

Welcome

A guide to
Early Years



2022/2023



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Welcome from Miss Cao

Dear Parents & Guardians,

We are very much looking forward to your child joining us in Early Years, and welcoming you into our school

community. This guide has been designed for you to share with your child before they join us in September.

We have covered many aspects of school life, including what a typical day looks like in Early Years, who the

significant adults will be, as well as details of exciting things to look forward to. We hope that it addresses

any questions that you may have, but if you are still unsure of anything or have further questions, please do

not hesitate to contact us.

Starting school is a very special time for you and your child, our aim at Firbeck Academy is to make it as smooth and seamless as possible. We are really looking forward to working in partnership with you to make sure that your child flourishes in their learning.

Warmest regards,

S. Cao

Miss Cao (Headteacher)



Education is the
passport to the
future, for
tomorrow
belongs to the
people who
prepare today.

-Malcolm X-





Meet the Team



Miss Snell EYFS Lead Teacher

I love being a teacher and making a difference in the classroom, by creating and nurturing environment for all children to thrive and begin their love for school and education.

When I am not at school, I enjoy spending time with my fiancé (We are getting married next Summer, I will become Mrs Buck!), and my dog Toby. At the weekends we enjoy going for walks and then coming home to enjoy a cuddle and film on the sofa, maybe with some popcorn and chocolate too!



Miss Sneath Teaching Assistant

I love working with children and seeing them succeed. I love watching them develop friendships and discover their role in this world. Supporting pupils' on their journey is such a fulfilling job and one that fills me with pride. When I am not working I am with my family: Stephen, Jack, Mason, our dog Reggie and our cat Nala. We love park trips and finding new places to have fun!



Mrs Lindsey Teaching Assistant

I am passionate about working with the children at Firbeck Academy. My goal is to simply support and nurture the children on their journey to success. In my spare time I love nothing more than spending time with my family making memories.



Miss Rogers Teaching Assistant

I love working at Firbeck, working with the most amazing children. I am passionate about seeing pupils develop strategies to help them cope with emotions that will set them up for life. I am from Hull so I love to visit the marina. I also love to keep fit, taking long walks and listening to music.



Mrs Dihri Teaching Assistant

I have worked at Firbeck for along time and it has only become more wonderful, with more opportunities and amazing things to do. I love being part of EYFS and seeing our pupils really grow and develop into wonderful school-ready pupils. I love watching them become independent learners. When I am not at school, my favourite thing to do is spend time with my family- we have family Sundays which consist of great food and making memories!



Finding your way around:

Classrooms:

This is where lots of exciting learning takes place. Our classroom will become very familiar to you and the children as we spend lots of time here and look forward to inviting you in to spend some time with your child in their environment.



Cloakrooms:

Here your child will hand their coats, place any wellies or outdoor wear and their school bags.



Toilets:

These are our toilets:



School Library:

We are very lucky to have our own school library, filled with so many exciting books read to be read and excite their love for reading!



**Our Indoor area:**

We have a large indoor environment, with lots of resources that are always accessible for the children to become independent and critical thinkers during their play. Here are just some of the areas in our classroom!

**Outdoor area:**

We are very lucky to have such a good cover above part of our outdoor space which means we can go out and learn in the fresh air all year. We are very lucky to have so much outdoor space- we like to make sure we use it. Here are just some of the amazing outdoor resources we have!

**Allotments:**

At Firbeck we have our own school allotments, where the children learn to grow and care for a variety of plants; fruits and vegetables. Most recently we have grown our own tomatoes.

**Forest Schools:**

Forest Schools is an exciting part of what we offer at Firbeck Academy. Children are given the opportunity to go and explore our woodland area and take part in some very exciting learning activities.





