



Malvern Primary School

A Parents' Guide to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)



“Bringing out the best in children”

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Meet the EYFS Team



Head Teacher
Mr Tony James



EYFS Leader
Miss Rachel Hilliard



**SENDCO & Inclusion
Leader**
Mrs Stacey Horan



Learning Mentor
Miss Steph Baker



Nursery Teacher
Mrs Stacey Horan



Reception Teacher
Mrs Zoe Woodward



Reception Teacher
Miss Rachel Hilliard



Early Years Specialist
Mrs Carol Gaughan



EYFS Teaching Assistant
Miss Sadie Joughin



EYFS Teaching Assistant
Mrs Sandra Mullins



EYFS Teaching Assistant
Mrs Danielle Read



EYFS Teaching Assistant
Miss Lorna Bullen

EYFS Explained

Welcome to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). This is a very important stage as it helps your child get ready for school, as well as preparing them for their future learning and successes. The atmosphere in EYFS is safe, secure and welcoming. Your child will encounter many exciting and interesting activities. All Early Years settings follow a legal document called The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework.

How my child will be learning?

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

Children should mostly develop the three prime areas first. These are:

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

These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning. As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in four specific areas. These are:

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

We use these seven areas to plan your child's learning journey. During their time in the EYFS children will be immersed in a range of exciting opportunities and experiences. Play is at the heart of the Early Years curriculum. Well provisioned and managed play provides a wealth of opportunity for exploring,

being active, getting creative and critical thinking, which takes place both indoors and outside.

‘Real play is deep, absorbing and satisfying. An active childhood, with plenty of opportunity for play, develops the individual child in innumerable ways, and is a wonderfully rich resource for the rest of life’.

(The Genius of Play, Sally Jenkinson – 2002)

How can I support my child’s learning?

All the fun activities that you do with your child at home are important in supporting their learning and development. These activities have a profound lasting effect on your child’s learning as they progress through school. If you make the time every day to do some of the following things with your child, it will make a real difference to your child’s confidence as a young learner.

Explore the park at different times of the year – go off the beaten track.

Use play and share a book to extend your child’s vocabulary.

Cook/bake together.

Use the weather: shadows, rain, puddles, snow, wind, mist and sun to extend your child’s vocabulary.

Allow your child to cut and stick things.



Sing nursery rhymes.

Plant seeds or bulbs in a pot or in a garden patch.

Talk about the numbers, colours, letters and words you see when you are out and about.

On a trip to the supermarket talk to your child, discuss the items you need, the quantity, the shape and where you are going.

Parental Involvement



Here, at Malvern, working with families and the community is at the heart of all that we do. In the EYFS we host 'Stay & Play' - you will be invited in to school, to work collaboratively to build on and extend your child's learning through play. At various points within the year we have parent workshops. These workshops will offer you advice and tips on how to support your child's learning at home. As such, these sessions really are invaluable. If parents are

unable to attend, we welcome other family members to join us wherever practicable. You will find that during their time with us in EYFS, children venture around the local community and beyond. We value parental support and actively encourage parents to come with us.

Malvern is at the heart of the community, our exciting local functions, 'Autumn Festival' and 'Summer Carnival' are a celebration of our local community and we hope you will join us at these events. The dates of all key events are listed in your child's planner and school website.



How will I know how my child is developing?

Communication between setting and home is vital in supporting young children's development.

Tapestry is a secure online learning journal that allows school and home to share photographs, observations and comments. As a parent, it gives you an insight into your child's daily school life, their achievements and their aspirations. You can also upload the fun and exciting activities your child accesses out of school and this helps us to learn more about your child. During September, we will invite you to a Tapestry meeting. You will get further information about how to use and access the journal.

We encourage all parents/carers to share their child's achievements, aspirations or any concerns they may have. Mornings can be a very busy time for us, some children need support transitioning into school from home and

this is entirely normal. Once all the children have left our care in the evening, you may wish to have a face to face conversation. We are aware some parents/carers work long hours and we would encourage you to ring school to arrange a mutually convenient time should you need to talk with us. Twice a year, we hold parent/teacher meetings, these are an opportunity to celebrate your child's work and discuss further their achievements and aspirations. At the end of the academic year, you will get your child's school report. This will be a summary of the progress made in school and at home.

