



Welcome to Grafton Primary School

We are delighted to welcome you and your child to Grafton Primary School This booklet provides all the key information you need to help your child settle in and have a happy, successful start.

School Uniform

- White or Red polo shirt (we advise red as it hides the stains better!)
- Black or dark grey trousers/shorts/
- Grey skirt and pinafore dress
- Black or grey tights
- **Black shoes/ trainers only (no white, no laces)**
- Red and white check summer dress/skirt
- Red jumper, cardigan , or fleece
- School colour headscarf (if applicable)
- **Red book bag only – NO backpacks** (Please include a spare set of uniform in your child's bag)
- Please provide a **water bottle every day**
- **Label all items of clothing** (You could use stickers or stamps!)

Jewellery & Appearance

To maintain a safe and appropriate environment:

- Only small **stud earrings** allowed
- Only **religious necklaces or bangles** permitted
- Watches allowed (**no smartwatches**)
- No:
 - Nail varnish
 - Temporary tattoos
 - False nails
 - Make-up

If a child arrives wearing inappropriate items:

- Parents will be contacted and children may change into spare clothes if needed



School Times

We aim to provide a calm and welcoming start to each day. Children are invited to arrive between **8:45am and 8:55am** for a soft entry, allowing them to settle in comfortably. Please note that doors will close promptly at **8:55am**.

Our **lunchtime runs from 11:30am to 12:30pm**, giving children time to enjoy their meals and have a break before continuing with the day's activities.

The school day finishes at **3:10pm**, with collection taking place between **3:10pm and 3:20pm**. We kindly ask that all children are collected promptly within this time window, doors will shut promptly at 3.20pm.

Cool Milk (School Milk Scheme)

Children under 5 are entitled to **free milk each day** at Nursery through Cool Milk.

How to register

- Parents need to **register their child online**
 <https://customers.coolmilk.com/V2/register/>

Important Information

- Milk can only be provided to children who are **registered with Cool Milk**
- If your child is not registered, unfortunately we are unable to provide milk
- Milk is free until your child turns 5
- After age 5, milk is available at a small cost.

Breakfast Club

- 7:30am – 8:30am
- Doors close at 8:20am
- Cost: £4 per session
- Must be booked online

Reading Books

- Reading books are changed **weekly**
- Bring red book bags daily
- Books are changed **Thursday** and sent home **Friday**

Communication

Communication

We use the Arbor Parent App for most communication:

- Receive updates and important information
- Message the school directly
- One login works for multiple children

Please note:

- Check the school website regularly for additional information, including the “Who’s Who” section to help you identify the right member of staff
- You can also email the school office; they will forward your message to the appropriate teacher or staff member

Chain of Communication (for concerns and complaints)

If you have a concern, please always start with the person closest to your child. If the issue is not resolved, you can move to the next stage:

1. Key Worker
2. Class Teacher
3. Year Group Leader (YGL)
4. Phase Lead
5. Senior Leadership Team (SLT)
6. Headteacher (Mrs Bana)

Lunch Time

School Dinners

Meals are booked in advance using the school online system (School Grid). Please ensure meals are selected from home at least **three weeks in advance**.

Nourish is the chosen school dinner provider- please see a separate leaflet.

Each day, children are offered a **hot meal option**, which typically includes a main course, a roll, and a jacket potato option. We cater for a range of dietary requirements, including **halal and vegetarian meals**.

Packed Lunches

Families may also choose to provide a packed lunch. Please ensure lunches are **healthy and nut-free**, as we are a **nut-free school** to keep all children safe.

Water Bottles

Please send your child with a labelled water bottle every day

The bottle should contain only water (no juice or squash)

Please ensure the water bottle is kept separate from packed lunch items



Class Dojo (Learning Updates)



We use **Class Dojo** as a secure, social media–style platform to share your child’s learning and experiences in Reception.

ClassDojo

What is Class Dojo?

