

# The Early Years Foundation Stage Morley Memorial Primary School



*Information for Early Years*

# The Early Years Foundation Stage at Morley Memorial Primary School



## *Information for Early Years Parents*

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# The Early Years Foundation Stage at Morley Memorial Primary School



**Welcome to Morley Memorial Primary School, we are excited to be working with you and your child.**

At Morley, we provide children with a stimulating and challenging curriculum. This is carefully planned to build upon and extend the children's experiences from other early years settings and home. Children can use both the rich indoor and outdoor environments to learn and develop their social, physical and mental skills.

Staff create an atmosphere that is secure and reassuring for children. We focus on developing the characteristics of effective learning by nurturing the



learning dispositions of: curiosity, courage, resilience, motivation, collaboration and reflection.

Each child is accepted as an individual with different needs, skills and interests.

## **We value:**

- Aiming high and challenging ourselves
- Being kind, caring and respectful
- Collaborating, innovating and being creative



## *Curriculum*

The Early Years Team use the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework. This is the statutory curriculum that all early years settings are required to follow.

Within this framework there are 3 prime areas of learning:

***Communication and Language***

***Physical Development***

***Personal, Social and Emotional Development***

There are further specific areas, through which these prime areas are strengthened and applied:

***Literacy***

***Mathematics***

***Understanding the World***

***Expressive Arts and Design***



## *The Learning Environment*

The environment in which children play is a vital element of their learning. We work hard to ensure that children have a rich and varied experience throughout their learning environment.

Play is an intrinsic part of a child's learning: we aim to create an atmosphere in which children are able to use their own initiative in play, to revisit familiar themes and ideas and to stretch themselves to find out more. Learning opportunities are carefully planned to deepen and extend the children's understanding and knowledge. Through both child initiated and adult-led activities, the children are challenged and their learning is developed.



Classrooms are organised to provide opportunities for play, exploration and learning. Children's learning is not compartmentalised into different subject areas: we know children are able to learn in many ways starting from a single activity. Therefore children are able to independently access writing, maths, reading, computers, painting, construction, role play, modelling, drawing, listening, small world play, sand and water. We encourage them to make links and interchange the resources freely. The

outdoor area is considered to be an integral part of the learning environment: we make full use of the available space to promote learning and create a safe, fun environment for children.

We want children to take pride in their discoveries and their achievements and encourage them to make suggestions for and contribute to classroom displays.

## ***The School Day***

When your child first comes to Morley he or she may find the school day long and demanding. We would like your child to come to school part-time for the first two days (following home visits); this will be either mornings or afternoons. During these two days we focus on supporting the children to feel confident in their learning environment and starting to learn routines and expectations. Children go home for lunch on their half-day sessions. We expect full-time attendance from Monday 11th September.

### **8:50 children line up outside with parents and carers**

Children say goodbye before the teacher takes them into the class.

### **Morning activities**

Following the register there is usually a short whole-class session followed by independent play and learning. More focused whole class, group and individual teaching is built up over the first half term as teachers get to know the needs of the children.

During the day children have a snack; either a piece of fruit or vegetable provided through the national Fruit in Schools scheme. Children benefit from a snack during the day and enjoy what is a valuable social occasion. We encourage children to try fruit that they may not have tasted before.

### **11:45 children go for lunch and playtime**

Your child can have either a packed lunch or a hot meal. The government currently funds school meals for all children in Reception, Year One and Year Two. Children eat together in the school hall, a team of lunch-time supervisors, whom the children get to know, support and look after them. There is daily communication between the class teachers and the lunch-time supervisors to ensure children are settled, happy and enjoy this part of the day. We understand that eating lunch at school can be very daunting for younger children and endeavour to make lunch-time free from stress. Initially class staff accompany the children and help them in making choices about what they are going to eat.

**We ask you to inform us about dietary needs and allergies on the admission form and again during home visits and these are then communicated to the kitchen staff.**

### **12:45 registration Afternoon activities**

These take on a similar format to the morning, with a different whole-class session.

The school day ends with milk and story time.

### **3:10 home time**

Children will be collected from the Early Years entrance. They will be called to leave only when a parent or named adult is visible to the team. If there are any changes to who is picking your child up you must write details in the class diary in the morning at drop off, or call or email the office.

*The timings of the school day are currently correct however there is a consultation taking place which may extend the school day from September.*



## *Staff*

There are two Early Years classrooms—Gold and Silver. Each class is staffed with one teacher and one teaching assistant. Staff work as a team, planning learning opportunities and activities across the curriculum together. They are fully aware of the opportunities for developing skills, concepts and knowledge in meaningful, practical situations. We encourage the children to be reflective learners and aim ourselves to reflect on how we can improve our practice.

## *Parental Support*

We welcome and value parental help in Early Years. We are keen to know of parents with particular interests or skills that they could share with the children at some point during the year. Before helping on a regular basis in school you will need a DBS check and to attend a brief induction meeting. Please speak to your class teacher if you are interested.

Parents and carers can help at home by reading with children or developing the mathematical or topic vocabulary used in school. Our weekly newsletter has suggestions on how to build on the skills your child has learnt in school.

We hold information sessions on phonics and maths, which also provide lots of practical suggestions for supporting your child.



We have a regular Mystery Reader slot which parents and carers can sign up to. It involves bringing a book you and your child enjoy at home and sharing it with the class. We will be talking to you more about this once the children are settled into their daily routine.

