

Welcome to Oakmeadow School

A very warm welcome to you and your child. We know that your child is unique and we hope to work together with you to help them to be their very best at Oakmeadow. Our Foundation Stage area has three classrooms and an outdoor learning area with our own Forest Fun area. Teachers and support staff work closely as a team to make learning fun, exciting, purposeful and relevant to the needs of our children. This was recognized in our **outstanding** judgement from Ofsted in May 2016. We know that children learn best through play and we plan activities based on the 3 prime areas - communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional learning - and the four specific areas - literacy, maths, understanding the world and expressive art and design. To find out more about Early Years curriculum see our brochure **What is Foundation Stage?**

The school day

Your child will be busy, playing and working indoors and outdoors. There will be a balance of child initiated learning time (when your child chooses what to do) and adult directed time (where we plan learning through play). We encourage independent behaviour so children learn to work in groups with others. At lunchtime your child can choose a delicious hot school meal or bring sandwiches from home. At lunchtime your child will be supported by lunchtime supervisors. We have our own EYFS Ladybirds wraparound care and holiday clubs on site. Leaving your child may be difficult at first and we are here to help you with that. As the day will be very busy we ask that you keep your child at home if they are unwell and we recommend an early bedtime. Please phone our office if your child is unable to attend school for any reason. ***It is important that the staff know who will be collecting your child at the end of the day.***

The school uniform

We are very proud of our school uniform, which we will show you at the parents transition meeting. Your child will need the school uniform for September so you might want to buy it now from the school office. Our administrators will gladly help you to choose what you will need. PE kit will also be needed and is best stored in our PE bag, which is easy for children to handle. Your child will need to change for PE independently so we suggest shoes with Velcro fastening. In a play environment, accidents will happen so please provide extra clothing in the PE bag. **Your child will also need a pair of wellies and waterproofs to be kept at school at all times.** A school bag is also essential for carrying books, letters and a water bottle. Our PTA run regular second hand sales and we always have some used items of uniform on sale in school. ***Please name all items of clothing clearly.***

What can I do before my child starts school?

Independence in everyday tasks is most important thing, although we are always there to help - doing up coat and shoes and using the toilet independently.

Getting your child used to routines at a Nursery, play group or other child care setting makes the transition easier. This also helps your child to learn how to play and share with other children.

Getting your child ready to learn - see our brochure **How can I help my child to learn?** Enjoy rhymes, songs, telling stories and talking about books with your child. Encourage your child in fine motor activities such as playdough, cutting, painting to support pincer grip for writing. Use numbers in everyday situations and help your child to write their own name. When your child starts school in Reception we will ask you to read for 10 minutes every day with them.

Don't forget to...

- ◆ Attend the parents transition meeting , your child's transition sessions and a school lunch. (dependent upon the current COVID 19 restrictions)
- ◆ Fill in the readiness checklist, consent forms and medical forms in this pack and return them to our school office as soon as possible
- ◆ Talk to one of the team if your child will need medical support, including an inhaler for asthma
- ◆ Join our PTA and get involved with supporting your child at school
- ◆ Contact Surestart, based at our Children's Centre at Oakmeadow, with any queries about their services and parenting courses
- ◆ Buy the school uniform, PE kit, school bag and water bottle
- ◆ Talk to the Foundation Stage team if you think your child may need to attend part time for any reason
- ◆ Phone our school administrator with any questions you have
- ◆ Inform our office of any change in contact details
- ◆ See our School Prospectus and website to find out more about our school
- ◆ We are cashless school and run an online system for payments, i.e., dinner money, trips etc. Login details will be provided in September.



Head of School—Mrs S Hill



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Foundation Stage

Starting in FS2 Reception