



# Welcome to Montgomery Primary School, September 2025

We are looking forward to working in partnership with you to achieve the best possible start for your child in school.



We aim to give you some useful information in response to these FAQs

- Who will be my child's teacher?
- What is the school uniform?
- What is a school day like?
- What happens at lunch time?
- What is the curriculum for YR?
- How can I help my child be 'school ready'?
- How can I support my child in their learning at home?
- How do I contact my child's school?



## + Year R classes

- We have two YR classes who have classroom bases as well as shared spaces in the YR unit and outdoors.
- Each class has a 'tree' name, also used for classes in Y1- Y6 and Nursery
- Year R – Fir class – Mr Mauro
- Year R – Elm class – Miss Pettitt
- Your child will be taught by their own teacher and other EYFS staff during the day
- The two YR classes have many opportunities to mix, play and be together during the day in 'learning through play' sessions and at lunchtime. Please be aware that we look again at the class profiles towards the end of YR, in preparation for Y1 classes.



## Other staff your child will meet during the Reception year:

Miss Way – Headteacher and Safeguarding lead

Mrs Harman – Assistant Head and EYFS lead; EYFS teacher

Mr Bruce – Assistant Head and Curriculum lead; class teacher

Mrs Simms – Assistant Head and Phonics/English Lead; class teacher

Miss Donnolly – SENCO (maternity cover for Miss Elliott)

Any safeguarding concerns, please contact Miss Way

Mrs Brooking, Mrs Dyer and Mrs Phelan – our office admin team are an invaluable source of information about many aspects of school life! All queries are dealt with in confidence.





# What is the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the stage of education for children from birth to the end of the reception year.

It is based on the recognition that children learn best through play and active learning.

It is the same curriculum in pre-reception settings as it is in the reception class at school.

There were new changes to the curriculum from September 2021 which gave staff the opportunity to spend more time interacting and playing with the children. This means that we will not be completing as many written observations using on-line platforms (we use 'Seesaw'). However, we will know your children very well and be able to identify their strengths, interests and next steps.



## Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum

The **3 prime areas** are considered most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning:

- Communication and language – listening, attention, understanding, speaking
- Physical development – gross and fine motor skills
- Personal, social and emotional development – self regulation, managing self, building relationships

These prime areas help your child to develop skills in **4 specific areas**:

- Literacy – comprehension, word reading, writing, phonics
- Mathematics – number, numerical patterns
- Understanding the world – people, culture and communities, the natural world
- Expressive arts and design – creating with materials; being imaginative and expressive



## + A typical school day in YR

8:40am Doors open, goodbyes, children sort own belongings – independence is key!

8:45am Doors close and registration - official start to the school day.

9:00am Wake and shake.

9:05am Phonics input \*

9.30am Learning through play - adult directed tasks, 1:1 learning or child-led learning in the indoor and outdoor environment, including snack time

11.20am Tidy up - looking after resources is also important!

11.30am Maths input \*

12.00pm Lunch in the hall then supervised play outside.

1.15pm Registration.

1.20pm Input on either 'Personal, Social and Emotional Development', 'Understanding the world' or 'Expressive Arts and Design' \*

1.45pm Learning through play

2:40pm Tidy up, celebrate learning, story, collect all belongings, goodbyes.

3:15pm Doors open for home time.

\*Teacher-led inputs increase in the length of time as each term progresses.

Staff are available for informal chats or pre-booked meetings **after** school; the start of the day is very busy and our priority is to meet and settle each child and ensure everyone is safely in the building.

# + The importance of play

Parent - What have you done at school today?

Child – Oh, just played!

Play is essential for a child's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, relate to others, set their own goals and solve problems.

Children learn by leading their own play, and by taking part in play which is guided by adults. At Montgomery, we refer to this as 'learning through play'.

We are an active, hands-on YR unit and we like to play and learn outdoors as much as possible, so please be prepared for uniform to be dirty at times!

Please supply a weatherproof coat with a hood for any weather changes. A pair of named wellies can be left in school for playing outdoors and we always have spare pairs available too.



## Lunchtimes

All Reception children are entitled to a universal free school meal – this is funded by the government - you do not have to apply for it and it is on offer until the end of Y2. However, if you are in receipt of income-related benefits please speak in confidence to the office staff as this impacts on the school's budget for 'Free school meals'.

