



# Crayke CE Primary School



A starter guide for parents

*The purpose of this booklet is to help parents feel confident about, and prepared for, their child starting school.*

*To this end we have collated some practical information about school procedures and protocols and also some which is relevant to the Early Years Foundation Stage alone.*

*If, having read this booklet, you still have unanswered questions, please do refer back to the school website or ask a member of staff. We are only too happy to help and are eager to make the beginning of your child's life at school as positive and as happy as possible.*



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## Our ethos and the Early Years Curriculum

Our aim is to provide a happy, caring, stimulating and exciting learning environment in which each child will learn to express themselves and develop their full potential. Good Early Years practice should be fun, engaging and child centred. We provide a balance of independent learning through structured and well planned play provision and through adult led focused teaching. Your child will be taught as part of the whole class, as part of a group and individually.

The curriculum builds upon the experiences and learning that children have previously had and helps them to progress towards readiness for a more formal approach to education later in their school lives.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum consists of three prime areas and four specific areas of learning which encompass everything the children need to learn via a range of play activities, experiences and directed teaching.

Examples of these include...

- Sand and water play
- Role play area
- Design and technology area
- Mark making and writing area
- Construction area

We also make use of the school grounds by following a Forest schools programme of learning each week.

Children also have regular PE lessons and are included in daily Collective Worship with the rest of the school and have the opportunity to take part in our Nativity.



## How can I help my child before they start school?

You can help your child to feel happy and confident being at school by making sure they can....

- go to the toilet alone
- wash their hands
- use a tissue
- dress and undress
- manage buttons, zips and shoe fastenings
- use cutlery
- choose and find the items he/she needs
- express feelings and emotions

Your child will also need to get used to working, sharing and co-operating with others. S/he will need to.....

- be able to take turns when talking, playing games and using equipment
- share nursery equipment and respect other people's belongings
- play with others and respect their needs and wishes
- be willing to negotiate and compromise

You can encourage your child to learn by....

- sharing and talking to him/her about things s/he has done
- sorting things into groups; matching colour, shape or size
- counting
- playing games and doing puzzles
- baking, gardening, playing with water and sand
- drawing and painting with different materials
- making things
- enjoying books together



## Useful information for September

### The first day

Term begins on Tuesday 8 September at 9.00am. Access to the school grounds is through the main gate and round into the Early Years area. Please bring your child into the cloakroom where I will be waiting to greet you and show your child where his/her peg in the cloakroom is. Please do not arrive before 8.50am on any morning as there is no member of staff on duty before that time. On the first day your child will need to bring a named water bottle, his/her PE kit which can stay at school on their peg and his/her book bag. Please feel free to come into the classroom with your child and see them happily engaged in some activity. I will gather everyone together at 9.00am for registration and this would be a good time for you to leave if you and your child are happy with this. We are very flexible about the beginning of the day and we are perfectly happy for you to 'drop and leave' if this suits you better.

At 3.30pm please come and wait in our little garden area and I will hand the children over to you. It is school policy that parents/carers come to meet the children rather than children having to negotiate their way up the drive to find their parents. If you are running late, please ring the school office and we will hold on to your child until you arrive. If you want to arrange for another parent to pick up your child you must contact the school as we cannot allow them to be collected by anyone else without permission from yourself.

### Arrangements for Starting School 2020

At this stage plans are unclear regarding September, but our intention is as follows -

#### Tuesday 8 September—Friday 11 September

All children to attend all day, however if you prefer, your child can just stay for the morning and lunch 9.00am-1.00pm following discussion with the headteacher

#### Monday 14 September onwards

Children to attend full time 9.00am-3.30pm

It is vital that starting school for all children is positive and this will undoubtedly be more seamless for some than others. Please talk to us if you are at all concerned about your child.



**Absence** If your child is unwell please telephone the school to confirm his/her absence by 9.30am. Please refer to the school website for details of infectious diseases and our medicine policy. The policy for illness includes 48 hours at home after vomiting or diarrhoea; you would be surprised at how quickly these things can spread.

**Holidays in term time** There are government rules around taking children out for holidays whilst the school is in session. Please see the school's 'Exceptional Leave' policy on the school website.

[www.craykeschool.org](http://www.craykeschool.org)

### **Fruit and snacks**

Your child is eligible to receive free fruit until the end of Year Two. We eat this about 10.30am in the morning and the children can also drink water from their water bottles at this time. There is no need for your child to bring anything further to eat.

### **School book bags and sharing of information**

Each child requires a book bag to keep their phonics book in. Information that we need to pass on to you will be on the school website. Please ensure that you have signed up to receive 'alerts' when anything new is posted. Unlike day nurseries, I do not check your child's bag every day and so if you have something to return to school, it is safer either to hand it to the relevant adult or to remind your child that they must give it to someone. For the first couple of weeks I will tell you how your child has been that day and then after that we pass on that job to your child. However, you can speak to me at any time if you have concerns and in the autumn term you will be able to attend an after school parents meeting in September, a parents evening with individual appointments in October and an invitation to see the class at work some time in the autumn term. I will also post a curriculum letter detailing what we are learning that term onto our class page on the website.



## Uniform list

School sweatshirt or cardigan with logo

Grey, black or navy skirt, trousers, pinafore or shorts

Polo shirt in white or pale blue **or** white shirt (but only if your child is good with buttons)

Summer dress blue checked (not navy)

Socks either white, grey or navy

Tights either grey or navy

Shoes, sensible in navy or black

Any coat but warm in winter

## PE kit

All children require a blue t shirt with the school logo

Navy or black plain shorts

A pair of trainers for outdoor PE and warm dark coloured jogging bottoms (from October to April)

**Please do not buy plimsoles; we rarely use them.**

**Forest School waterproof trousers/coat and boots**

**In addition children will require -**

**a blue reading book bag**

**a bag for PE kit**

**a named water bottle**



## Starting school checklist

- **School uniform**—please name all your child's clothing
- **Named PE kit**
- **Named PE bag**
- **Shoes**—that your child can put on independently
- **School reading bag**
- **Named water bottle**
- **Coat**
- **Forest School waterproof trousers and boots**



## How can I get involved in school life?

Ask about getting involved in CHASA, the school's parents' association. Their help with fundraising and running some school events is invaluable and they are always looking out for new recruits. Please make yourself known to Jonathan the Chair of CHASA or any CHASA member via [chasa@crayke.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:chasa@crayke.n-yorks.sch.uk)

Become a parent volunteer. We are extremely fortunate at Crayke school to have so many parents who offer support on a voluntary basis. This can mean anything from helping on school visits, listening to readers or coming occasionally to help with a big project. You do need clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service; the school office can explain how to go about this.

Creating a strong working relationship between home and school is extremely important to us. Communication is vital! It is important that at any time you have concerns about your child at school you share them with us...similarly we will with you. Please either catch us to talk or email [class1@crayke.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:class1@crayke.n-yorks.sch.uk) It doesn't matter how trivial you feel it is... we want to hear from you.