Lunchtime:

We enjoy lunch in our school hall where Julie our school cook provides us with delicious hot meals. Have a look at the type of menu we provide:

FOOD FESTIVAL by Aspens					WEEK ONE
	MONDAY Authentic Italian	TUESDAY Family Faves	WEDNESDAY Baking British	THURSDAY Food Festival	FRIDAY Fun Day
Option 1	BBQ Chicken Pizza Crudites	Beef Burger in a Bun Oven Baked Wedges Coleslaw	Roast Gammon Roasties and Fresh Vegetables Gravy	Chicken Tikka Biryani Wholegrain Rice Coconut Green Beans	Fish Fingers Salmon or Pollock Chips and Baked Beans
Option 2	Margherita Pizza Crudites	Super Veggie Burger in a Bun Oven Baked Wedges Coleslaw	Veggie Sausage & Summer Veg Traybake Roasties and Fresh Vegetables Gravy	Roasted Sweet Potato Dhal Wholegrain Rice Coconut Green Beans	Baked Beans & Vegetable Dippers Chips
Potatoes & Pasta	Hot Tomato Pasta with Cheese or Crispy Skin Jacket Potato with Tasty Toppings available daily				
Packed Lunch	Pick and Mix Packed Lunch Freshly filled sandwich or roll, healthy snack, home bake and piece of fruit				
The Finale	Warm Pineapple with Vanilla Ice Cream	Slicky Gingerbread Cake	Chocolate Brownie	Strawberry Mousse with Peach	Oat Cookie
Homemade Bread, Fresh Fruit, Yoghurt and Salad available every day					
▲ Meat ▼ Veggie ● Jacket Potato ■ Packed Lunch					

FOOD FESTIVAL by Aspens					WEEK TWO
	MONDAY Authentic Italian	TUESDAY Family Faves	WEDNESDAY Baking British	THURSDAY Food Festival	FRIDAY Fun Day
Option 1	Creamy Chicken Pasta Bake Whole Grain Penne Garlic Slice Green Salad	BBQ Pulled Pork & Mash Carrots	Roast Chicken & Stuffing Roasties and Fresh Vegetables Gravy	Beef Lasagne Potato Wedges Rainbow Slaw	Baked Breaded Fish Chips and Mushy Peas
Option 2	Veggie Bolognese Whole Grain Penne Garlic Slice Green Salad	Baked Bean & Veggie Sausage Cowboy Pie Carrots	Cheese & Spring Onion Pastry Slice Roasties and Fresh Vegetables Gravy	Veggie Nachos & Cheese Potato Wedges Rainbow Slaw	Carrot & Potato Cakes Homemade Tomato sauce Chips and Mushy Peas
Potatoes & Pasta	Hot Tomato Pasta with Cheese or Crispy Skin Jacket Potato with Tasty Toppings available daily				
Packed Lunch	Pick and Mix Packed Lunch Freshly filled sandwich or roll, healthy snack, home bake and piece of fruit				
The Finale	Peach Puff Pastry Slice & Custard	Rice Krispie Cakes	Chocolate & Marshmallow Cake	Apple Pie & Custard	Fruity Flapjack
Homemade Bread, Fresh Fruit, Yoghurt and Salad available every day					
▲ Meat ▼ Veggie ● Jacket Potato ■ Packed Lunch					

FOOD FESTIVAL by Aspens					WEEK THREE
	MONDAY Authentic Italian	TUESDAY Family Faves	WEDNESDAY Baking British	THURSDAY Food Festival	FRIDAY Fun Day
Option 1	Meatball, Pasta & Garlic Bread Traybake Sweetcorn	Slicky Baked Bangers & Mash Green Beans Gravy	Roast Chicken & Stuffing Roasties and Fresh Vegetables Gravy	Honey & Soy Chicken Stir Fry Wholegrain Rice Broccoli	Fish Fingers Salmon or Pollock Chips and Peas
Option 2	Tomato & Mozzarella Gnocchi Garlic Slice Sweetcorn	Slicky Veggie Bangers & Mash Green Beans Gravy	Quorn Roast Roasties and Fresh Vegetables Gravy	Crunchy Topped Macaroni Cheese Broccoli	Veggie Croquettes Chips and Peas
Potatoes & Pasta	Hot Tomato Pasta with Cheese or Crispy Skin Jacket Potato with Tasty Toppings available daily				
Packed Lunch	Pick and Mix Packed Lunch Freshly filled sandwich or roll, healthy snack, home bake and piece of fruit				
The Finale	Chocolate Mousse with Mandarin	Slicky Toffee Pudding & Custard	Vanilla Sprinkle Sponge	Apple Crumble with Custard	Ginger Cookie
Homemade Bread, Fresh Fruit, Yoghurt and Salad available every day					
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What to wear:

Our supplier for school uniform is Morley's School Outfitters.