Home Learning

We want learning at home to emulate the exciting, practical experiences children encounter in school. Our home learning tasks are embedded in these principals.

Nursery

Your child will select a library book to share at home with you. Parents and children will be asked to engage in a 'Home Learning' practical activity. The task will be consolidation of recent learning. We will post the 'Home Learning' task on Tapestry for you and your child to enjoy.

Reception

Children will bring home a book to read to you and a library book to share with you. They will also bring home additional materials from the reading programme that we follow, Read, Write, Inc. These materials, and guidance on how to use the resources provided, will be explained at the reading workshop in October. The workshop is invaluable to your child's development in reading. We understand many of our parents have working and other commitments at various times of the day. To accommodate this, we facilitate workshops at different times wherever possible. If parents are unable to attend, we would welcome another family member to join us. Parents and children will be asked to engage in a 'Home Learning' practical activity. The task will be consolidation of recent learning. We will post the 'Home Learning' task on Tapestry for you and your child to enjoy.



Getting your Child Ready to Start at Malvern

We encourage all children to be 'school ready' when they enrol at Malvern. Being 'school ready' develops children's self-esteem, self-belief and self-confidence. The more children can do independently, the more they will believe they can achieve. Belief is the key to success and we encourage all children's achievements to be celebrated.

How can I ensure my child is 'school ready'?

- ❖ Teach your child to use the toilet independently.
- ❖ Allow children the opportunity to build their muscles in their mouth. Having a dummy can hinder this development and your child may find it difficult to communicate with other children. This can be very frustrating for children.
- ❖ Show your child their school items and explain that these belong to them. Other children will have the same jumper, so it's important they start to understand how it's personally labelled; their name or a symbol.
- ❖ Model to your child how to blow/wipe their nose.
- ❖ Grow their independence by practising putting on their new school uniform, coat and school shoes.
- ❖ Reception children stay for lunch, either a hot dinner or packed lunch. We encourage all reception children to use their own knife and fork and open items in their lunch box wherever possible.



Come Prepared

Learning through play and exploration is a fun way for young children to maintain their concentration. You'll find us learning through play in all weathers. Children will need a pair of wellingtons with their name on to keep in school. We would also advise that children bring a warm coat with them each day. Wet suits are provided by the school.

We offer drinks of water (self-serve) throughout the day. Reception children are encouraged to bring a water bottle.



Malvern is part of the National Fruit and Vegetable Scheme. Children can help themselves to fruit or vegetables such as: apples, bananas, tomatoes, carrots and sugar-snap peas. We also provide a snack for the children each day. This could be: toast, crackers, or the chance to try new foods from different cultures. We ask for a contribution of £5.00 per half term to cover the cost of snacks. You will be sent a money envelope when snack money is due.



Book Bags and Green Planners

Book bags play a vital role in maintaining home school links (as well as reading books). Please check the bag each night and bring it into school each day.

We provide each child with a Green Planner. This contains key dates from our school calendar, tips and advice, engaging activities to do with your child and a reading record for you to complete when you read at home. You can also write messages to your class teacher in the planner, and we can write messages to you. Green Planners are checked daily and therefore must come into school every day.

School Uniform

We have high expectations of all our children enrolled at Malvern. We ask that all our children wear our school uniform as it encourages a sense of belonging and pride in our school. School uniform tends to be hard-wearing, and helps to prevent comparisons and competition relating to fashion. Pupils in our EYFS should wear sensible school shoes (please note these must not have any markings on) without laces. Velcro straps are the preferred option for younger children. Hair bands and bobbles should be school colour and discrete with no large bows.

The following options are available:

- ❖ green school sweatshirt or cardigan/green jumper
- ❖ yellow polo shirt: Nursery to Year 5

Boys

- ❖ long or short grey school trousers

Girls

- ❖ grey skirt, pinafore or trousers
- ❖ green gingham dress

PE Kit

- ❖ green school shorts and a white school T-shirt
- ❖ black pumps



We kindly request that you clearly label everything that your child brings in to school. This is essential as there are over 130 children in our EYFS and they all have the same uniform and book bag. Often they have the same style shoes and coat. Having items clearly labelled makes reuniting lost items with owners much easier.