## *Reading At Home*

Before half term once the children have settled into their new routines they will bring home a book from school, your child will be able to choose a class book to bring home and a colour-banded reading book which has been chosen with help from the teacher. Your child will need a book bag which is available to purchase during our Induction evening or via the School Office once term has begun. Please read with your child regularly and record any comments in their Reading Record Book. Remember, your child will need you to support his or her reading by helping with unfamiliar sounds or letters or by reading aloud to them to encourage comprehension. Your child's class teacher will be available to give advice and support and will suggest ways of making learning to read at home fun.



There will be a meeting with more information about reading during the Autumn term.

We know that reading at home makes a difference and we will be doing all that we can to support you.





## ***Clothing***

Children should wear clothing suitable for a busy day in school, children are active all day, indoors and out, so should wear clothing that is practical, age-appropriate and suitable for the weather! In the winter they need a warm waterproof coat and in the summer they should all have a sun hat.

It is advisable that the children are dressed in clothes that are easy for them to manage. Similarly, please send your child in appropriate footwear that they can put on and take off without adult support.

Please arrange for a **named** change of clothing to be kept at school this can be essential after a visit to the mud kitchen or when a water experiment does not turn out as expected!

## ***Absences***

Parents should contact the school office by telephone (01223 508786) or email ([office@morley.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@morley.cambs.sch.uk)) before 10am each day during the period of absence.

We will need to know your child's name, class and the reason for their absence.

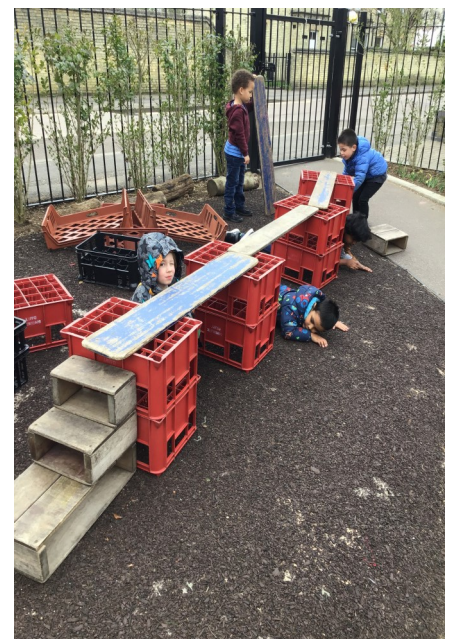
Children with any sickness or diarrhoea should be clear for **at least 48 hours** before returning to school. Taking holidays during the school term is not an entitlement and is not authorised by the school, persistent absenteeism will be followed up by the school. Permission for leave of absence other than illness must be sought from the Head Teacher and is granted only in exceptional circumstances, in accordance with the school's Attendance Policy (see the school website). If you need to request a term time absence for a reason other than sickness please complete the [leave of absence form](#) and return it to the school office a week before the date of absence begins.

## ***Medical and Dietary Requirements and Toileting***

Please inform your child's class teacher as soon as possible of any health or medical issues so that individual needs can be addressed. We expect that, barring a medical diagnosis, children will be fully toilet-trained by the time they start in Early Years.

## ***Parking***

If you drive to school, please consider the safety of all children using the school and adhere to parking regulations. In particular, do not park in the staff car park, on the yellow zig-zag lines or block our neighbours' driveways. Also, for your child's safety, please use the raised speed ramp to cross the road.





## ***Wrap-around Care***

Morley Memorial provides our own wrap-around childcare, both during term-time and through school holidays. Our After School Club is known as “Spectrum”, which runs from 3:15-6:00 pm during term time. The session is primarily free-play based, empowering the children to choose their own activities, with staff present to facilitate and lead optional indoor and outdoor activities. Morley Memorial also runs a Breakfast Club, “Dawn Diners”, from 7:30 am. Clubs are situated in the Activity Hall at the rear of the school. Information for both services are available on the school [website](#) or by e-mailing [Spectrum@morley.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:Spectrum@morley.cambs.sch.uk)

## ***Friends of Morley (FoM)***

Friends of Morley (School Association) works to promote the interests and general welfare of the school and its pupils through co-operation between parents, school staff and governors. As part of these activities the Association has organised fund-raising events, which in the past have paid for our library, new playground equipment, computer equipment, and a multitude of other items. Throughout the year Friends of Morley also organise a wide variety of social functions such as quiz evenings, fetes and a fun run. We depend on parental involvement and financial support so encourage you to get involved. The Friends of Morley also organise a welcome picnic in the Autumn Term, please come along and meet them: all are very welcome.

## ***Home School Communication***

This information is intended as a guide. As well as the Parent Information Evening for parents of children starting at Morley there are regular opportunities for you to meet with your child’s class teacher, at Curriculum Workshops, Parent Consultation Evenings, and informally at other times; please speak to your child’s Class teacher if you need to. It is also possible to arrange a telephone conversation with your class teacher at a mutually convenient time, especially if you are unable to get to the school. Please refer to the school communication code, available on our website for further information.



***We look forward to working with you in continuing your child’s education.***

***We encourage close liaison between home and school, as we believe  
that starting school should be a happy and fulfilling experience  
for all involved.***

## *Useful Contacts*



Morley Memorial Primary School  
91 Blinco Grove  
Cambridge CB1 7TX  
Tel: 01223 508786  
Email: [office@morley.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@morley.cambs.sch.uk)

[www.morley.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.morley.cambs.sch.uk)



General information on wider educational issues,  
Government policy and initiatives.

[www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk)



Local information for parents and carers from  
Cambridgeshire County Council,  
including Schools Admissions.

[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families)



Ofsted information about inspections and inspection  
reports for parents and carers.

[www.ofsted.gov.uk/about-us](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/about-us)