



Great Finborough Primary School

Foundation Stage Induction Booklet



Welcome to Green Class

Thank you for choosing Great Finborough Church Primary for your child. We look forward to welcoming you and your child to the school over the coming months. 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. We place high importance on partnership between ourselves and parents. 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.

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Great Finborough Church Primary

General Information

Great Finborough CEVC Primary School
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Tel/Fax: 01449 613208
Email: admin@finboroughprimary.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr Stephen Dodd
Assistant Headteacher: Mrs Susan Baldry
SENDCO: Mrs Susan Baldry
Business Manager: Mrs Harriet Elliss

Reception Class Teacher: Ms Rebecca Firman
Reception Class Teaching Assistant: Mrs Diane Kenvin

If you need to access the school during the school day (when the main gates are locked), please ring the bell by the front gate and a member of staff will be pleased to assist you.

The Reception Year

Between the ages of 3 and 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 plays and explores; investigates; creates; practices and rehearses. The children follow a play-based curriculum, focussed around topics that will usually change each half-term. All of these opportunities are designed to develop confident children, who make the most of their school experience and enjoy high levels of success.

Green Class is where the excitement begins! The children learn in an environment which is developed around the children's interests. We pride ourselves on being an exciting and engaging place to be - encouraging our children to be independent learners through a range of practical activities. We follow a thematic curriculum which allows us to be creative with our lessons and let the children lead their own learning.

Green Class children follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFS). This curriculum is based upon four themes and principles.

The Unique Child - We understand that every child is an individual child who is capable in their own right. The holistic child has a variety of needs that need meeting over their time EYFS.

Positive Relationships - Social interaction is key to children's development. Children become strong, independent learners; as well as scaffolding their learning through positive social interaction.

Enabling Environments - Providing a safe, secure and stimulating base for your children is key to their development. The framework allows for experiences that respond to the child's individual needs/ interests; as well as developing a strong partnership between practitioners, parents and carers.

Learning and Development - Children develop and learn in different ways. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

During the reception year your child will be working towards, and beyond, the Early Learning Goals (ELGs) The seven areas learning are:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)
- Communication and Language Development (CDL)
- Physical Development (PD)
- Literacy (L)
- Mathematics (M)
- Understanding the World (UW)
- Expressive Arts and Design (EAD)

Your child will be involved in a wide range of activities every day, developing their skills in many different areas. Activities are designed to follow the interests of the children and move their learning forward, so the topics vary from year to year. The foundation stage year is about well planned play activities to develop the children's strengths in all areas of the curriculum. Play is a fundamental part of the EYFS curriculum which is carefully observed and led. Properly supervised, organised and resourced play promotes the following important aspects of development. It will help children:

- become creative and imaginative
- work alongside or co-operate with other children
- communicate
- investigate and discover
- express feelings
- extend their experiences in a safe environment
- care for others
- develop and express new ideas
- explore
- develop concentration
- learn
- share
- make sense of the world
- practise and develop skills
- take risks
- learn self control
- be happy
- understand the need for rules

The School Day

What will your child's day be like?

Morning

8.45- 9.05:	Children enter school / Hand Gym
9.05-9.15:	Register and morning discussion
9.15-9.30:	Phonics activities
9.30-10.30:	Play and Explore
10.30-10.45:	Collective Worship (after October half term)
10.45-11.00:	Playtime (after October half term)
11.00-11.15:	Maths carpet time
11.15-11.55:	Play and Explore
12.00-1.00:	Lunch

Afternoon

1.00-1.10:	Register and lunch time discussion
1.10-1.25:	Literacy carpet time
1.25-3.00:	Play and Explore
3.00-3.15:	Story and preparing to go home
3.20:	Collection by parents on the back field

School Dinners, Milk and Fruit

School dinners are free for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. The teacher will take the children to lunch every day, where they will be given a place at a table. Lunchtime supervisors and older children on the table will help them and show them what they need to do.

Children are offered a piece of fresh fruit at break time and a carton of milk if they wish. Every child under the age of 5 qualifies for free school milk. Once children reach Year 1, milk costs 20p per day.

