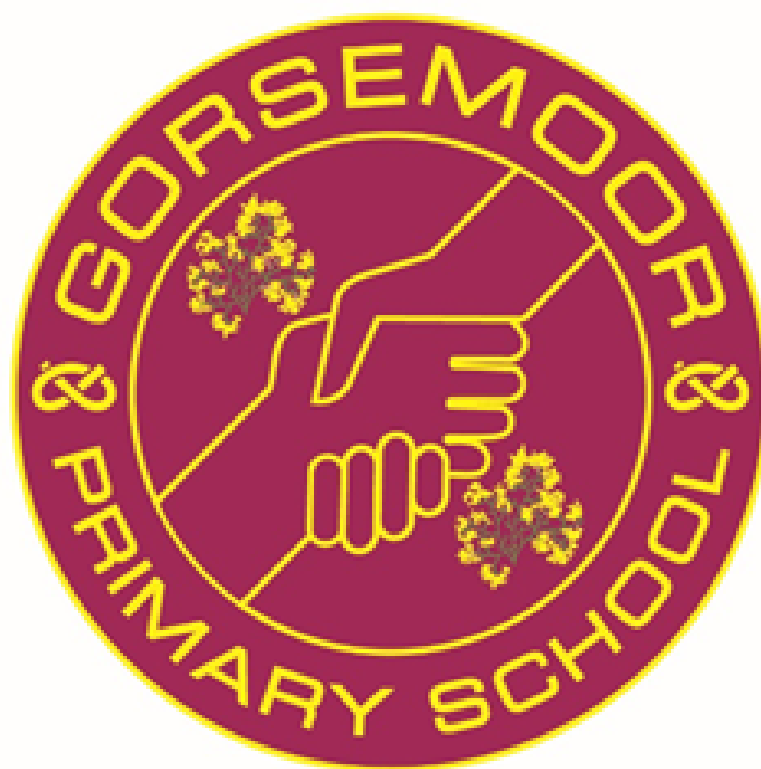


GORSEMOOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

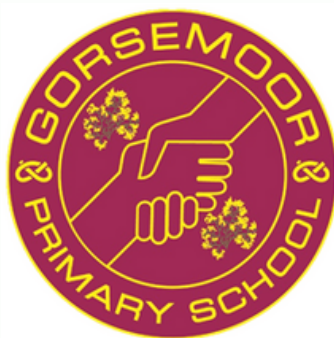
Growing together, hand in hand



Reception



Welcome to Reception



On behalf of our whole school community, I would like to offer you a very warm welcome to Gorsemoor Reception. We are very much looking forward to your child starting Reception here with us at Gorsemoor. This welcome booklet will provide you with all the information you need to give you a clear understanding about what happens within your child's Reception journey at Gorsemoor.

Our aim is to provide the children with a safe, stimulating and exciting learning environment that meet all of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum (EYFS). In Early Years we plan and deliver a carefully planned curriculum that will support and challenge the children to develop in all areas of their learning.

We believe that preparation for starting Reception is very important and hope that our transition visits and open evening for you and your child will help you to feel reassured and confident about joining us in September.

We suggest that you talk to your child positively about school, and encourage them to talk about it too. Encourage them to share their hopes as well as their fears.

We believe that your child's education is a partnership between us as Early Years professionals and you as parents/carers. It is very important to us that you and your child are happy at Gorsemoor. We will always work with you to ensure that your child settles well and continues to be happy during their learning journey. Your child's teacher and member of our early years team will always be happy to talk to you about your child or any concerns you may have.



Co-Headteacher's Welcome



We are delighted to welcome you to our school, a school that offers a community-wide sense of belonging, togetherness and 'family'. There is something very special about Gorsemoor and we are incredibly proud of our unique children, supportive parents, inspirational staff, and forward thinking governors. We all work in collaboration to make Gorsemoor a safe, happy and vibrant place to learn and thrive.

We have high expectations of ourselves and our children: the challenges that we set show them that we believe they can achieve them, instilling the confidence and ambition to do so. We place great importance in kindness and respect being mutual, both within our school community and the world around us.

Together, we work in partnership with parents and carers to ensure our pupils gain value, knowledge, skills and attitudes that will help them become resilient, motivated life-long learners and responsible citizens of the future.

We have a great deal of fun in our learning, whether in the classroom or playground, on the sports field, during one of our educational visits or themed learning days.

The beginning of a child's school journey can be an unsettling time for children and their parents/carers and this may be amplified given the current pandemic. Please rest assured that our dedicated staff will do everything they can to support you at this time and have arranged a transition timetable and activities, with your child's well-being at the forefront.

