



Frogwell Primary School & Complex Needs Resource Base



Early Years Foundation Stage Information Booklet

For Parents/Carers of pupils joining Reception (mainstream class)
In September 2023

Welcome to Donaldson class!



Hello everyone, my name is **Mrs Jenkins** and I am the Reception class (EYFS) teacher at Frogwell School.

Our class is called **Donaldson class**, after the children's author Julia Donaldson. She wrote stories such as The Gruffalo, Stick Man, Room on the Broom and many, many more! Have you heard any Julia Donaldson stories?

I have enjoyed meeting you at our stay and play sessions that took place in June/July.

I am really excited to see you all again in September so you can start your wonderful school journey. I know we will have so much fun together and you will learn lots of fantastic new things.

In this booklet you will find:

- A message from the Headteacher
- Starting School
- September start dates and times (a copy of the letter you will have received previously)
- Photos of some of the other staff you will meet
- School Uniform information
- Lunch time and snack time
- Water bottles/Book bags
- Things to bring to school everyday
- The EYFS curriculum information
- Top Tips for starting school (Wilts Council info)

Catherine Jenkins
(EYFS class teacher)

A message from the Headteacher

My name is Rachel Neville and I am the Headteacher here at Frogwell Primary School. I am delighted to welcome you to our school community as your child starts their learning journey with us. The years ahead will be full of exciting new opportunities and this first year in school will build a strong foundation for the future.

Whether you are completely new to our school or have other children who have been here, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to you. You have chosen a school that is caring, friendly and aims to make learning as exciting as possible, and where the staff are committed to doing the very best they can for every child. I look forward to meeting you properly in person in due course and to getting to know your child and seeing them “fly high” over the months and years to come.

I hope your children have been able to join us in school for their ‘stay and play’ sessions before the summer holidays and have had a chance to meet the class teacher, Mrs Jenkins, and the Teaching Assistant, Mrs Webb. I know Mrs Jenkins has already been making contact with our new families, which will have helped us gather important information about your child and start to think about what support individuals may need.

Hopefully this booklet will answer many of the questions you or your child might have about starting school, but please do not hesitate to speak to me or any of the Early Years team on the phone or by email if you need any extra information, or if you have any worries.

With very best wishes,

Rachel Neville
Headteacher



Ms R Neville
Headteacher

Starting school is a wonderful thing ☺ ...

School is a colourful, exciting and fun place to be! We want all our children to look forward to coming to school for the first time.

Children learn their fears of school from the things adults say to them and around them. It is important that you talk about school positively to and around your child. Never 'threaten' your child with going to school as a punishment. We know that some parents do not have good memories of their own school days but please remember that schools today are much friendlier places.

Always emphasise the enjoyment to be had at school and the excitement of learning with new friends.



Please try to make sure your child can do as many of these things as possible before they start school:

- play and share happily with other children
- tidy away their own toys
- let an adult know when they need to go to the toilet
- go the toilet by themselves, wipe their bottom, get pants up and down and wash hands afterwards
- wipe their own nose with a tissue
- put on their own coat and do it up
- sit properly to the table to eat
- drink from an open cup
- use a knife and fork at dinner time (practise opening lunch box, peeling fruit...)

The child who...

- is read stories regularly
- notices numbers when you are out and about (and lots of counting practise!)
- is talked and listened to ungrudgingly
- has their questions answered (even the awkward ones!)
- knows some simple nursery rhymes or songs
- is allowed to help out at home with simple tasks like setting the table
- has interesting things pointed out to them
- has played with all sorts of materials, not just toys
- gets a good nights' sleep and has a good breakfast
- comes to school every day on time and ready to learn

...is the child who starts school with the greatest advantages.



September Start Dates and Times:

Dear Parent / Carer,

September 2023 start dates for Reception Class:

The children will have a short, phased induction into school during the first two weeks of the term. This is done to assist a smooth transition into school, which builds up to full time schooling by the end of week 2 (if your child is ready*).

- During the 1st week (for 3 days) ½ the class will attend for the morning session (Gruffalo group: 8:45 – 12 noon) and ½ the class will attend for the afternoon session (Zog group: 1-3:15pm).
- On the last 2 days of this week, all children will attend for mornings only, till 12:00noon (whole class).
- In week 2 all children will attend for the mornings (whole class) for 3 days, including staying for lunch (till 1pm).
- By the end of week 2, the children will stay full time, if they are ready*.