The School Day

Punctuality is crucial as it has an impact on a child's learning. If, for any reason, your child arrives after the start of school, they should report to the main office with an adult. If punctuality becomes a concern, our Learning Mentor, Miss Baker, will make contact to offer support.

Nursery

Morning session: Nursery starts at 8:30am and finishes at 11:30am. Children should come into school through the Nursery doors. The children should be collected from the same doors.

Afternoon session: Nursery starts at 12:30pm and finishes at 3:30pm. Children should come into school through the Nursery doors. The children should be collected from the same doors.

Reception

Morning: The Reception Door (situated on the courtyard) is opened at 8.45am and lessons start at 8:55am. Children should come into school through this entrance. Lunch boxes can be put on the trolley outside these doors.

Lunch: 11.45am – 12.45pm.

Afternoon: 12.45pm – 3.30pm. Children should be collected from the same door on the courtyard. Lunchboxes, water bottles and items of clothing which have no identifying names on them will be on the trolley outside the door. Each Friday, any uncollected items are sent to lost property.

Absence

If your child is absent from school, please ring the school (0151 477 8230) and inform the office staff. If your child is absent and we have not been informed, Miss Baker will contact you that day requesting a reason for absence. Please avoid taking holidays during term time as this will be unauthorised and the Local Educational Authority may issue a fine.

Sickness

Children who are ill should not attend school. The procedure is for parents to ring the school office and report the sickness. If a child becomes ill at school, parents will be contacted if necessary. If your child has a fall or bump during school hours, we have paediatric first aiders to deal with the incident. If it involves a bump to the head we may contact you. This may only be to say that they are okay to stay in school but we will give you the option to come into school to make the decision for yourself if we deem it necessary.

Medicines

If your child is unwell and there is a need to take medicine during school, the following applies:

Medication may only be accepted with a completed *administration of medication form* (available from the office). The container must have a prescription label with the child's name on it, and be within date. Administration of medicine will be supervised by one of the designated first aiders. We will endeavour to administer medicines at the given times. However, we cannot guarantee medicine will be given at the correct time. We cannot administer non-prescription medications (e.g. throat sweets) and these should not be sent into school.

Breakfast and After School Club

We have a breakfast club which is available from 8.00am and costs £2.50 per day. This is available for children from reception to year six. The children are offered a varied selection of cereals and toast and are then taken to class ready for the start of school at 8.45am. **Please ensure you are registered for a place before you arrive.** Applications for Breakfast Club should be made at the school office.

Kids in Bloom is also located on our site and offer childcare provision for 0-11 year olds 52 weeks per year. In addition, Swanside Community Centre, which is adjacent to Malvern, also provides breakfast club from 7:30am.

Collecting your Child from School

Morning Nursery finishes at 11:30am. Afternoon Nursery and Reception finish at 3:30pm. Children are collected from the doors which they use to enter school.

It is important that you let us know if a different person is collecting your child. You can either: let us know when you drop your child off, write a note in their planner or telephone the school office. Nursery parents, remember the delegate will also need the password.

If you are collecting your child after 3:40pm you will need to go to the main office.

Safeguarding

Your child's safety is of paramount importance. All staff at Malvern have an up to date understanding of safeguarding procedures. Staff follow procedures in line with Knowsley's Local Safeguarding Children's Board. If we have concerns about a child's safety or welfare, we are obliged to report our concerns to children's social care colleagues. If you have any concerns regarding safeguarding or child protection, please contact Mr James, Mrs Horan, Mr Kynaston or Miss Baker.

Contacting us

People whom you may wish to contact:

- ❖ **Head Teacher:** Mr James
- ❖ **Assistant Head Teacher:** Mr Kynaston
- ❖ **Lead Teacher:** Mrs McGorian
- ❖ **SENDCO & Inclusion Manager:** Mrs Horan
- ❖ **Learning Mentor:** Miss Baker
- ❖ **Early Years Lead:** Miss Hilliard
- ❖ **Nursery Teacher:** Mrs Horan
- ❖ **Reception Teachers:** Mrs Woodward, Miss Hilliard

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