We both look forward to welcoming you and your child to Gorsemoor very soon. We make memories at Gorsemoor and they are happy ones. Happy children make good learners!

Mrs E Lees & Mrs N Costello

Our School Values



‘Growing together, hand in hand’

Our school vision represents the strong bond between our school and its community and we aim to inspire everyone to grow together to create an atmosphere that will give our children the best education possible. Our staff are armed with a strong moral purpose where high expectations are our starting point, not our end goal. We are dedicated to sustaining a culture engrained in personal and social development with a determined and collective commitment to the school's values for growth.

In any community, values are the essential building blocks for developing positive relationships and creating a climate for opportunity and limitless possibility. Here at Gorsemoor, we share a common sense of values that guide our approaches, relationships, policies and behaviour. Our values underpin every decision that we make in our school.

Our vision is that by **growing together, hand in hand**, we ensure that there is no limit on what we can achieve.

Little Leaders, Big Tomorrow



It is our belief that the purpose of education is to provide young people with the knowledge and skills to prepare our children for their diverse working lives, build character, teach knowledge for its own intrinsic value and ignite a love for learning.



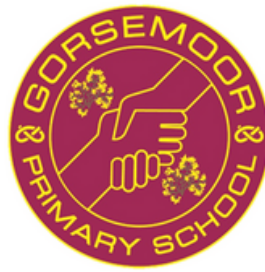
In Early Years, we are the opening scene; hooking our littlest learners into a voyage where they will discover a life-long love of learning. We believe it is our duty to provide our children with a strong foundation of knowledge that will equip them with the skills to lead a successful future. Through the provision of an inspiring and rich curriculum accessed through play and adult led activities.



Here at Gorsemoor, we have an experienced early years team who have high expectations for all of the children. They are required to attend regular training sessions to update their knowledge and understanding child development and needs of young children. Training is usually carried out on staff training days.

We believe that the children learn best through play! The early years team provide a range of exciting and engaging learning opportunities for the children to access independently and with the support. The children have the opportunity to be 'busy bees', which is where they are facilitated to access independent learning challenges and play experiences, alongside some objective led challenges to extend their learning opportunities. All the activities on offer will support each of the seven areas of learning in The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

The Early Years Foundation Stage



Across Nursery and Reception, your child will be working within a phase of their educational journey called the Early Year's Foundation Stage Curriculum (EYFS). All providers work within this Statutory Framework with children from birth to the end of their Reception Class year. The Early Years Foundation Stage sets the standards to ensure that children learn and develop well and are safe and healthy. Activities are planned and delivered around 7 areas of learning and three characteristics of effective teaching and learning:

3 Prime Areas include:

Communication and Language

- Listening, Attention & Understanding
- Speaking

Physical Development

- Gross motor skills
- Fine motor skills

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Building Relationships
- Managing Self
- Self-Regulation

4 specific areas of the EYFS include:

Literacy

- Comprehension
- Word Reading
- Writing

Mathematics

- Number
- Numerical Patterns

Understanding the World

- People, Communities and Cultures
- The Natural World
- Past and Present

Expressive Arts & Design

- Creating with Materials
- Being Imaginative and Expressive

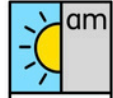


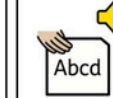
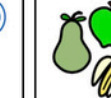


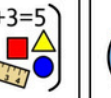
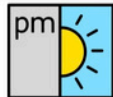
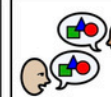


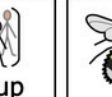



All areas of learning are important and inter-connected. Please see our school website to find more information about the Early Years Curriculum at Gorsemoor.

<https://www.gorsemoor.staffs.sch.uk/eyfs/>



The Routine of the Day

A typical daily routine at the beginning of the year will start as follows.

 Morning	 Morning Task	 Register	 Phonics	 Snack	 Busy Bee	 Maths	 Lunch
 Afternoon	 Enquiry	 Busy Bee	 Group Learning	 Busy Bee	 Family Snack	 Story	 Home

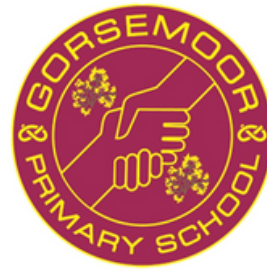
However as the children develop and grow during the year the daily routine will adapt to meet their needs.

In the autumn term children will be expected to sit for short amounts of time to develop their listening and attention skills. Throughout spring our sessions will increase to 15-20mins as the children are exposed to a variety of learning opportunities such as phonics, maths and understanding of the world. The children will begin read with an adult in a small group of 6 children 3x a week

Throughout summer term we aim to meet all learning intentions through a carefully balance timetable of purposeful play, small group sessions, whole class learning and both obojective led and independant challenges.