The school dinner register can take a long time to complete when the children start Green Class. We ask that you sit with your child at home and select their choices at the beginning of the school week, complete the appropriate form and then pass this form to the office. A menu is sent to parents regularly. I send out a new lunch menu form every Friday which can be returned to the school office on the following Monday. Please complete which Main and which Dessert your child would prefer. If they are having a packed lunch please enter this. If your child is absent then their school dinner will be cancelled on the morning of their absence. If for any reason this choices changes, please let me know on the morning and it can be altered. Please find a copy of the form enclosed with the school lunch menu. I have included 2 on a sheet so that you can have one to keep at home (or fill out for two weeks at a time).

If your child has a special dietary requirement (dairy free, coeliac), then please do let us know as we can inform the kitchen staff and the menu can be adapted to meet the children's needs.

We have a no nut policy in school. There is a pupil in our school who has a severe, life-threatening allergy to all nuts including:

- Peanuts
- Peanut butter
- Pecans
- Walnuts
- Hazelnuts
- Nut oils
- Nut flavourings etc.

Touching or eating these items may provoke a severe allergic reaction. For the safety of this pupil we are asking parents to be extra vigilant that they do not to send any food containing these items to school. Please can you be particularly careful in checking items like brunch bars.

In the Mornings.....Settling your Child

Children are brought into school via the front entrance. Green Class children and their parents are invited to come into the classroom from 8.45 to see their child's work, watch as the classroom changes around their child's interests and make sure their child is settled. However, we do ask that you please leave by 8.55am to enable us to start our activities promptly. After the first half-term, we encourage you to allow your child to walk into school by themselves as much as possible.

Once in the classroom the children can get involved with one of the activities on offer. Usually, children settle very quickly and parents/carers are able to leave after a few minutes. Sometimes children find this separation difficult and may even become clingy or tearful. If this happens, and you would like the teaching assistant or myself to intervene and reassure your child to enable you to go, then please let us know. Very often, children who seem distressed, settle relatively quickly once the separation is made.

If your child is tearful, then those first few days of wondering if they are okay, or if they are still upset, can be a heart wrenching time. If you would like a phone call at break time to let you know how your child is, I will be happy to do this.

Collecting Children from School

Children need to be collected at 3.20pm from the back field. The children will be brought to the school field to meet their parent/carer. If you are not collecting your child yourself, you will need to notify the school who will be collecting in your absence. For their security we are not able to release children to other adults without this permission from parents. If adults not known to the school are likely to collect your child, then it would be helpful if we could have a photograph of them first.

Things to Bring to School

- Wellies—we play outside in all weathers!
- Suitable coats—nothing too special as it is likely to get sandy, muddy or wet.
- Spare clothes (including underwear) - just in case we get wet in water play or have an accident.
- Hats, scarves and gloves.
- Sun hats.
- Water bottles.
- Book bags, reading records and reading books—these are checked and changed regularly.

Medications

If your child needs regular medication in school, such as asthma inhalers, then please make sure you have discussed this with the teacher. Medication needs to be correctly labelled and in date. Please see the prospectus or ask for further details regarding administration of medicines.

At Playtime

During the first half term your child will be gradually introduced to playtime with the rest of the school. There are different zones on the playground and the children will be informed of these. The teacher on duty will remind the children which area they can play in that day. All children can use the playground. Children needing the toilet need to ask the teacher on duty first. At the end of playtime the teacher will ring the bell for the children to stand still. The teacher will then ask the children to walk to their lines ready to go back inside.

PE

Over the first term PE is introduced very gradually, and changing into their PE kit is managed in stages. As children become more able and confident with changing, we gradually work towards using full PE Kit. In PE we play games, use the bikes/trikes, dance and learn to move our bodies in different ways.

Getting more Involved

We are always on the look out for parents who would like to be more involved with the school and this can benefit the children's education in a number of ways. It sends a clear and important message to your child that education is something that carries value. On a more practical level it enhances the education provision for the children - whether you become involved in classrooms, clubs, in the Friends or in the Governing Body.

What if I Need to Discuss a Problem or Concern?

If you have any questions or worries, however small, then please feel let us know. You can catch teachers after school for a quick chat, or phone or pop into the office if you wish to make an appointment.

Preparing Your Child for School

We always encourage children to be independent and to attempt things for themselves. It would be very helpful if you could practise the following with your child and talk about the importance of these life skills with them:

- Dress and undress themselves.
- Use the toilet independently and ask to go there.
- Tidy up after himself/herself.
- Recognise their name. Please tell your child's teacher if their name is abbreviated in any way.
- Feed himself/herself.
- Share toys and equipment.
- Sing some nursery rhymes.
- Practise counting to 10.
- Listen well and follow simple instructions.

