and car registration details to the school office and they will arrange for a permit to be sent to you.

Morning Routine

Children come into school from 8.45am and enter via the carpark gates, ready for the register at 8.55am.

Most children settle quickly at school, and we find that the only difficulties you have will be in persuading them to come home at the end of the day. In a new situation and with new people to get used to, however, it is possible that your child may be reluctant to leave you in the morning, even if they have been to a nursery or playgroup before. If they are a bit 'wobbly', there will always be a familiar face at the gate to help your child enter school safely and happily.



The End of the Day

At the end of the day (3.15pm), please come into the Early Years playground and collect your child from outside the classroom door (the green gates are opened at 3.10pm). Your child will be handed directly to you.

Please remind your children that they are not allowed to play on the apparatus after school.

Once all children have been collected is a handy time for a quick chat or catch up with a member of the EYFS team.

Punctuality and Attendance

By being punctual you will help your child to settle quickly at the beginning of each session, as well as removing any anxieties about being collected. Learning begins as soon as your child enters their classroom. If for some reason you are unable to collect your child, or if there are different collection arrangements (e.g. they are going to a friend's house), please let us know and ask the person collecting your child to make themselves known to staff when they arrive. If you are likely to be late for any reason, please ring and let us know - this will prevent your child (and us) from worrying.

If your child is unwell and cannot attend school, please call the school office (01372 465348) giving your child's name, class, reason for absence and expected duration of absence.

Our Attendance Policy gives information about 'authorised' and 'unauthorised' absences and the procedures we ask you to follow if your child is away from school for any reason. This is available along with other key policies on our website.



Clothing

One of our values at Claygate Primary School is RESPECT. 'Respect' has many facets; we teach and encourage our children to respect themselves, each other, the environment, and our belongings.

The school uniform is part of the school's identity and ethos. We want all of our pupils to feel a sense of pride in their appearance and in belonging to the CPS family.

- White polo shirt (with or without school logo)
- Dark grey trousers / grey shorts / grey skirt / grey pinafore dress / summer dress
- Burgundy school jumper / cardigan
- Grey / white socks
- Black 'school' shoes with a Velcro fastening so they can put on their shoes themselves! (not trainers)

On PE days your child will come into school in their kit and remain in this for the full day.

For PE your child will need:

- Burgundy shorts
- School House t-shirt / grey t-shirt
- Dark grey joggers and / or fleece
- Trainers



Please ensure that all clothing is marked with your child's name. Many aspects of the uniform can be purchased through high street retailers. Specific school items of uniform are sold through the Parents' Association.

The PA Uniform Shop also stocks a number of other items with the school logo, for example, book bags, rucksacks (KS2 only), fleeces, reversible coats and caps. These are optional, although they are popular items and many children choose to wear them.

Children also require a book bag, which they need to bring to school every day.

The children are encouraged to independently put their work in their bags; bags will also be used for library books and some notices.

What should your child bring to Reception every day?

- Book bag
- Water bottle
- A spare set of clothes (knickers, trousers/skirt and socks) to be left at school on their peg
- Lunchbox (if your child has a packed lunch)

We learn outside in all weather conditions so make sure your child is dressed accordingly.

- A waterproof coat with a hood will be essential when raining.
- All in one waterproofs
- Wellies
- A cap/sunhat is essential during hot weather
- Suncream and hat

All items to be clearly labelled with the child's name.



What should your child try to do for him/herself?

Throughout Reception, we encourage your child to develop their resilience and independence. You can help your child on this path in many different ways.

Children should be encouraged to:

- Undress and dress themselves
- Put on their jacket and be able to fasten it
- Take off and put on their jumper
- Put on their shoes and fasten buckles or Velcro. **We would discourage shoelaces at this stage.** Easy Velcro fastenings will give that extra bit of independence.
- Use and flush the toilet themselves, and redress before washing and drying their hands
- Ask for help politely when they find something difficult



How can parents help?

- Do things with your child and talk about it – whether it is everyday things such as shopping, playing outside, a walk or special things, such as buying a birthday present for a friend
- Play games together – board games such as Snap, Lotto, as well as football. Turn taking and losing are life skills they need to experience!
- Read stories to your child, teach him/her songs and rhymes
- Encourage him/her to draw, paint, colour and model with play dough and junk
- Encourage your child to hold their bag and water bottle when coming to reception – this will support them to remember what they need to take home at the end of the day
- Encourage your child to tidy away their toys
- Encourage good manners: 'please', 'thank you', 'good morning' and 'goodbye'

Communication and Language

Many parents worry if their child will be able to tell the teacher when they need something or if they will make friends.

Good communication skills will help them in everything they do.

Listening & Attention Skills

Your child will be given many spoken instructions throughout their time at school and will need to be able to shift their attention from what they are doing to listen to what the teacher is saying.

A lovely activity to promote this is to go on a 'listening walk' where your child listens for all the sounds around them in the park or town centre. You could also jot down all the sounds your child notices and talk about these back at home to retell the journey based on the sounds they heard.

Understanding

Classroom instructions often contain several parts for children to remember. A simple game of 'Simon Says' can really help. You could give instructions containing two parts e.g. 'Simon says touch your nose, then clap your hands'. It is a good idea to start off with one step instructions and gradually build up to two or even three.