**Hot meals** are cooked on site by a catering firm 'Aspens' and include a vegetarian option and a dessert. A copy of the menu is on the school website. Fresh drinking water and a salad bar is always available.

**Packed lunch** from home – 3 to 4 items in a named lunch box will be plenty - sandwich, piece of fruit or veg, biscuit, yogurt and a drink. No sweets, fizzy drinks or glass containers thanks.

You can choose for your child to have a school meal or a packed lunch on a daily basis. Children eat in the hall, supervised by YR staff who will support and encourage them to become independent in cutting food, opening packets etc. We will let you know if your child is not eating much so that you can make changes as needed.

After lunch, there is also time to play and socialise with friends from both YR classes, this is supervised by staff in the YR outside area. As the year progresses, the children play on the field and playground, in preparation for the transition to Y1.

We also provide a daily fruit snack (at no cost) during YR and your child can bring a separate water bottle (named) to drink from throughout the day, which can be topped up by staff. Water is the preferred drink because of maintaining good oral health.



## How can I help my child get ready for school?

Starting school can be nerve wracking for children AND parents alike! Rest assured, it is NOT about a child being able to write their name or count to 100... it is about competence, confidence and independence within a child.

Practice leaving your child with another adult so they are used to saying goodbye and being away from you, then return promptly at the agreed time, which will be the pattern of the school day.

Give opportunities for your child to communicate their needs eg, about needing the toilet, how they are feeling, asking for help with a coat zip etc

Encourage your child to use cutlery or how to open a lunchbox, water bottle, food packets independently.

It is important that children are happy when they are at school. Learning cannot take place unless children feel safe, secure and confident. Talk about school in a positive way and please don't be tempted to use school as a 'threat'!

Talk to your child about acceptable behaviour. At Montgomery, the children are expected to take responsibility for their own actions and to be aware of their effect on others. We reward positive choices through 'dojos' and our learning is underpinned by the 'Monty Values' of passion, determination, honesty, respect, teamwork and self-belief.



# Supporting school



We welcome volunteers in school from the Spring term – we can make use of your skills in cooking, gardening, craft, sewing, hearing readers, playing simple board games, accompanying a school trip - grandparents are also welcome to volunteer! As part of our safeguarding procedures, this is subject to a DBS check. – please collect and complete a form via the school office and we will sort the rest!

You can also become an active supporter of our school through Friends of Montgomery School (FOMS) who organise fund-raising events throughout the year, with all money raised being spent on the children eg, to fund a class trip or buy additional resources

We share learning and updates/reminders through an on-line platform called 'Seesaw' . It can be used for a communication route with your child's teacher too. We will respond to messages ASAP during the working day, 8am-6pm only. However, any urgent messages should always be made via a phone call to the school office.

## Uniform – please ensure EVERY item is named!!



White or purple polo shirt

Grey trousers, skirt or pinafore dress, all with easy fastenings

Purple school-logo sweatshirt, purchased from 'Stich2Print' at Marsh Barton

Black, flat, weather-proof school shoes with velcro fastening - please avoid laces unless your child can tie them independently!

Summer term – purple and white checked dress or grey shorts

**PE kit** is worn to school on the designated PE days (2 days to be confirmed):

Black or navy shorts, joggers or leggings

Plain white tee-shirt or polo shirt, no logos thanks

Trainers or plimsolls with velcro fastening

Montgomery jumper or PE hoodie, purchased from 'Stich2Print'

A named school book bag for reading books available from 'Stich2Print'

Please also supply a **small** back-pack with a named water bottle and a change of school uniform. We do have spare uniform in school but sometimes children prefer their own clothing.

Show your child where to find their name on all items of clothing! A Sharpie pen can be just as good as name tapes.

For health and safety reasons, please ensure long hair is tied back. Stud earrings only can be worn and need to be removed or taped at home for the PE day.

**ALL** toys and personal items should be kept at home, thank you.

## + Learning to read

Learning to read will be an exciting experience for your child! Please remember that children learn at their own pace, and it is important that you don't compare your child with their siblings or friends.

There is a new curriculum focus on early language and extending vocabulary. We will explore this by:

- Having quality learning conversations and interactions with the children
- Reading a range of stories (fiction), poems, rhymes and non-fiction texts
- Teaching new words and vocabulary and encouraging the children to use them.