A private online platform used by schools to share updates with families

Works like a **closed social media page for the class.**

Please note: We use the **free version** of Class Dojo, so there is no cost to parents

How it works

You will be **invited by the class teacher** to join

Only **parents/carers have access**

You can view the **Class Story feed**, where we post:

- Photos of learning and play
- Group activities
- Special “wow” moments

Important Information

You may see photos of **other children in the class**

Access is **strictly limited to invited parents/carers only**

Posts are **view only** (no commenting or messaging)

Only children with **photo permission** will be included. You can update permissions via the Arbor app



Early Years Pupil Premium Funding

If your child is in early years education, your early years provider (the school) could be eligible for extra funding to help support your child

Benefits could include:

- Costing of trips
- Staff training
- Resources





Eligibility:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under part six of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year after tax, not including any benefits you get

Cooking & Food Activities – Voluntary Contribution

As part of our Early Years curriculum, we regularly plan cooking and food-based activities such as class baking sessions, simple cooking tasks, food tasting linked to our topics, food exploration and play.

These experiences support a wide range of learning and development, including:

-  **Mathematics** – measuring, counting and sequencing
-  **Communication and Language** – developing vocabulary and following instructions
-  **Understanding the World** – exploring different cultures and ingredients
-  **Physical Development** – mixing, pouring and chopping, Exploring different textures.

To help us continue to provide these valuable learning opportunities, we kindly request a voluntary contribution of **£3 per child per term (£9 for the year)**. This will support the cost of ingredients and resources used in these activities. Payment can be made via the Arbor app.





Please be assured that we carefully take allergies and dietary requirements into account and ensure that all activities are planned so that every child can participate safely and meaningfully.

Attendance Matters – 100% Attendance

At Grafton Primary School, we aim for every child to achieve 100% attendance wherever possible. We understand that children can occasionally be unwell, but good attendance from the start of Reception is essential for your child's progress and confidence.

In Reception, children begin learning at a fast pace, particularly in phonics, where they learn a new sound each day. Each lesson builds on the previous one, so missing learning time can make it harder for children to keep up. Over time, this can lead to gaps in learning and children falling behind their peers.

Regular attendance helps children:





-  Keep up with daily phonics learning
-  Build early reading writing and maths skills
-  Develop confidence in communication
-  Make strong progress towards end-of-year expectations


We work closely with families to support good attendance and ensure every child has the best possible start to their school journey.

Good Level of Development (GLD) & Early Learning Goals (ELGs)



ELGs	At the end of Reception, children are assessed against the Early Learning Goals (ELGs). These describe the skills and knowledge children are expected to achieve by the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage.
GLD	A child achieves a Good Level of Development (GLD) if they have met the expected level in the Prime Areas .
Approach	Every child develops at their own pace, and we support all children individually to help them make strong progress.

Prime Areas - Areas needed for GLD

Area	Children can... (End of Year Expectations)
 Communication and Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen attentively in a range of situations • Understand and follow instructions • Use full sentences to explain ideas and experiences • Ask and answer questions confidently
 Personal, Social and Emotional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build positive relationships with adults and peers • Show confidence in new activities and situations • Manage their feelings appropriately • Follow rules and routines independently
 Physical Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move confidently and safely in a range of ways (running, jumping, climbing) • Use tools such as pencils, scissors and paintbrushes effectively • Develop good control and coordination • Manage own self-care (toileting, dressing, handwashing)
Literacy and maths are included in specific areas but they are needed for children to receive a 'Good Level of Development'.	
 Literacy (Reading & Writing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise and say most phonics sounds • Blend sounds to read simple words and sentences • Read simple sentences with increasing fluency • Write simple words and sentences independently using known sounds • Form letters correctly with increasing accuracy • Begin to use capital letters and full stops

 Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Count reliably and recognise numbers beyond 10 • Use numbers in simple addition and subtraction • Solve simple number problems using objects and pictures • Recognise, describe and compare shapes, space and measures
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Specific Areas










Area	Children can... (End of Year Expectations)
 Understanding the World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about their family, community and experiences • Explore and ask questions about the world around them • Use simple technology safely and appropriately • Understand similarities and differences between people, places and cultures
 Expressive Arts and Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a range of materials creatively and purposefully • Draw, paint and create with increasing detail and control • Sing songs, move rhythmically and perform • Use imagination in role play and storytelling



What Does 'Reception Ready' Mean?

