



Starting in the
Early Years Foundation Stage
at
Gorrans School

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Welcome

A very warm welcome to Gorran School. The information in this booklet is designed to help you prepare your child for starting their first year at school.

At Gorran School we aim for the children in EYFS to be:

- Happy, secure and to feel safe
- Independent, self-assured risk takers
- Confident and Resilient
- Excited and Motivated to learn
- Socially strong and able to form positive relationships

We aim to work in partnership with parents and carers to make the transition to primary school as smooth, confident and happy as possible for you and your child. We consider the education of your child as a partnership with you and hope that you will become actively involved in the learning opportunities and life of the school.



Our School



Gorran School is set in the beautiful village of Gorran some three miles from Mevagissey. The school serves the local area and has played a key role in village life since it was built in 1880. It has forged successful, close partnerships with Gorran Pre-School and other local primary and secondary schools such as The Roseland Academy. Our school consists of; four well-equipped classrooms, school hall, library, swimming pool, bike track, outdoor classroom, Forest School area and outdoor play areas. Our ethos; Respect, Ready, Safe, promotes being kind and ready to learn within a safe and supportive environment.



Staff

Mr Jones



EYFS Teacher Giraffes Class

Leanne



EYFS TA

Classrooms and Environment

As you enter the school, Giraffe's classroom is situated to the right of the school's reception. Parents and children can access Giraffe Class via the double doors that lead into the school from the small playground.



Our classroom includes areas for the child to; climb outside, investigate with sand, water and mud, practice writing, share books, regulate their emotions and use new language while they learn.



School Timetable

Beginning of school day

The classroom door is opened at 8:45 am and will be closed at 9:00 am. After this time children will have to be dropped off via the school's reception.

Morning session

9:00 am - 12:00 pm



Lunchtime

12:00 pm - 1:15 pm



Afternoon session

1:15 pm - 3:30 pm



End of school day

The classroom door that leads onto the small playground is opened at 3:30 pm and a teacher will release your child to their parent/carer.

Routines

Initially, one of the EYFS practitioners will aim to be outside of the classrooms from 8.40am to greet parents and children and to take messages that you wish the class teacher to know.

We open the classroom door at 8:45 am to allow children to enter. Children will be encouraged to come in by themselves and will be supported by the class teachers and EYFS practitioners to be as independent as possible. You will be able to accompany your child into the classroom for the first week.

Children will self-register, put their book bag away (in boxes rather than on pegs), hang up their coats on their own peg and put their water bottles in the tub. Children who bring a packed lunch will put away their lunch box.

Please try and help your child at the beginning of the day by being in plenty of time, so there is a smooth, anxiety-free start to the day.

Collection from School

We recognise that it is not always possible for those with parental responsibility to collect their child from school. In such circumstances, we have clear procedures for the collection of children. Please inform us of the designated person who will be picking your child up after school, if this is different from you, their parents/carers. This needs to be done each time, unless you have provided us with an Alternative Collection Form recording set days where another person will collect your child. We will not release your child to any other person unless you have informed us of this change by leaving a message with us or telephoning school. Please explain this policy to those who are collecting on your behalf as being asked to wait can sometimes cause offence.



Routines

Home time

Collection of children in Reception is from the playground. Class teachers will release the children to their parent / carers and stay with any children who are not collected on time.



Running Late in the Morning

If you are late in the morning (arriving at school after 9:00 am), then please take your child to the school office, so they can be signed in.

Illness

If your child is ill and unable to attend school, please telephone the school office by 9:30am and leave a message stating your child's name, class and reason. ***We ask you do this for each day of absence. If your child has had diarrhoea or has been sick we will also ask for them to have two days off school to lessen the risk of passing anything on the rest of the school community.***

The school office will call you if your child has not arrived at school.



Snacks

Children are provided with a portion of free school vegetables or fruit every day.

Lunchtimes

School Meals

Every child in the EYFS is entitled to a free school meal and we encourage you to take this up. Our school meals are very popular. Children are provided with the choice of a hot meat recipe, a vegetarian option, pasta or jacket potato. Water and squash are also both available.



Packed Lunches

At Gorran School we promote healthy eating. All children can have water and squash from school with their packed lunch. We discourage sweets, chocolate and fizzy drinks and ask for your support in not providing these in their packed lunches.