How can I help my child prepare for school?

- Encourage your child to be as independent as possible even if it takes far longer for them to get ready.
- Get them used to a routine of reasonably early to bed and up early enough for you and your child to have a stress free time to get ready for school.
- Never threaten them with school! Be positive. Show it to them as an enjoyable experience.

What can I do with my child before they start school?

- Give your child as many varied experiences as possible: drawing, painting, cooking, singing, making models, playing games, jigsaws, etc
- Get them used to: pencils, crayons, felt pens, chalks, paints, play dough, scissors
- Share stories, books and rhymes. Read to them.
- Count everything and share things out.
- Use lots of one to one correspondence—cup, plate, knife, fork and spoon for each person.
- Talk to them all the time. Name familiar things and discuss what they see around them and what things are for. Talk about what you see when you are out and about. Watch people work and discuss what they are doing.
- Read the 'All about Reception' book that will be given out on Transfer Day
- 'Play' schools at home - role play is a very effective way of helping your child to understand what will happen.

Parents as Partners

We recognise the importance of parents and carers in a child's developing stages. As a primary care provider you are your child's first educators and we greatly value any input, opinions and information you can share with us about your child's learning and progress.

To facilitate this we would very much like you to complete an 'All About Me' project over the Summer Holiday period. This can be presented in a way that suits you and your child; a book, a poster or a notebook.

You could include the following:

- Photographs
- Drawings
- Sentences or words.

It is very useful for us to know:

- Family Members (ie. Brothers and Sisters, Grandparents etc.)
- Pets
- Hobbies and Interests
- Favourite things – food, stories, toys,
- Places you have visited over the Summer

If you could bring your child's 'All About Me' project in during the first week of the Autumn Term, it can be shared with the whole class, and then displayed.

To support this, we also produce a 'Learning Journey' within the classroom that records your child's learning and achievements during school. The children are familiar with these diaries and they represent both child-initiated activities and directed tasks. These are available for you to look through with your child during the school year. We also encourage you to contribute to these by making small observations at home. At home your child will also have many WOW moments, for example your child may: complete a puzzle independently; ride a bike without stabilisers; participate in a club activity; be involved in a special ceremony (wedding, christening) or remember something interesting from a visit you have been on. Furthermore, if your child's target is to identify numbers to 10, you may notice him or her using the remote control to change the channel correctly to channel 3. This is showing us that your child can recognise the number three independently.

Your child will also receive 'Reading Diary' in the first few weeks of starting school, which is also frequently used as a 'Home-School Diary'. These are checked each frequently for comments regarding reading, targets and any messages that need to be relayed.

Great Finborough Church Primary

We provide many other opportunities for parents and carers to take an active part in their child's education. These include:

- Share events where parents are welcomed to join in with our sessions—e.g Reading and Maths sessions
- Educational visits where parent-helpers are invited (including Forest Schools)
- Sport events
- Termly newsletters
- Parents' evenings
- Reports

Most importantly, Ms Firman is usually available at 8.45 am or 3.20pm to answer any questions and Mr Dodd is usually in the playground before school. Phone calls to the School Office are most welcome, where Mrs Ellis will offer her assistance, or will arrange an appointment with members of staff if requested.

Induction Programme 2019

During the Summer Term, Ms Firman will endeavour to make visits to see most children in their preschool setting, and to visit their Key Workers to gather information about them. This allows us to prepare for your child's arrival, incorporate their interests and help them to feel comfortable on induction days. This should make the transition process an exciting and enjoyable start to their primary education.

Date	Activity
Wednesday 19 June at 6.00pm	Induction Evening
Monday 1 st and Tuesday 2 nd July	Home Visits
Wednesday 3 rd July 2.00pm-2.45pm	Come and Join in Session – all children
Friday 5 th July 11.00am-11:45am	Additional Come and Join in Session – invited children
Friday 12 th July 11.00am-11:45am	Additional Come and Join in Session – invited children
Wednesday 17 th July 2.00pm-2.45pm	Come and Join in Session – all children
Thursday 11th July 9.30am-12.30pm	Transfer Day and Shared Lunch
Tuesday 3 rd September	All children start school.