Being **Reception Ready** means your child is developing the independence, confidence, and key skills they need to settle happily and learn successfully when they start school.

There are lots of simple, fun and everyday things you can do at home to help your child feel ready for this exciting next step! ✨

<p> Toileting Independence</p> <p>Asks to go to the toilet</p> <p>Uses the toilet on their own</p> <p>Wipes properly and washes hands afterwards</p>	<p> Talk, Talk, Talk!</p> <p>Talks about their day</p> <p>Answers "how" and "why" questions (e.g., <i>Why does it rain? How do we make toast?</i>)</p> <p>Builds vocabulary through real conversations</p> <p>Has time to think and respond — listening is just as important as talking!</p>	<p> Early Maths Skills</p> <p>Recognises numbers and can name them out of order</p> <p>Counts objects like stairs, snacks, toys</p> <p>Matches numbers to amounts (e.g., 4 apples = number 4)</p> <p>Recognises and talks about shapes, patterns and sizes</p>
<p> Name Writing and Letters</p> <p>Can write their name clearly</p> <p>Uses a capital letter for the first letter, followed by lowercase letters (e.g., <i>Amira</i>, not <i>AMIRA</i>)</p> <p>Begins forming other lowercase letters correctly</p>	<p> Phonics Foundations</p> <p>Listens for initial sounds in words (e.g., <i>c</i> in <i>cat</i>, <i>d</i> in <i>dog</i>)</p> <p>Visits the Little Wandle Parents' Section to learn correct pronunciation of sounds www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents</p> <p>Says pure sounds, not ABC letter names (e.g., <i>sss</i>, not "ess"; <i>mmm</i>, not "em")</p>	<p> Developing Fine Motor Skills</p> <p>Practise cutting with child-safe scissors</p> <p>Play with playdough, tweezers, pegs, and threading activities</p> <p>Encourage drawing, mark-making, using small objects and building with blocks</p> <p>Uses a knife and fork and can open lunchboxes, packets and drinks</p>
<p> Nursery Rhymes & Sound Play</p> <p>Sings rhymes and songs daily — great for memory and rhythm</p> <p>Plays rhyming games (e.g., <i>dog/frog/log</i>)</p> <p>Claps syllables and hears beginning sounds in words</p>	<p> Loving Books and Stories</p> <p>Listens to and joins in with familiar stories</p> <p>Talks about characters, predicts what might happen next, and asks questions</p> <p>Enjoys books and storytime every day</p>	<p> Getting Dressed</p> <p>Can put on coats, shoes and clothes independently</p> <p>Practises zips, buttons, and Velcro</p> <p>Put school bag over head and put water in bags.</p>

Early Years Home-School Agreement: Learning Through Play

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Grafton, we believe that children learn best through **play, exploration, and real-life experiences**. In the Early Years, this means engaging in a wide range of activities that are hands-on, often messy, and frequently take place outdoors.

Learning Through Play

Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) develop their curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking through active play. This can involve:

- Sand, water, and mud play
- Painting, gluing, and messy crafts
- Gardening, digging, and exploring nature
- Construction and small world activities

As a result, **your child will likely come home messy** from time to time. Please understand that this is a sign of active, meaningful learning – and lots of fun!

Outdoor Learning

Outdoor learning is a vital part of our curriculum. Unless the weather is deemed **unsafe** (e.g. thunderstorms, high winds, extreme temperatures), your child will be outside every day. Outdoor play supports:

- Physical development
- Mental well-being
- Language and social skills
- An appreciation for nature

We go outside in **all weathers**, so it is essential that your child is dressed appropriately each day.

Please Provide:

- A **waterproof coat**
- A **warm hat and scarf** in cold weather
- Spare clothes in case your child gets wet or muddy (to be kept inside red book bag)

We will do our best to keep your child warm and comfortable, but some mess and dirt is part of the experience!

By signing this EYFS home school agreement, you acknowledge and support our approach to learning through play and outdoor experiences.

Parent/Carer Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____