*** Please note: if we decide together that your child may need a slower induction, we will arrange this on an individual basis.**

The start dates are:

Week	Date	Time
Week 1	Monday 4 th September	Gruffalo group: Mornings only (1/2 class) 8:45am – 12:00noon
	Tuesday 5 th September	
	Wednesday 6 th September	Zog group: afternoons only (1/2 class) 1:00pm – 3:15pm
	Thursday 7 th September	Mornings only (whole class):
	Friday 8 th September	8:45am – 12:00noon
Week 2	Monday 11 th September	Mornings only, including staying for lunch (whole class): 8:45am – 1:00pm
	Tuesday 12 th September	
	Wednesday 13 th September	
	Thursday 14 th September	Full time school hours*:
	Friday 15 th September	8:45am – 3:15pm

Home Visits:

We would like to offer you a **home visit** (a short 15 minute chat) which will take place during the afternoons from 7th – 13th September. Please make an appointment for a home visit, if you would like one, by contacting the school office on 01249 652815.

Full time school hours: 8:45am – 3:15pm

Any arrivals after 08:45 but before 09.10 will be classed as 'late before the register closes' and will have to enter via the school office. When a child is late after the register is closed (after 09.10), then this is legally classed as a session of unauthorised absence.

Yours sincerely

MRS C JENKINS (EYFS Class teacher)

Meet some more of the staff!



Mrs L Cooper
Assistant Headteacher
(Senior Leadership Team)



Mr T Filer
SENCo



Mrs A Webb
Class TA



Ms J Galvin
Pastoral Support Manager

School Uniform

Please label all items of clothing 😊



Clothes:

- Royal blue school sweatshirt or cardigan (plain or with the kite school logo)
- Grey skirt or trousers
- Pale blue polo shirt / shirt (these can be the school logo version or plain)
- Black, grey or white socks or tights
- In the summer: blue checked summer dress/grey shorts
- Optional items such as school logo jackets are available online

Shoes:

- Sensible flat black school shoes or smart plain black trainers (not boots please)
- Sturdy sandals are permitted in the summer but these must be securely attached to the feet and suitable for active play (no flip-flops, sliders or similar)
- *Children should only wear lace-up shoes when they are able to tie their own laces! Wellies will be provided by the school for outside play.*

School logo clothing can be purchased from **Gooddies online**. Plain items of uniform are available in most supermarkets.

<https://www.gooddies.co.uk/product-category/schools/frogwell-primary-school/>

School logo book bags and caps can be purchased from the school office.

PE kit:

PE kit will be worn to school on PE days – I will let you know which day(s) this will be in September. Children will not need a PE kit for the first few weeks of school.



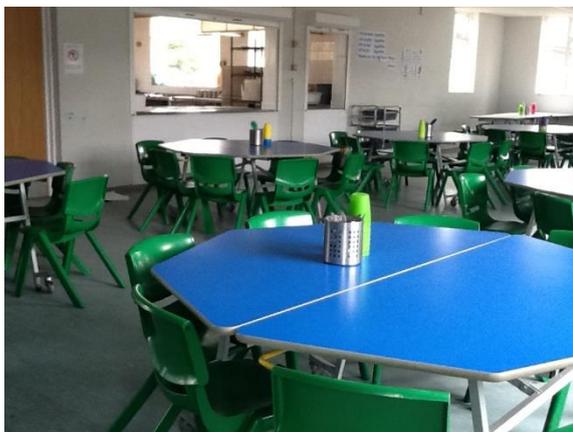
- Plain black / navy shorts, plain white t-shirt or school logo PE top (available online)
- Daps for indoor PE
- Trainers for outdoor PE
- Plain black / navy joggers and a plain black / navy sweatshirt or 'hoodie' may be worn for cold weather outdoor PE in the winter
- Please remember to pack socks for girls who wear tights with their normal school clothes.

We also ask that:

- children do not come to school with 'fashion' hairstyles including dyed hair colours, mohicans or tram lines / shaved patterns.
- long hair should be tied back.
- hair accessories are kept simple and small (e.g. no 'JoJo bows' or fancy hairbands).
- make-up and nail varnish are not worn to school.
- the only jewellery worn is a watch and one pair of small stud earrings (earrings must be removed or covered for PE for safety reasons).
- temporary tattoos are not worn to school.

Please do not let your child bring in toys from home – they can bring in something to show on their Show and Tell day (I will let you know when this is at a later date).

Lunch Time and Snack Time:



- Snack (a piece of fruit) will be provided by school.
- All EYFS and KS 1 children are entitled to free school meals.
- School dinners are prepared in our kitchen by Mrs Waldron and Mrs Roberts.
- To begin with, the class will eat their dinner in our snack area. Later on, the children will join the rest of the school and have lunch in the dining hall.
- If you wish, you can provide your child with a packed lunch.
*Please note: we promote healthy eating at Frogwell School – chocolate bars, sweets and fizzy drinks are **not** allowed in lunch boxes.*



Water Bottles and Book Bags:

It is really important that children bring their filled water bottle to school every day – this should only contain water (squash or flavoured water is not allowed as these drinks are not tooth-friendly drinks!).



