



Welcome to
Acorns Classes
Millfields First School and Pre-School



Contact Information
Mrs L. Montandon - Headteacher

Millfields First School
Swift Close
Bromsgrove
B61 7BS

Telephone: 01527 831 885
Email: office@millfields.worcs.sch.uk

Early Years Curriculum

At Millfields First School we develop the 'whole' child to prepare the children for their school life. In Early Years, children learn by leading their own play and by taking part in play guided by adults. Quality play opportunities are essential for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, to think about problems and relate to others. This is implemented through planned and purposeful play in a variety of activities. Children learn by playing and exploring, being active and through creative and critical thinking, which takes place both indoors and outside.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets standards for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5 years old. All schools and Ofsted-registered early years providers must follow the EYFS. Our children will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through seven areas of learning and development. All of these areas are used when planning the learning and activities that take place in Acorns class.

Areas of Learning

Personal, social and emotional development

Communication and Language

Physical Development

Literacy

Maths

Understanding the World

Expressive Arts and Design

More information can be found about the Early Years curriculum on our website:

<https://www.millfieldsfirstschool.co.uk/curriculum-by-year-group/>



Early Years Curriculum

We share a 2 year rolling topic based curriculum with Willow Class (our Pre-School).

There are lots of opportunities for children in Acorns and Willow classes to mix, with shared events such as the Christmas Nativity, Discos run by our wonderful PTA, Easter Bonnet Parades, trips and more. Parents are often invited to these events and other opportunities in school, such as Sharing Days, where you can come and work with your child in class.

Here are some examples of places we have visited as a class:

- Severn Valley Railway
- Umberslade Children's Farm
- MAC Theatre
- Sealife Centre
- Hatton Country World

A monthly Newsletter is sent out to both classes in Early Years, summarising their learning and what activities you can do at home to support your child.

Our fabulous Early Years team know our children inside out. They often work across both classes, which supports the transition for children in our Pre-School into Reception classes.



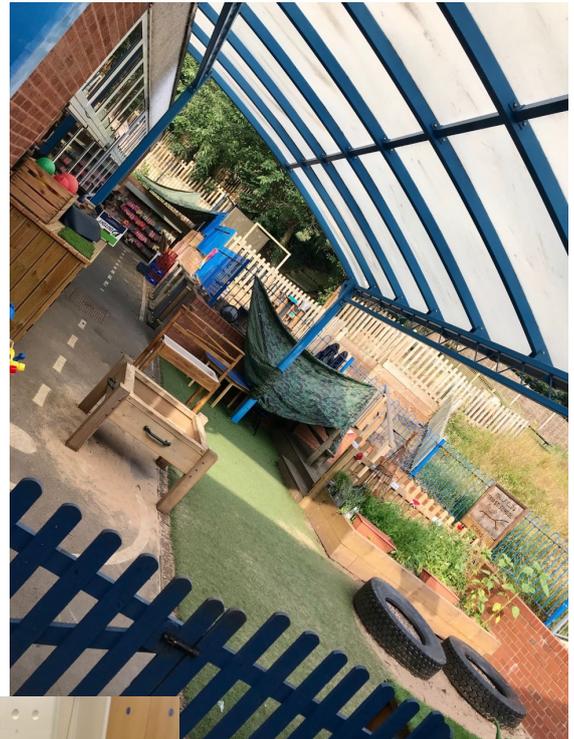
Early Years visit to
Umberslade Children's Farm

Exotic animal encounter



Our School Environment

Pre-school and entrance to the front of the school



Acorns garden area

Millfields' Hall is used for assemblies, P.E and lunch time



Spacious classrooms set out to support learning through play



A Typical Millfields Day continued...

Home time- 3.05pm

Children to be collected by a known adult - any changes must be arranged with teachers or office staff

The 'Topic' session will vary day to day and could be Music, Understanding the World, Expressive Arts and Design or have a Philosophy 4 Children focus.

Children will also have a weekly indoor P.E session and a Forest School session.

During Play & Explore, children will have access to our outdoor garden area.