We do require all children to wear the Firbeck Academy School uniform as we find it helps to create a positive school identity.

Sweatshirts, cardigans and polo shirts with the school logo are available from Morley's School Outfitters (details below). However, plain versions are perfectly acceptable and are available from most chain stores.

Main Uniform:

Trousers, Skirt, Pinafore Dress – Dark Grey (short trousers can be worn in summer months)

Polo Shirt, Blouse, Shirt – Pale blue or white (with or without logo)

Sweatshirt or Cardigan – Royal blue (with or without logo)

Gingham Dress – Blue (for the summer term)

Shoes – Plain black full shoes – NO open toes or trainers.

Hat – Please provide a hat during hot weather, any colour is acceptable.

P.E Kit:

T-shirt – White

Shorts – Black or Blue

Plimsolls – Black. If your child is unable to tie his/her own shoes laces please choose slip-on or Velcro varieties.

Please make sure that your child's belongings are labelled with their name as this helps us to locate the owner of any lost property.

Children are not allowed to wear jewellery in school, with the exception of small stud earrings. If such earrings are worn your child must be able to remove them independently for P.E.

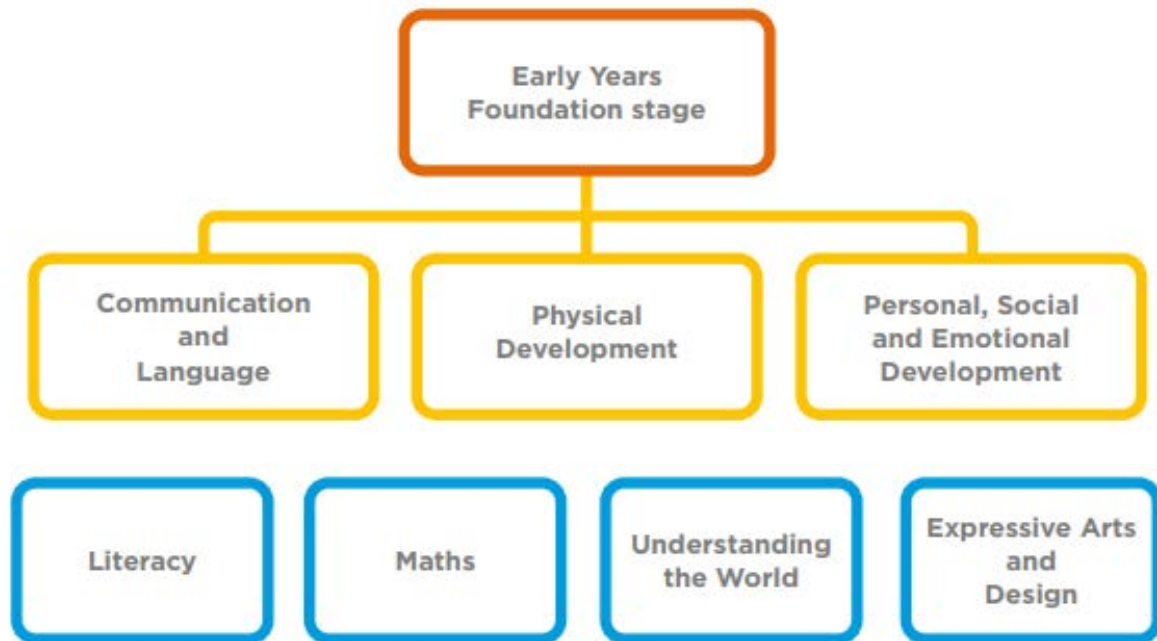
Please remember that even if you bring your child to school by car they will still need a coat to wear outside for lunchtimes and playtimes.





What is EYFS?

In Early Years children work towards achieving the Early Learning Goals at the end of the summer term. These goals span across seven areas of learning and aim to build a robust, independent, well-rounded learner. The three prime areas, in yellow, are focused on and must be developed prior to developing the specific areas, in blue.



Alongside this, we focus on the Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning which encourages life-long skills and behaviours such as perseverance, creativity, problem-solving, willingness to try and concentration. Teaching and learning in Early Years will take place in many forms: I Whole class input – a short time on the carpet as a whole class or cohort I Teacher-led one to one I Teacher-led small groups I Differentiated streamed ability groups I Outdoor learning I Free-flow child-led play within continuous provision As teachers we like to make learning come to life! In doing this, we have lots of fun by sparking the children's interest and excitement by setting a scene or creating a 'hook'. This captures the children's imagination and drives them to begin their explorations.

