

WELCOME PACK FOR EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE



The Federation of
Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC)
Church of England Primary Schools



*Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,
whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree
planted by the water that sends out its roots by
the stream. It does not fear when heat comes;
its leaves are always green.*

Jeremiah 17:7-8



Dear Parents/carers,

The staff and governors warmly welcome you and your child into our school community. Starting school is an exciting stepping stone in your child's life and at The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools, we aim to ensure that your child has a confident and happy start.

This booklet contains all the information you need to prepare you and your child for starting school. We believe in a strong partnership between the school and the parents/carers. Both ourselves and you as parents will become the key influences in your child's life and we want this to be a successful partnership.

By working together, we aim to enable your child to enjoy a positive and fulfilling experience at school which will help your child to reach their full potential.

Yours sincerely

Marie

Mrs Marie Mann
Executive Headteacher



WELCOME TO THE FOUNDATION STAGE

Welcome to the Foundation Stage. We hope your child will be happy with us, and settle quickly. This booklet has been written to help you and your child become familiar with the Foundation Stage and the way that it works. We hope you find it useful. Please keep this booklet in a safe place so that you may refer to it from time to time. If we can help you in any way whilst your child is with us, then please let us know-that's what we are here for!

THE FOUNDATION STAGE TEAM

Let us introduce ourselves!

Mrs R Brown - Class Teacher/EYFS Leader

Miss A Remmer – General Teaching Assistant

We aim to:

- ensure that all children have equal access to the opportunities the school and the wider community offer, regardless of their abilities, gender, race or religion.
- develop a school community that children enjoy and have pride in being part of.
- provide a broad, balanced and exciting curriculum which challenges children's thinking and enables them to achieve the highest possible standards.
- enable children to take responsibility for and to have opinions about their own learning which they are able to share with others.
- support children with their learning, value their achievements and opinions and encourage them to learn from their mistakes.
- encourage children to have high expectations of their potential and to be self reliant and independent.
- enable children to become aware of and have the chances to be involved in their local community.
- develop good relationships and respect between home, school, other professionals and those from other services and the wider community.
- foster good effective ways of communicating and working together with parents, governors and the local community for the benefit of the children in our care.
- help children to acquire the physical, social and emotional skills and experiences to develop and progress safely through life.
- provide a safe and stimulating environment that enables children to access the curriculum fully.
- ensure children develop the skills and knowledge to achieve a healthy mind and body.
- help children to know the importance of good behaviour, what constitutes good behaviour, and to take responsibility for their own behaviour.

In the Foundation Stage we believe that:

- ✓ everyone is special and important
- ✓ everyone has a right to be treated kindly and with respect
- ✓ everyone's ideas and opinions are valuable
- ✓ everyone needs opportunities to make their own decisions.



THE FOUNDATION STAGE CURRICULUM

We offer a rich and varied educational environment, where play, exploration and practical activities are seen as the foundations of learning. We aim to work closely in partnership with parents and carers so that each child may fulfil his/her potential and achieve the best possible start to their school life.

Children in the Foundation Stage will experience a structured play-based curriculum, which is based on the 'prime' and 'specific' areas of learning. These are:

- ✓ Personal, Social, Emotional Development
- ✓ Communication and Language
- ✓ Literacy
- ✓ Mathematics
- ✓ Understanding the World
- ✓ Physical Development
- ✓ Expressive Arts and Design

The children aim to achieve the 'Early Learning Goals' by the end of their time in the Foundation Stage. Learning through play is at the heart of the Foundation Stage Curriculum and we plan for learning through play. So if your child tells you that he/she has been playing all day, that's good but they are learning as well.

Sometimes, children will work as part of a larger group or may be specifically targeted for an activity by a member of staff. Children will work with different members of staff, depending on the type of activity they are doing.



Personal, Social, Emotional Development

- Children learn to be self-confident, develop independence and show self-respect. They will learn to become aware of what is right and wrong and how to behave appropriately for different situations. They will learn to share and take turns, being sensitive to the needs of others and be encouraged to work co-operatively in pairs, groups and as a whole class. This underpins the whole curriculum.

Communication and Language –

This involves giving children opportunities to experience and immerse themselves in a rich language environment, developing confidence and skills in expressing themselves. They will learn the sounds of the alphabet and use this skill to read these sounds and write simple words and sentences. Our main aim is to develop and extend children's vocabulary through sensitive interaction by modelling appropriate vocabulary and dialogue.