Things to bring into school

P.E Kit

We ask for all children to have their P.E bag in school at all times. In this there should be: a blue Millfields t-shirt, a pair of navy/black shorts and a pair of black pumps (preferably Velcro, as these are safer as they stay on the children's feet better). Spare underwear can be kept in this bag - we understand that children may have accidents on occasions!



Drinks bottle

Children must bring a bottle in each day which is clearly labelled/named. This must **only** contain water. Squash and fruit juice are not permitted.

Things to bring into school continued..

Wellington Boots

Please provide a pair of wellington boots that can be kept in school at all times. These will be used for Forest School and during muddy times in our outdoor garden. The wellingtons must be named - in both feet!

Forest School Kit

Information will be sent home regarding your child's weekly Forest School session. On this day you will need to provide clothes that children can wear to Forest School. We ask that their arms and legs are always covered, regardless of weather: we don't want them to get scratched or stung by any vegetation! Most children wear jogging bottoms/leggings and a long-sleeved t-shirt with a sweatshirt or hooded jacket. There is a good selection of these types of items in Asda, Tesco or Primark. We provide the children with waterproof jackets and trousers, and they wear their wellies too.



If your child's Forest School session is in the morning, we ask you to bring your child into school wearing their Forest School kit and bring their uniform in a **named** rucksack or bag.

If your child's Forest School session is in the afternoon, we ask you to bring your child into school wearing their uniform and bring their Forest School kit in a **named** rucksack or bag.



Our Forest School Environment

Welcome to our Forest School!



Our Christmas lights procession for Parents and children



Our beautiful performance stage and natural area



Toasting marshmallows over the fire pit



Marvelling at our gardening skills!

Lunches

This is the part that most parents worry about the most! Children in Reception to Year 2 are entitled to Universal Free School Meals, which are free of charge. The children eat their lunch in the hall, assisted by Early Years staff and our lunchtime supervisors.

There is a rolling three week menu, giving them the choice of a hot dinner (meat or vegetarian option), jacket potato with a choice of fillings or a sandwich and a dessert option, including fruit, yoghurt or a cake.

We encourage the children to have a hot dinner but realise this could be an anxious time for them. If you do not want your child to have this option, you may provide a healthy packed lunch. This **must not include** anything containing nuts (including peanut butter or hazelnut spread), sweets, chocolate bars or fizzy drinks. This is due to other children or adults having nut allergies and promoting a healthy and balanced diet and lifestyle.

If your child only likes certain food on different days, they are more than welcome to enjoy a hot dinner on those specific days. We do not need to know in advance, we check each day whether the child has got a lunchbox or is having hot dinners whilst doing the morning register.

Please let school know if your child has any dietary requirements or allergies.



Children trying some vegetable soup

Lunch on a school trip



Communication

A member of the Senior Leadership Team will be available on the door to welcome you and your child into school. They will take any messages you have and pass them on to the class teacher. This could be about a relative picking up, a signed letter being returned or whether the child is not feeling well.

The class teacher will be available for a brief chat at the end of the day, once they have let all children out safely to their parents. If you wish to speak to them about something in private, you must contact the school office to arrange a meeting. If you have any concerns, the class teacher will be the first contact point and then the Early Years Leader (Miss Evans).

Parents Evenings are held twice a year - in Autumn and Spring term - which is where you will find out more about your child's learning.

Tapestry

You will receive learning updates through the Tapestry app, which we use to record observations on our children in Early Years. This helps you understand how your child is developing against key milestones in the Early Years Framework and will also be a good tool for you to talk about with your child after a busy school day!



In your welcome pack, there will be a consent form for you to complete with your correct email address to ensure you're sent an activation code to download and log on to Tapestry on your phone or tablet.

Purple Mash

We use the online learning portal Purple Mash. When the children have been registered with us, they will receive a login to use where we will set home learning and they can access 'Minimash', an online area at an age appropriate level. This can be used on a computer or tablet.

Parent App

Our most useful communication tool is our ParentApp. This has allowed us to use less paper (for children to lose!) and give parents instant communication, which can be very helpful if a club has been cancelled, to send reminders for trip payments or to record pupil absence. We ask every parent to sign up and use this. We also ask that the notification setting is switched on so you can see when communication has been sent. The form for this will be in your welcome pack.