A day in Reception



What does being "school ready" mean?

- Having strong social skills.
- Being able to cope emotionally with being separated from their parents.
- Being relatively independent in their own personal care.
- Having a curiosity about the world and a desire to learn.
- The ability to follow simple instructions.
- Willing to ask adults for help.

Factsheets for parents

These factsheets are to help you support your child get ready for school. It's not about the RAW (reading, arithmetic and writing) skills – rather helping children be curious, confident and ready to learn.

Please scan the QR codes to access the fact sheets:

**#READYFORSCHOOL -
Mark Making**



**#READYFORSCHOOL -
Happy Talk**



**#READYFORSCHOOL -
Listen and Learn**



**#READYFORSCHOOL -
Numbers**



Ready for School!

Snack time and lunch club



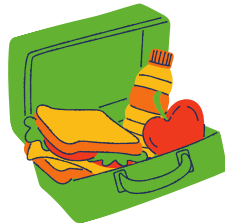
Snack Time



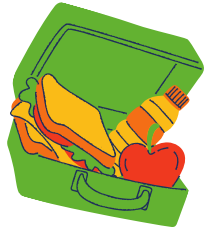
During the morning in Reception, the children will sit in their class groups for snack time. They have the opportunity to bring in ONE HEALTHY snack from home to eat during this time. The children are encouraged to have only water in their water bottles, which they have access to throughout the day.

In the afternoon we operate our snack time in family groups. The children will be offered a piece of fruit at this time. No snack from home in the afternoon.

All the children are entitled to a carton of milk until they turn 5yrs old, when the children will then have the chance to purchase 25p per day. More information to follow.



Lunch Time



Free school dinners are available for all children in Reception until the end of Year 2 (end of key stage 1).

Every parent/carer will be given access to CYPAD, an online app where you will be able to choose your child's lunch everyday from home.

There is a hot meal or sandwich with salad bar available to choose.

Mrs Love and her catering team will be able to speak anybody wishing to discuss any dietary requirements.

Children may also bring in a packed lunch in from home. We do encourage you to pack a healthy lunchbox in school with balanced food to promote energy and healthy eating.

Everyday essentials



A named bottle

The children can bring in a classroom water bottle prefilled with **water only**. The children can have juice or squash as part of their lunch.

A named coat

No matter the weather, the children need a waterproof coat in school everyday. Even if the weather is dry at the start of the day, it can change very quickly. In Nursery, we will go out in all types of weather. Exploring the natural world and changes in weather is part of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.



A bag of spare clothes

The children will need a pump bag of spare clothing to be kept in their locker in case they need changing during their session. Spare items should include a top, trousers/skirt, pants and socks. Please ensure that all items are named.



Your child will NOT need a bag in school.

Your child will be gifted a book bag when they start Reception. This is the **ONLY** bag they will require in school. It is used for their reading book, reading diary and letters **ONLY**.

Never place water bottles in your book bag in case of leaks.



Fruit for snack

Reception children are all offered a piece of fruit every day during family snack.

Uniform

At Gorsemoor we believe a school uniform is important for our children so that they develop a sense of identity with school.

The school uniform is:

Burgundy jumper or cardigan

**Grey trousers, skirt, shorts or pinafore dress
Burgundy and white checked summer dress**

White blouse/shirt or polo shirt

Black school shoes (No laces or buckles please)



In order to help your child become more independent when dressing themselves, please also bear in mind that clothes and shoes need to be as easy as possible to take on and off, so consider the type of fastening when buying them. Try to avoid small buttons, buckles and tie belts which can be tricky for small fingers. Velcro fastened shoes are ideal for Nursery aged children.

Please name all of your child's belongings.

*There is no expectation for your child to wear a uniform with our school logo on. Children grow very quickly and will likely come home very messy after a day of learning and exploring in Nursery! If you do wish to purchase items with the school logo on, then jumpers, cardigans, polo shirts and t-shirts are available from Crested School Wear.

<https://www.gorsemoor.staffs.sch.uk/uniform-information/>

SENDCo and Inclusion



Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)

At Gorsemoor Primary School we are dedicated to ensuring that each and everyone of our pupils achieve their full potential. We embrace our pupils' individuality and nurture their academic, social and emotional growth. We believe that all pupils, including those identified with having a Special Educational Need and/or Disability (SEND) should be able to fully access a broad, balanced academic and social curriculum. Our aim is to ensure that pupils gain the skills and knowledge, so that they are ready for their next stage of education.