- These items can be purchased from the school office or through Eduspot (online school ordering service).
 - **Water Bottle - £1:60**
 - **Book Bag - £6:45**

Things to bring to school every day:

- **Reading books:** Reading Books will be stored in a plastic wallet. Your child will also get a library book plus any sound/word booklets given at school during the term. Please make sure their reading book is in school daily and the library book is returned weekly (charges will apply for any lost or damaged books). The book bags available to purchase from the school office are a great size for carrying book wallets and library books!
- **A coat:** we try to take every opportunity to go outside, even though we are dependent on the British weather! For this reason, all coats need to be waterproof with a hood (or a hat).
- **A change of clothes** (*this should be left on their peg all term*): Children will need to have a bag of spare clothes (underwear, socks, and possibly trousers/skirt) in case of accidents – this is quite common, especially at the start of term!

Please do not let your child bring in toys from home – they can bring in something to show on their Show and Tell day (more info when term starts!)

The EYFS Curriculum

(Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage from 1 September 2021)

Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development.

3 Prime areas:

- Communication and Language
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development

4 Specific areas:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

At Frogwell Primary School, we work on these areas both in the indoor and outdoor environments, where children play and explore and are encouraged to be active through creative and critical thinking.



Useful Websites:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/curations/starting-school-curation>
- <https://foundationyears.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/What-to-expect-in-the-EYFS-complete-FINAL-16.09-compressed.pdf>

Communication and Language

“The development of children’s spoken language underpins all seven areas of learning and development”.

- This area develops the skills of Listening and Attention, Understanding and Speaking (in full sentences) in a range of situations.



Personal, Social and Emotional development (PSED)

“Children’s personal, social and emotional development (PSED) is crucial for children to lead healthy and happy lives”.

- This area supports children in understanding their emotions, developing a positive sense of self, develop positive relationships, behaviour, knowing about healthy eating and how to manage their own personal needs (toileting and dressing).



Physical Development

“Physical activity is vital in children’s all-round development, enabling them to pursue happy, healthy and active lives”

- This area develops coordination, control, manipulation and movement (including pencil control, using scissors and cutlery). It focusses on both large (gross-motor skills) and small-scale movements (fine-motor skills).



Literacy

“It is crucial for children to develop a life-long love of reading”.

- This area develops comprehension (understanding stories and vocabulary), word reading (phonics – linking letters to sounds) and writing (forming recognisable letters and writing sentences).



Mathematics

“Developing a strong grounding in number is essential so that all children develop the necessary building blocks to excel mathematically”.

- This area develops skills in number (knowing in depth about numbers to 10), including being able to recall number facts. It also looks at numerical patterns (verbally counting beyond 20, comparing amounts and exploring number patterns eg. odds/evens, doubles).



Understanding the World

“Understanding the world involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community”.

- This area develops skills, knowledge and understanding that helps children make sense of the world around them. It includes areas called 'Past and Present' (knowing about some similarities and differences between people/events now and in the past), 'People, Cultures and Communities' (describing their own immediate environment, different religions and about life in another country) and 'The Natural World' (exploring the natural world, including observing plants and animals and about important processes/changes in the natural world, such as the seasons).



Expressive Arts and Design

“The development of children’s artistic and cultural awareness supports their imagination and creativity”.

- This area encourages developing, representing and communicating ideas and experiences through songs, rhymes, stories, dance, art and role play.



Characteristics of Effective Learning

The characteristics of effective learning describe factors that play a central role in a child’s learning and in becoming an effective learner. The characteristics of effective learning run through and underpin all 7 areas of learning and development. They represent processes rather than outcomes.

The characteristics are:

- playing and exploring - children investigate and experience things, and ‘have a go’
- active learning - children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements
- creating and thinking critically - children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things



Top tips for you and your child starting school



Wiltshire Council
Where everybody matters

Communication

Talk with your child about starting school. What do they think it will be like? What are they most looking forward to? Is there anything they are unsure or worried about?

Find some regular quiet time and keep listening to your child's feelings about school.

Find a quiet time to talk with your child about school

Playing and exploring

Be excited, enthusiastic, curious and confident about discovering new things. Take time to have fun and play regularly with your child.

Encourage your child to explore and solve problems.



Reading

Children love it when you share stories together, it will make it more exciting for your child if you have fun using your voice. You could read labels in shops, stories in bed, signs in the street, ask your library about rhyme time.

Enjoy sharing stories and reading together.