Allergies

We are a nut free and sesame free school. There are people in school with life threatening allergies so it is very important you ensure no nut or sesame products (sandwich spreads, sesame seeds, sesame products such as hummus) are sent into school.



Lunchtimes

Eating in the hall

The children in EYFS begin their lunchtime at 12:00, slightly before the children in KS1. They are supported by familiar adults to choose their food. Children are free to sit anywhere in the hall and with anyone that they choose. Cutlery and cups are available on the tables, just as you might find in a real restaurant. Sandy and Lesley (pictured) are our school cooks. Their themed lunch days, that celebrate special events, are especially popular.



Independence

After eating, children are encouraged to tidy away their own plate and tray for themselves.



Playing on the playground

Once children have finished eating, they collect their coats and play on the KS1 playground. Here they will mix with Elephants class. At 1:15 pm, class teachers meet the children on the playground and lead them back to class. In the summer months the children will play on the school field at lunchtime.

Uniform and Clothing

School Uniform

- White polo shirt
- Grey or black trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore dress
- Blue checked dress/playsuit in summer weather
- Navy blue sweater, jumper or cardigan with school emblem
- Black shoes (no trainers, please)
- Socks or tights should be white, grey or black.
- Shoes should be black (not trainers as shoes are healthier for young feet).

Parents may purchase school jumpers, cardigans, book bags and caps from the Fosters Schoolwear website, www.fostersschoolwear.co.uk. Enter Gorran Primary School in the search box.

PE kit

- Blue T-shirt
- Navy or black shorts and/or jogging bottoms
- Navy blue or black pumps or trainers
- Navy blue sweatshirt or hoodie.

P.E kit with the school emblem on can be purchased at www.fostersschoolwear.co.uk.

Please note that PE takes place outside all year round and that all-weather kit should be included all year round.

Waterproof Clothing

- Waterproof jacket/coat
- Wellington boots
- Gloves, hat and scarf (in colder months)

These kits are kept in school all of the time and are usually sent home for washing at the end of each half term. We have enough waterproof suits for everyone in the class. Please feel free to bring in your own suits from home though if you would rather.



Uniform and Clothing

Swimming kit

We are very lucky to have an outdoor heated pool. Swimming lessons are weather dependent, but we normally swim in the first and last half terms of the year. To take part in swimming lessons your child will need a:

- Towel
- Swimming costume
- Goggles
- Swimming cap



Swimming caps can be bought from the school office.

Accidents and Changes of clothes

Occasionally, children require a change of clothes at school. It is helpful if you provide a set of clean underwear and socks in your child's book bag so that in the event that they need to change, they have their own clothes to wear. However, school do have some spare items.

Labelling clothing

We very quickly develop a large amount of lost property. There are a wide range of name tags and labels available commercially. The best ones are either sewn into clothes or ironed onto fabrics. Failing that, writing a name in permanent marker or biro (although these do eventually wash out) will help us to reunite you with clothing which will and inevitably go missing.

We cannot stress enough, how important it is to label your child's clothing and belongings clearly.

All unnamed items are kept in the lost property bin that is in the hall. If you would like to look through lost property for any of your child's missing clothing please feel free to ask a member of staff from Giraffes or Mrs Dowling in the school's office. At the end of each half term, unclaimed items are given to charity.

Things to Bring to School

Please can your child bring to school every day a:

- P.E Kit: Your child will take part in PE activities throughout the week so please bring in a P.E kit every day.
- We ask that all children have a navy blue Gorran School book bag (pictured) for reading books, newsletters and reading diary. These can be purchased from www.fostersschoolwear.co.uk
- Water bottle
- Lunchbox (if required)

Your child does not need:

- Pencils, pencil cases or any other stationery
- Toys or books from home unless requested.

Items from home can be easily lost in a busy classroom.



Getting Ready for School

Before starting school

Before coming to school for the first time, it is helpful if your child has experience of:

- Putting shoes on and taking them off
- Dressing and undressing
- Using the toilet, wipe and flush independently
- Washing and drying hands (and some awareness of why we do this)
- Using a tissue to wipe their nose independently.
- Sharing toys and taking turns
- Tidying toys
- Trying new foods even if they are not sure
- Using a knife and fork including cutting their own food, or opening a lunchbox
- Knowing that they have a special place for their coat, bag and water bottle.
- Recognising own name.
- Knowing that they can ask an adult for help if they need it.
- Realising that it is ok to feel nervous about new things.
- Having a good bedtime routine so that they are not tired for school.