Physical Development - Your child will learn to move confidently, controlling their body. They will be encouraged to handle large and small play equipment. They will have access to wheeled toys and will learn to manoeuvre these and their bodies with increasing control and co-ordination, developing an awareness of space and people. They will develop their gross motor skills (large movements) and their fine motor skills (more controlled smaller movements) by handling tools and small equipment with safety and basic control.

Literacy – Literacy development involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and begin to read by blending sounds and write by segmenting these sounds. The children will be given access to a wide range of reading sources such as books, poems and other written materials to ignite their interest and love of literacy at an early age.

Mathematics - This area will develop an understanding of maths through songs, stories, games and imaginative play. Your child will count, sort objects and learn to recognise numbers. They will use mathematical vocabulary to describe concepts such as shape, pattern, size, capacity and measure. Problem solving using maths also forms an important part of this area of learning.

Understanding the World - Your child will explore and find out about the world around them. They are encouraged to talk about their lives, family members and events that take place in their lives. They will build and construct with a variety of objects and resources. They will learn to investigate places, living things and materials and objects using their senses. Children will have access to ICT e.g. computers, recorders, iPads etc. and use interactive whiteboard technology. They will find out, celebrate and learn to respect other cultures and beliefs.

Expressive Arts and Design – Creative development has many links with other areas of the curriculum and a lot of teaching is carried out through creative activities such as collage, printing, mark making, junk modelling or painting. They will also have opportunity to explore colour, shape, texture and space. In addition, expressive art and design includes engaging in music, enjoying role play and partaking in imaginative play. We display children's work to encourage a sense of pride in their achievements. Role play situations are set up to encourage imaginative play, language acquisition and to develop a child's thinking about others.



ACTIVITIES IN THE FOUNDATION STAGE

A day in the Foundation Stage is varied and very busy. Here are just a few of the kinds of activities your child will be doing during their time in the Foundation Stage:

- ✓ looking at books
- ✓ acting out stories
- ✓ imaginative role play
- ✓ writing/mark making for different purposes
- ✓ sorting and matching games
- ✓ learning letter sounds
- ✓ counting, weighing, measuring
- ✓ learning the names of shapes
- ✓ drawing, painting, collage, model making
- ✓ cutting and sticking
- ✓ working with sand and water
- ✓ using the computer and interactive whiteboard
- ✓ climbing, throwing and catching
- ✓ riding bicycles and scooters



HELPING YOUR CHILD WITH THE CURRICULUM

At this age, children learn the most through playing, talking and practical activities, so any time spent simply playing with your child and talking to them is very important.

Many parents ask how they can help their child with reading, writing or maths. The following are intended as helpful ideas you may want to use at home:

- Talk to your child each day about something that has happened during their day and allow them to recall some details.
- Share a book or story together each day.
- Teach them how to handle a book properly.
- Encourage them to retell familiar stories or rhymes, perhaps using pictures.
- Look at and talk about shop signs, food labels, etc.
- Write letters, birthday cards, party invitations together [your child's early 'scribble' writing is very important].
- Give your child lots of opportunities to experiment with felt tips, crayons, chalk or any other ways to make marks etc.
- Encourage holding pens and pencils properly.
- Show your child how to write his/her name. Remember only the first letter should be a capital.
Say number rhymes and count with your child.
- Share out biscuits or sweets, e.g. one each, two each.
- Ask questions like 'How many red ones?'
- Look at number symbols and read them together.
- Talk about simple shapes, e.g. square, triangle.
- Compare height with family members, e.g. taller, shorter
- Compare weights of shopping - apples/ potatoes [heavier/lighter].
- Play with different containers in the bath-talk about full/empty.
- Allow your child to pay for something when out shopping and identify different coins.

Our staff greatly values the contribution you have already made to your child's education and we look forward to working with you. If you are ever worried, unsure or curious about anything we do in the Foundation Stage, please do not hesitate to ask a member of staff - we will be happy to help!



EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS

The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools is committed to providing equality of opportunity for all children regardless of gender, race, ethnic background, religion or special educational need. Each child is seen as an individual and valued as such.

The school has a policy for special educational needs. It provides information about processes and procedures used to identify and help children with special educational needs. If your child shows some concern in their development or learning, a member of staff will talk to you. This is a two-way process and so if you have any concerns about your child's progress in any area of the curriculum, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff.

The school's Special Needs Co-ordinator is Mrs A Barber.