We use a government accredited scheme '**Read Write Inc**' to teach reading and phonics daily (more information will be shared with you early in the Autumn term).

Please note: Reading books are **not** given out immediately, only when the first set of letters have been taught. Read Write Inc emphasizes success in reading so there is a fixed progression of reading practice.

There are ways that you can help your child to learn to read:

- Set aside a special time when sharing a book can be fun and relaxing.
- Switch off the television and find somewhere quiet and comfortable.
- Take time to talk about the book title, cover, the author, the characters etc.
- Look at the pictures – there is often more going on than the corresponding text
- Predict what might happen next in the story and why
- Ask questions about the story which helps develop comprehension skills
- Spot taught letter sounds in the text
- Boost confidence with constant praise and encouragement, however small the initial achievement may seem.
- Reading stories regularly to your child is just as important as them reading aloud to you.
- Early reading skills, phonics and the development of vocabulary has a positive impact on early writing skills too.

## + Learning to write.

Before writing letters, children need to develop strength and dexterity in their whole body and movement is essential for this learning!

Give your child opportunities to play, lift things, run, jump, climb, crawl, swing, hang upside down, roll, stir, knead, push, pull, dig, prod, poke... these activities develop large movements and strength in the shoulder, elbow, wrist, hand and finally the fingers.

Remember, writing does not have to be on paper with a pencil – try chalk on the floor, painting with water, finger in a tray of rice/shaving foam or with a stick in the sand at the beach!

You can help at home by encouraging your child to make marks and talk about what they have written, or to write shopping lists, birthday cards, letters and invitations. Encourage and praise all attempts!

We follow 'Talk for Writing' to develop creative writing and to develop segmenting for spelling we use 'Read Write Inc'. These schemes are used across the school, and we will share information about each scheme in the Autumn term.

There will be many opportunities for the children to write independently during the day, both indoors and outside. Children will also be taught how to recognise letters and sounds in daily phonics sessions, in order that they can begin to write initial letters, part words, whole words and then sentences to become successful and independent writers. If your child is keen to start writing letters, please encourage them to use lower case letters.

# +Maths

As well as developing counting and number recognition, it is also important to develop an awareness of maths all around us or 'number sense'. We encourage questioning such as 'How long...? How many...? How much...? How do you know that?'

We follow the 'White Rose' maths scheme, in-line with the rest of the school.

Essential pre-number concepts – what these look like at school:

- **Matching** - pairs of items, card and lotto games
- **Sorting** – putting items into groups, card games, tidying up
- **Comparing and ordering** – objects by size, weight, height and length, using appropriate maths language
- **Subitising – knowing a quantity without counting** – using a dice, holding up fingers, counting plates on a table, etc

As well as the above, we plan opportunities to explore:

- 2D and 3D shapes and talk about their properties
- repeated patterns with a variety of items
- measurement using different tools and units of measure
- counting and composition of numbers
- spatial reasoning including prepositions of place and direction

## + General information

- **Our school office** is open from 8.30am until 3.30pm, staffed by Mrs Brooking, Mrs Dyer and Mrs Phelan.
- **School business manager** – Mrs Shepherd
- **Absence** – call the school office **01392 285240** before the start of the school day - this is for the first day of absence and any subsequent days. Please give your reason for absence as, like other schools, we are required to monitor and support attendance and punctuality. You can also leave an answerphone message or email: [office@montgomery.school](mailto:office@montgomery.school)
- Please let us know ASAP if you change your mobile number/email address in-case we need to contact you during the school day.
- If you are late to collect at the end of the day, please ring the school office as your child will **NOT** be released to another adult without your prior permission to school.
- **First aid** – all EYFS staff have current paediatric first aid training
- **Medicine** – must be signed in via the school office and is stored there; named inhalers are kept in a medical box in the YR classrooms
- Our school premises are used by **FISH** to run a Breakfast Club and After School Club – please contact **FISH 01626325808** or email [info@fishkids.co.uk](mailto:info@fishkids.co.uk) for further information.

Children attend full-time from the first day of term on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September**, unless there has been prior arrangement via the school. Please arrive from 8.40am via the YR classroom doors, where you will be met by the YR staff and your child will come indoors independently. You are welcome to have a cup of tea in the hall afterwards with Miss Way and members of FOMS!

We are looking forward to starting your child's school journey at Montgomery!