Parent Pay

We are now a cashless school and all payments for trips and visits, for Key Stage 2 children's lunches are paid for via Parent Pay. The form to sign up for this will be in your welcome pack.

Photo Consents

We have to ask you for permission to take photos of your child. These can be used for a host of things in school e.g. school newsletters, on Tapestry or on displays. They can sometimes be used for external purposes, such as in local newspapers or on our school website. You have a choice as to how you would like your child's photos to be used, and can consent to which choices are appropriate.

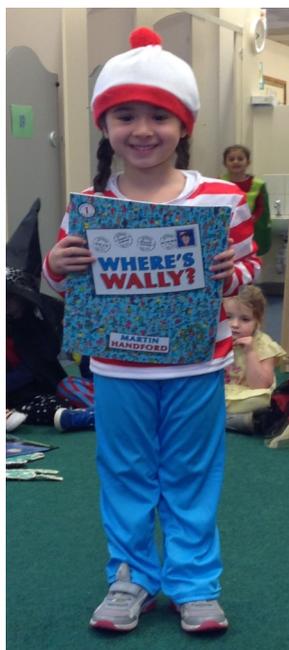
If you decide not to give your permission, this will mean in our newsletters your child's face would need to be covered or blurred so they are not recognisable, or that they are asked to not be in the group photo. This can often be upsetting for the child, as they won't feel as involved as their peers!



Reading

Reading is a huge priority for our school. All classes have a daily story time at the end of the day with high-quality texts, matched specifically to topics and to broaden the children's knowledge. Developing a love of reading is so important to us. In our Early Years classes, our children are immersed in stories, nursery rhymes, poems and songs.

In the first few weeks, children will begin learning their Letters and Sounds in daily phonics sessions: the beginning of their reading journey. They will receive a reading diary, where parents can record when they have read with their child and comments about things they did really well and things that they found tricky e.g. *"Billy sounded out each word really well. He found 'd' quite tricky to recognise."*



Each child will also take 3 books home a week.

To begin with the children will take home a picture book, with no words in. This is because they won't have covered all the sounds to begin reading and need to develop a storyline.

This will then become a phonics decodable book based on the letters and sounds covered that week e.g. *cat, c-a-t.*

A non-decodable book. This means there will be repeated words in that cannot be sounded out using their phonics skills in Reception e.g. *elephant.*

A library book of their choice from an age-appropriate range.

More information on when these books will be changed will be sent to you in September. Keep an eye out for a Phonics Workshop to help parents understanding on this subject.

If you would like more information about Phonics, please visit our website and there are document for you to read there in the Phonics section - www.millfieldsfirstschool.co.uk

How you can help prepare your child

Starting school is a big step and can be an emotional one - for both children and parents! We ask that all parents are positive in front of their children about starting school.

Our Early Years staff are incredible: they are committed to ensuring your child's self-esteem and confidence is built on in a caring and nurturing way. We want you to be reassured and feel confident in knowing that your children are in safe and experienced hands!

Here are some things to practise over the summer holiday:

- Managing hygiene - wash your hands!
- Going to the toilet independently
- Getting dressed independently
- Using a knife and fork when eating
- Recognising your name
- Talking about their day

Children develop at different rates so we don't expect any child to start school being able to read and write. Our main priority in the first few weeks at school, is ensuring the children are happy and settled and making friends.

We want parents to remember that the children start learning the moment they walk through our doors: learn the routines of the day, learn the classroom rules and learn children's names...please do not put pressure on the children in this time to do lots of additional work at home. Parents often say to us in that first half term that the children are exhausted!



Friends Association (PTA)

We have a wonderful and active Friends Association run by our parents. They help run fundraising events such as the Christmas and Summer Fayre and school discos, and provide refreshments for our Macmillan Coffee Mornings.

They are always looking for additional support, so if you want to get involved, please contact our chair of the Friends association Kelly Hill by email: kellyannesilvers@hotmail.com.

If you have any questions regarding your child starting at Millfields, please contact the school office on 01527 831 885 or office@millfields.worcs.sch.uk.

We look forward to welcoming you to our lovely school...



Early Years Nativity performance



Messy Write Dance



Early guided group reading

Meeting our local MP