REPORTING PROGRESS

All children progress at different rates and we plan the Foundation Stage curriculum in order to take account of this. Some children need extra support in certain areas and others need to be provided with opportunities to extend their knowledge, skills and understanding. It is our intention to meet the individual needs of each child. Parents/carers are kept fully informed of their child's progress through informal chats, open sessions, and parents' evenings. We also use an online platform called Tapestry to share 'WOW' moments with you about your child, more information will be sent about this in September.

We want your child to be happy and settled during their time with us. It is important that you as parents are happy and relaxed too. If you have any queries or concerns about your child's progress, then please come and see us-we don't want you to sit at home worrying! We will do our best to help.

RECORDS AND INFORMATION

We give every child a book bag at the start of their time with us. This is where letters and information are put. Please remember to check this regularly. We ask that you use this and not a bag from home as larger bags form a health and safety risk in the classroom.

Newsletters are published every Friday and we ask that you sign up to have this sent via email. A copy is also put on the school's website (see the front page for the website address).

THE SCHOOL DAY

SCHOOL ORGANISATION

At The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools we work as one school across two sites. On our Spennithorne site we have: EYFS, Year 1 & 2. At Middleham we have Year 3,4 5 & 6.

We offer inter-school transport to bus the children between sites if you require it. We will discuss this with you at the transition day.

GETTING TO SCHOOL SAFELY

The safety and well being of your child is our number one priority. If you need to drive your child to school, please help us by parking in the allocated bays in the school car park. Please be vigilant for children crossing in these areas.

TIMINGS

- ✓ The morning session for all EYFS & KS1 children starts at 9am and finishes at 12pm.
- ✓ The afternoon session starts at 1pm and finishes at 3.30pm.

Please bring your child to school on time (there will be a member of staff on the school playground from **8.50am every morning**) as a lot of the teacher input work takes place at the start of the session and it's important your child does not miss this. It is also disruptive for other classes and children.

Please collect your child on time or telephone if you are delayed. If we know that you may be a little late at the end of the session, we can reassure your child that you will be along soon.

Make sure you tell us if anyone different is collecting your child from school. We will not let him or her go with someone else unless you have told us first.

We need to know...

- If you change your telephone number (especially your mobile number)
- If one of the people you have put down as an emergency contact changes their telephone number or moves away.

MEDICINES

If your child has been prescribed medicine by a doctor to be taken during school hours, parents must hand over the medicine at the school office. It is important that there are also clear, written instructions to go with the medicine and that it is labelled with your child's name. You will be asked to fill in a form giving consent for us to administer the medication.

Medicines not prescribed by a doctor cannot be given by any of the school staff. This follows North Yorkshire Health and Safety Guidelines – our policy can be found on the school website.

ABSENCES

If your child will not be coming to school because s/he is ill, please let us know as soon as possible (**no later than 9am**). You can either leave a message on the answerphone or email school.

The school telephone number is:
01969 623474 (Spennithorne)
spennithorneadmin@fed-mas.n-yorks.sch.uk
01969 623592 (Middleham)
middlehamadmin@fed-mas.n-yorks.sch.uk

LUNCH TIME AT SCHOOL

Whether your child has school dinners or a packed lunch, children sit in the hall and eat their dinners with the children in their class.

Every child, until the end of KS1, is eligible for 'Universal Entitlement to Free School Meals' or UFSM. However, please ensure that if you are, or feel you might be entitled to 'Free School Meals' (FSM) that you apply for this as the school receives additional funding.

You may be eligible if you are in receipt of:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit

WATER BOTTLE & HEALTHY SNACK

Your child is required to bring a suitable water bottle to school. Children have constant access to drinking water. We also offer all children a piece of fruit every day. On a Friday the school cook makes fantastic snacks (e.g. healthy flapjack) to enjoy at break time at a minimal cost of 50p.

Please let us know if your child has any food allergies, so that we can provide an alternative to any problem foods.

Menus are sent home termly.

Packed lunch boxes need labelling clearly, which will help your child recognise which one belongs to them. We ask that all lunches are 'healthy' and ask that no chocolates, sweets or crisps are included. If we feel something in a lunchbox does not fit this criteria, we reserve the right to ask the child to put it back into their lunchbox and for this to be returned home. Water is available at lunchtimes. We are happy to let your child bring a drink with their packed lunch but please no fizzy drinks or glass bottles.