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EYFS Assembly



Singing Assembly

Reception children join in singing assembly once a week with the whole school



Celebration Assembly

Reception children and staff join the KS1 children weekly for celebration assembly, in which pupils receive certificates to take home recognising their contributions to the school ethos: Work Hard, Be Kind

Nursery children have their own celebration at the end of their session recognising pupils who have been excellent.



Circle Time

During the week all pupils take part in circle time. Circle time activities and games helps children build their social skills. These fun yet engaging games encourage learning in a structured setting. Good communication, language, and literacy skills which are developed at a young age directly correlate with positive outcomes later on in education.



Upcoming Events



Power of Parenting- POP

POP meetings happen throughout the year across all phases of the school. We believe when parents are involved in their children's education, children do better on a wide range of measures. These positive effects include: Better behaviour. More confidence and greater self-esteem.



School Events

We love hosting fun and engaging school events like our Christmas Market and Summer Fair. For all information and upcoming dates look at the school diary on our website.





Early Years Vision at Firbeck

In the Early Years Foundation Stage at Firbeck Academy, our mission is to provide an enabling environment which promotes the learning and development of every child attending our setting. Our EYFS curriculum is designed to allow children to develop the knowledge and learning behaviours that they need to succeed in life. Children's learning is led through a balance of discrete, adult-led sessions and carefully planned continuous provision where children have the opportunity to investigate and apply their learning using our stimulating indoor and outdoor environments.

It is our aim that children will leave the EYFS as confident, independent and reflective learners.

Through building positive relationships, we aim to develop and foster the characteristic of effective learning* in every child. Children are encouraged to become well-regulated and sociable through the modelling of positive interactions and language at all times. Our learning environments, alongside interactions with our skilled practitioners, are carefully planned and resourced to allow children the opportunities to:

- Develop their communication and language skills
- Expand their confidence, independence and resilience
- Learn through active play and exploration
- Extend their skills/ abilities by testing them out in a range of situations
- Enjoy learning and have fun
- Build positive relationships with adults and peers
- Seek challenge and learn from mistakes
- Develop their gross and fine motor skills
- Gain the basic skills, knowledge and understanding required to become confident school-ready learners

We believe that all children are capable of achieving amazing things and we develop this through having high expectations of all the children in our setting. We also believe in working closely with parents to ensure that we can enable the best outcomes for our children.

Parental engagement is very important to us at Firbeck Academy and communication with parents and carers is facilitated through; class dojo, parent open-sessions, parent's evenings, reports and daily conversations with staff. We run POP sessions throughout the year to help parents and carers in supporting children at home. This includes an introduction to our Phonics programme- Little Wandle.

Staff in the EYFS work tirelessly to create an environment that fosters personal, social and emotional development whilst also promoting a love of learning through our engaging topic based curriculum. Our strong focus on speech and language development allows children to access the EYFS curriculum and in turn make excellent progress towards reaching the good level of development at the end of Reception.

Children leaving Reception have a secure understanding of basic mathematical and scientific concepts. They will have encountered a wealth of well-chosen texts and had opportunities to write in different contexts. Early reading skills are well established through discreet phonics and Guided Reading sessions, designed to develop a love of reading, in preparation for KS1. Children will also have developed the self-esteem and resilience required to be successful learners in Year 1 and beyond!



Recommended Books

Our 'top picks' of stories you may want to share with your child that deal with the theme of starting school:

- > Going to School (Usborne) Sticker book
- > Charlie and Lola – I am too absolutely small for school (Lauren Child)
- > Starting School (Janet and Allan Ahlberg)
- > Max and Millie Start School (Felicity Brooks and Desideria Guicciardini) > I Bobbo Goes to School (Shirley Hughes)
- > Martha and the Bunnies - I Heart School (Clara Vulliamy)
- > Harry and the Dinosaurs go to School (Ian Whybrow)
- > Topsy and Tim Start School (Jean and Gareth Adamson)
- > Going to School (Rose Blake)
- > Never Take a Bear to School (Mark Sperring and Britta Teckentrup)