SEND Support

At Gorsemoor Primary School, Mrs Hayley Porter oversees Inclusion and SEND.

Mrs Porter can be contacted by via the school office Tel: 01543 274788 or via email hporter@gorsemoor.staffs.sch.uk

You can find out more information about Mrs Porter's role by scanning the QR code or visiting our school website.

www.gorsemoor.staffs.sch.uk



Pastoral Support



Hello everyone, my name is Clare Walton and I am the Family & Multi-agency liaison officer for parents, carers and families of children at Gorsemoor Primary School. As some of you may already know, I have worked in this school as a Teaching Assistant for 23 years now and as a Mum of two teenage children, I know only too well how precious your child/ren are and that being a parent can bring demands and experiences we haven't planned for. Quite often we need someone ourselves to talk to about our children and help us find the support we need- this is where you will be able to contact me to support you.

My role is to assist in supporting children by working in partnership with families, parents, carers, agencies and pupils, to enable pupils, particularly those who need additional support, to have full access to educational opportunities and overcome barriers.

I am available to offer practical help and support to parents and carers in matters concerning your child's, development and wellbeing. I work in partnership with you, the teachers and senior leadership team to help you support your child to learn and enjoy their school years, by providing information and guidance. I can meet you on a 1:1 basis – in school or discuss matters over the phone, providing information on a range of issues and practical help, as well as offering a friendly listening ear.

I am available from 8.30 am until 4.00 pm Monday through to Friday and can be contacted directly through the school office 01543 274 788 , or via email at cwalton@gorsemoor.staffs.sch.uk

You can find out more information about Mrs Walton's role by scanning the QR code or visiting our school website.

www.gorsemoor.staffs.sch.uk



Safety and Wellbeing

From time to time, your child may fall over or have a bump at school. If this is a minor graze that leaves a mark on the skin, a member of staff will complete an accident slip that will be placed in your child's book bag. However, if the injury is more serious, or involves a bump to the head, you will receive a phone call to inform you and invite you to come and see your child. Again, a member of staff will complete an accident slip that will be given to you. All injuries are assessed by a trained paediatric first aider.



If your child has an injury at home, we will ask you to complete an injury form detailing how this occurred. This is part of our Health and Safety requirements.



If your child has any health care needs that may affect their time in school, we would ask you to complete a Health Care Plan if you haven't already notified us on our school admissions form. These are available from the school office. A meeting with our school SENCO can be arranged if necessary.

If your child needs a prescribed medicine for a short period of time, please contact the school office and complete the appropriate form. All prescribed medicines are kept in the school office and never in the classroom.

Please keep us up to date in any changes to your child's health or wellbeing. Including any changes to their family.

Home school partnership

At Gorsemoor, we are committed to providing the best learning opportunities for all of our children. We firmly believe that this is best achieved through a positive relationship between the child, parents and school. By working together we hope to promote a happy and rewarding education for your child. We want to ensure that they have an enjoyable year in Reception and a sound foundation for lifelong learning.

In Early Years we develop home school links in the following ways:

Parent Partnership Calendar

Throughout the year, you will be invited to attend open evenings and more formal parents evenings. Both events give us the opportunity to speak to parents about the progress their child is making. It also gives parents a chance to share any concerns that they may have. We do ask that any major concerns are shared with your child's class teacher as they become apparent so that we can rectify a problem as quickly as possible.

Keeping in Touch

We have an open door policy and staff are always available to answer any questions that you may have. If you wish to speak to us, we are usually available to talk at the end of each day.

Important messages can be given briefly in the morning or you may leave a message at the school office, which will be passed on to us. Please keep us informed of any changes in circumstances that may affect the behaviour or mood of your child.

ClassDojo

We use ClassDojo as a way of communicating with parents. You will be sent an activation code to access our Nursery group. If you have other children in the school, you will still need to activate this code to access the Nursery information.

Please appreciate that your child's class teacher is busy working with the children during the day and therefore ClassDojo may be infrequently checked during school hours. For this reason, please send urgent messages via the school office. Every effort will be given to respond to messages on the day that they are sent however, this may not always be possible. Please be aware that our school policy is that teachers do not respond to messages after 5pm or during the weekend.

Parental Contributions

We communicate with parents about our upcoming enquiries through our topic grids that will be sent out prior to a topic being started. These will also be shared on the school website. We understand that you are your child's primary educator and therefore we value any contribution that you make. Any activities that you can do at home with your child will greatly enhance their learning.

We also love to hear about achievements at out-of-school clubs like swimming or football. These can all be uploaded via your child's portfolio on Class DOJO.