We aim to be a nut and banana free school as we have a number of children with allergies. Please do not send items into school that contain nuts or bananas.



WHAT YOU WILL NEED FOR SCHOOL



SCHOOL UNIFORM

At The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools, we like all our children to come to school clean, tidy and ready for work, so we have adopted the following colour scheme for our uniform:

- ✓ Black or grey trousers, shorts, skirts or pinafore.
- ✓ Navy blue school polo neck shirts
- ✓ Purple sweatshirt or cardigan
- ✓ Purple checked/striped dresses for summer wear
- ✓ Tights in the winter (optional)
- ✓ Socks
- ✓ Black shoes (not trainers)
- ✓ Wellington boots (labelled and left in school for outdoor use)

Clothing items with the school's logo on can be purchased directly from our supplier by following the link below.

www.school-shop.co.uk

Select the school your child is registered at so that your child's school can be embroidered on to the clothing.

We would like all the children to wear uniform.
Please label all items with your child's name, very clearly.

Please ensure all long hair is tied back.

The children will be using the outdoor learning environment in all weathers. Wellies are essential during the winter months and hats in the summer. Therefore, please could you supply a pair of wellies (named) so that the children can dig, explore and create, without walking mud into school. Children will always need a suitable coat.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Your child will need a PE kit which consists of :

- ✓ Black shorts,
- ✓ Plain white t-shirt
(or embroidered, purchased from our uniform supplier)
- ✓ Plimsolls.

On PE Days, the children will come to school wearing their PE Kit, we will confirm the day for PE in September.

In colder weather, your child will need warmer PE clothes; a black hoody and joggers are fine.

In order for your child to be safe, no jewellery is worn during PE sessions. It is useful to remove it before your child comes to school. (In school, we only allow watches and stud earrings).

HOUSES

The children are put into different house teams for activities such as sports day, Federation Day activities etc. We also award team points (dojo points), which the children can amass for their team and themselves.

Dojo points are also collected by the children and milestones are celebrated through certificates awarded in our Friday celebration assemblies. These points carry on being collected as your child moves through the school.

WORK AT HOME

Your child will bring activities home to share with you. The activities will support the work we do in the Foundation Stage. We believe that learning should be fun and exciting!

- Letter/sound recognition
- Games collecting information
- Making lists
- Looking for shapes in the home
- Number hunt around the home
- Number games
- Practising adding and taking away

These activities will give you a great deal to talk about together, as well as being good fun! The activities always relate to the children's learning. The time that you spend together will really help to give your child a stronger foundation for their future learning in Literacy and Maths.



READING AT HOME

Reading is one of the most important skills your child will learn at school. We put an enormous amount of time and effort into helping your child to enjoy reading and to become a confident reader and we expect you to help us with this with regular reading at home too.

In the first few weeks, they will be given books to bring home to share with you. Children need encouragement to read books and to listen to and enjoy stories. Please spend a little time each day sharing a book with your child. If you enjoy story time with your child, she/he will soon learn that reading is fun. Record your comments about the book in their planner. This will show that you value reading time with them.

As your child moves through the Foundation Stage, their reading will develop into a more structured programme. Your child will be given a levelled book and a story book which you can read to them, maybe as a bedtime story. They will also have their reading planner in their book bag, which will serve as a way of tracking your child's reading progress. We would ask you to write a positive comment in your child's diary and bring their book bag to school every day. This planner can also be used as a line of communication between home and school and is checked by the teacher.

CAN YOU HELP?

We may be able to use something which you are about to throw away!

We often need things like:

- pants and socks for when 'accidents' occur.
- junk materials for model making such as cereal boxes, wool, sequins, yoghurt pots, margarine pots, etc.
- books, toys, games, dressing up clothes which are in good condition.
- children's magazines in good condition.

Please keep an eye on the windows or in the newsletter for information/notices/'things' we are collecting. Thanks!

If you are able to help out in school, please pop in and talk to a member of staff. We look forward to working with you!



**The Federation of
Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC)
Church of England Primary Schools**

EYFS, Year 1 & 2

Spennithorne VC CE Primary School

Spennithorne

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North Yorkshire

DL8 5PR

Telephone: **01969 623474**

Email: spennithorneadmin@fed-mas.n-yorks.sch.uk

Year 3,4 5 & 6

Middleham VA CE Primary School

Park Lane

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North Yorkshire

DL8 4QX

Telephone: **01969 623592**

Email: middlehamadmin@fed-mas.n-yorks.sch.uk