Getting Ready for School

A Unique Child

Please know that all children respond differently to starting school. At Gorran School, we will treat every child as an individual. All Teachers and Teaching Assistants endeavour to make your child's experience of school safe, happy and secure.



Useful information

The links below provide information about preparing a child to starting in a primary school.

www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/how-to-prepare-your-child-for-primary-school

home.oxfordowl.co.uk/at-school/reception-at-primary-school/getting-ready-to-start-school/

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/collections/starting-primary-school/1

www.pacey.org.uk/working-in-childcare/spotlight-on/being-school-ready/#parents

Useful story books

Below are some story books which can help to support children starting school.

- Starting school by Allan Ahlberg
- Harry and the Dinosaurs go to School
- Topsy and Tim Start School
- Lucy and Tom at School - Shirley Hughes
- All Are Welcome - Alexandra Penfold and Suzanne Kaufman
- Going to School - Rose Blake
- Bobbo goes to School - Shirley Hughes
- Max and Millie Start School - Felicity Brooks
- Going to School - Usborne first experiences
- The Koala Who Could - Rachel Bright

Settling into School Life

What parents can do

In the mornings, your child is encouraged to enter the classroom by themselves. You can help us by being reassuring and positive about school. Praise your child for being grown up and showing independence.

If your child finds it difficult to separate from you in the mornings, please do not worry. Although it can feel uncomfortable for parents, we would encourage a simple routine of reassurance, a positive goodbye and a swift departure with a practitioner supporting your child. Please be assured that it usually only takes a few minutes for children to settle once their parents have left.



This process of coming in by themselves, can sometimes take as long as a few weeks to get right completely. Children gain a great deal of pride and self-esteem from being able to do things for themselves and we know that this feeds into all other areas of their learning.

Settling into School Life

What the practitioners will do

All the practitioners working with your child are highly experienced in helping children to start school positively and comforting those who may be upset. We will warmly welcome your child and invite them to stay and start their day. We will gently encourage your child to come with us by asking them to say goodbye to you and come voluntarily.

Some children will need more support to continue. If your child refuses to leave you, we may ask you if it is alright for us to hold your child. When your child is safe with a practitioner, we may ask you to leave to make the separation as quick as possible.

We will contact you later in the morning to let you know how they have settled.

We really do understand that this can feel uncomfortable for parents but experience tells us that this is the quickest way for children to form strong bonds with their practitioners and settle quickly into a new routine.



Learning Through Play

In Reception at Gorran Primary School, your child will be in the final year of the Early Years Foundation Stage (birth to age 5). This very special time continues the journey from home and preschool and is the foundation of future learning and success.

The EYFS Framework explains how and what your child will be learning to support their healthy development. They will be learning through play and learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through seven areas of learning and development.

These seven areas are used to plan your child's learning and progress towards the Early Learning Goals. The practitioners will plan and adapt their teaching to suit your child's unique needs and interests. Learning and experiences are planned to take place both indoors and outdoors.

We are very lucky at Gorran School to have a large outdoor area to explore and use for learning opportunities. We compliment these experiences with weekly trips and excursions that we call Welly Walks. These trips help our children to learn about the world and people around them.



Learning Through Play

Prime Areas of Learning:

There are three prime areas of learning:

Communication and Language	Physical Development	Personal, Social and Emotional Development
Listening and Attention	Moving and Handling	Self-Regulation
Speaking	Health and Self-care	Managing Self
		Building Relationship

Specific Areas of Learning:

There are four specific areas of learning:

Literacy	Mathematics	Understanding the world	Expressive Arts and Design
Reading	Number	People and Communities	Exploring and Using Media and Materials
Writing	Shape, Space and Measure	The World	Being Imaginative
		Technology	



Characteristics of Effective Learning

Children learn by:

- playing and exploring
- being active
- creating and thinking critically

Practitioners will teach and observe these characteristics of effective learning throughout the year.