Singing and rhyming

Songs and rhymes help to develop your child's language. Find out about rhyme time at your local library.

Sing and listen to nursery rhymes and songs together.

Be active with your child.



Being active

Explore the outdoors with your child – let them look for mini bugs, jump in the puddles and get messy.

Self help skills

Encourage your child to be independent. This includes dressing, eating, laying the table, blowing their nose, going to the toilet and helping themselves to water.

Let your child do it themselves



Eat with your child and encourage everyone to try different foods.

Eating well

Children need healthy eating habits to thrive. Encourage your child to drink plenty of water throughout the day. A healthy breakfast will set your child up for the day.

Managing feelings

It is natural for your child to experience a variety of emotions. Reassure and support them by listening, cuddling, responding and staying calm.

Let your child know their feelings are important and understood



Making friends

Encourage your child to share and play with other children regularly.



Encourage your child to share and take turns.



Self confidence

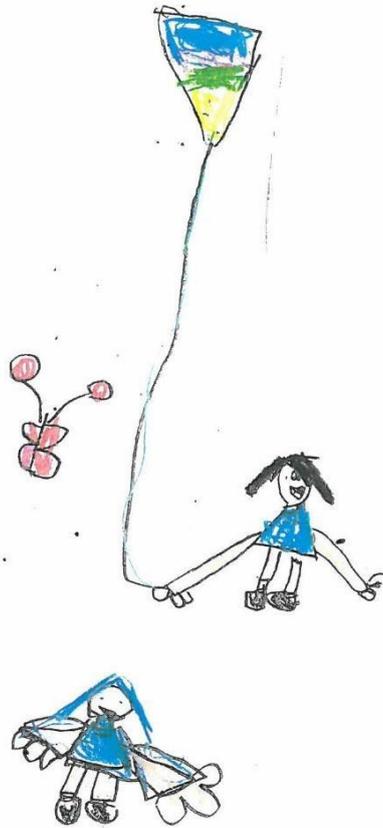
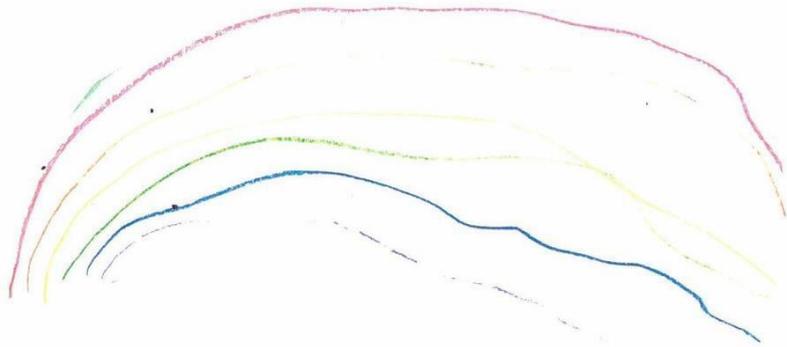
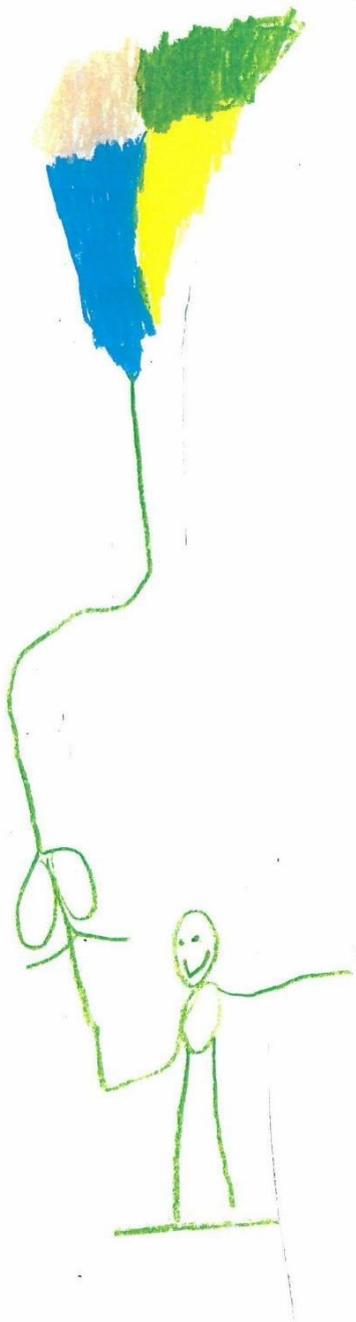
Let your child know they are special, make them feel valued and respected.

Look and listen to them when they talk to you.

Encourage and support your child's efforts



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Frogwell Primary School & Complex Needs Resource Base

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