Speaking

Sorting games help to develop vocabulary. For example when packing a suitcase, as this is a great way to help word categorisation. Items can be sorted into different piles such as clothing, toys, and things for washing ourselves. Outdoor 'treasure hunts' work well too. Collecting objects found on walks in the park or on the beach help introduce new types of vocabulary such as describing words. Treasure can also then be used to create feely bags, where objects must be described by the way they feel before revealing what the object is.

In Reception, we will encourage your child to speak in full sentences. When talking to your child model how to speak in full sentences and ask them to repeat it back to you.

School meals and packed lunches

Lunchtime is from 11.45am until 12:45pm, and children may have a school meal or bring their own packed lunch. All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are currently offered a free school meal. Speak to a member of the office team if you think you may be eligible for 'free school meals' as this brings further benefits for your child throughout their time at school.

School meals are cooked in our own kitchens, and are healthy and nutritious. Our caterer is always happy for parents to come in to school to try out a meal for themselves. Information including menus and nutritional information can also be found at www.myschoollunch.co.uk/surrey. If a child brings packed lunch, it should reflect our approach to healthy eating and good nutrition, and must not contain nut products, fizzy drinks or sweets.

Milk, Water and Fruit

As part of the School Fruit and Veg Scheme, children in Reception and Key Stage 1 receive a free piece of fruit every afternoon.

We encourage children to drink plenty of water, and would ask that they bring a named water bottle with them every day; filled with **water** only.

All children under 5 are provided with milk every day. Once they turn 5, milk may be purchased for them if they wish to continue to have this option.



House Teams

We have four house teams at Claygate which reflect our local area: Foley, Ruxley, Blakenen and Arbrook.

Your child will join a house team in Reception and will remain in that house for the duration of their time at CPS with any siblings. We hold house days, house competitions and of course Sport's Day which is an opportunity to earn team points for each house!



Early Years Curriculum

Our children explore a rich and stimulating curriculum based on the seven areas of learning:

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

This includes developing positive relationships, sharing, and taking turns. We nurture enthusiasm for learning and an appreciation of different cultures.

Our ethos is to be kind, caring and thoughtful to others. Our aim is to develop a sense of belonging and to encourage our children to explore feelings and behaviour towards others.

Communication & Language

This includes developing speaking, listening and thinking skills.

Physical Development

This includes lots of opportunity to be active and improve their skills of coordination, control, manipulation, and movement through indoor and outdoor activities and provision. As well as developing physical skills, such as climbing, jumping, and riding a bike, they will also have a go at threading, using scissors and handling pencils and paintbrushes. We will also be doing lots of work on the importance of keeping healthy

Literacy

We share books regularly with the children and promote a love of books.

We encourage the children to attempt their own writing. We believe in developing reading and writing in real situations such as through writing a shopping list or making birthday cards.

In Reception children will be introduced to our Letters and Sounds phonics programme to support reading and writing.

Mathematics

This includes counting, sorting, solving practical number problems and exploring shape, space and measures. Early Years maths is very practical and 'hands on'.

There will be lots of opportunities to learn number rhymes and learn how to add and take away through practical activities.

Understanding of the World

This includes exploring the world around them through using all their senses. The children will be encouraged to look at similarities and differences and will be given opportunities to build and construct through using a variety of tools and techniques. We will also be developing their computing skills and giving them daily opportunities to use a computer.

Expressive Arts & Design

This includes having the opportunity to use a wide variety of different materials, tools and techniques for painting, printing, collage, and model making. From taking telephone messages, to selling fruit and vegetables in a shop, we aim to provide a wide range of stimulating role-play areas to develop children's imagination.

There will also be lots of opportunity to sing and learn songs and engage in music making. The children will also enjoy music and drama sessions with our specialist Music and Drama Teacher, Miss Knuckey.

Outside Learning

Great importance is placed on nurturing your child's love of the outdoors.

They will have daily access to an 'outdoor classroom' where provision for all the seven areas of learning will be made.

They will also be able to go and explore their bespoke EYFS woodland area, Mini-Woodies where they will have many rich opportunities to experience the wonders of nature and develop many skills including collaboration and independence.



Sharing Achievements Together

At Claygate, we do work hard to develop our parent partnership, from initial family information meetings to your child coming for a visit. We strongly believe in supporting your child and giving them the best opportunities possible.

Your child's 'Learning Journey' book is a celebration of your child's achievements and we will ask for your input and your child's voice.

At CPS, we also use an online learning journal called Tapestry to share and celebrate successes with you and for you, as parents to capture and share 'wow moments' captured at home with us.

We host two parents' evenings throughout the year to discuss your child's achievements, successes and next steps. In addition, we hold half-termly parent pop-ins which are an opportunity for your child to share and celebrate their learning with you.

Throughout the year, we also organise curriculum workshops (to share ideas with you about how you can support your child's learning at home) and learning together sessions (to welcome you in class to participate in a learning activity with your child).

Weekly celebration assemblies recognise children who have demonstrated the Claygate Values. Children's successes are recognised in these assemblies and shared with you through our weekly newsletters.

We look forward to meeting you and working with you and your child. Please do come and see us if you have any further questions or concerns.

Please do follow our Facebook CPS page, website, our CPS Twitter account and of course our very own EYFS Instagram.