Assessment and Progress

EYFS practitioners take time to get to know your child and carry out baseline assessments as children start school in Reception. Information from a range of sources are taken into account including information from preschools and parents.

In the summer term of the Reception year the practitioners complete an assessment which is known as the EYFS Profile. This assessment is carried out by the practitioners that work with your child's class and is based on what they have observed over a period of time. The results of the EYFS profile will be provided in your child's end of year report.



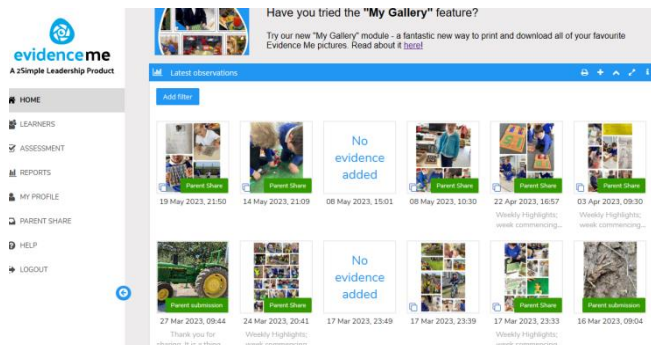
Communicating with Parents

Communication between home and school is very important. We ask that all parents / carers take time to read communications that we send home carefully and note information for your child. We use two online platforms to communicate with parents about their child and what they have been up to in school; Evidence Me and DoJo.

The new statutory framework advocates that adults at school spend more time with children interacting and playing with them instead of taking lots of photos and writing observations. Therefore, the number of photos you receive may not be as much as you have previously received from nursery. We do however use Evidence Me to send home weekly highlights, this includes a brief overview of the week's learning and any new vocabulary or sounds that we have covered.

What is Evidence Me?

Evidence Me is an online learning journal system. It allows staff to record children's progress and activities using tablet devices and PCs. Parents can view their child's journal on mobile devices and on their home computers, and can make observations of their own using a secure login system. We may use Evidence Me to record exceptional learning that your child has achieved in school. We will also use it to upload weekly highlights.



What are weekly highlights?

We create Weekly Highlights to outline the learning that the class have focused on over the course of a weekly. This will be in the form of photos and a short written statement. Using Evidence Me, parents can respond to the Weekly Highlights and ask questions. They can also upload any special learning experiences that their child has taken part in at home. We will in turn, share these experiences with the class.

Communicating with Parents

Why do we choose to use Evidence Me?

Your child's Evidence Me journal creates a two way communication between us (the EYFS team), and you (the parents and carers). We can upload media files meaning you can see pictures and videos of what your child is really up to at school. It is like having a window into the school and it allows greater opportunities to extend your child's learning at home.

How does it work?

Every child will have an Evidence Me journal created at the beginning of the year. In school, we upload photos, videos and observations and link your child to them. Parents are invited to download the Evidence Me Android/iOS app to a mobile device or to login via the Evidence Me website and activate their accounts. This makes it possible to see your child's observations, to comment or like them and even add your own.

What is DoJo?

Class Dojo is a free communication app for the classroom. It connects teachers, parents and children. We will use Class Dojo to communicate any messages to you. Similarly, if you have a message, please use class dojo to inform staff. Please be mindful that class teachers will be teaching all day and may find it hard to read and reply throughout the day.



If you have any urgent messages, questions or concerns please email or ring the school office.

"Excellent staff and very approachable with any concerns that I may have. Always great to see what the children have doing on DoJo or the Weekly Highlights. Giraffes is a great class!"

Anonymous parent comment from our most recent parent survey (May 2023).

Quick Glossary

Designated person for collection - the person who you give us permission to release your child to at the end of the day.

Early Learning Goals - 17 goals that a child's development is judged against at the end of their Reception Year.

EYFS - Early Years Foundation Stage. The Key Stage which exists from birth to 5 years before Key Stage one in primary school. The Reception Year is the last year of the EYFS.

Practitioners - trained professionals working in an Early Years setting. This includes teachers and teaching assistants (TA).

If you have any questions or queries about any information in this booklet or any aspect of school life, please telephone the school office and both the office staff and the EYFS staff will be happy to help in any way that they can.

Gorran School

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Updated by

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Early Years Foundation Stage Teacher

