



Class One Brochure:

Early Years Foundation Stage Unit



## Welcome to Class One at Sunnybrow Primary School!

We are delighted that you have chosen Sunnybrow Primary school as the right place for your child to begin their first steps into education. We would love to welcome you and your child here, and hope that you feel confident and happy with our school ethos and look forward to working in partnership with you over the coming years. Class One is an Early Years Foundation Stage Unit, comprising of Nursery and Reception aged children. Our aim is to create a happy, secure and creative environment where children can explore, investigate, listen and discuss in order to become independent, mature and motivated learners who are ready to learn and have fun! We recognise the key role of parents as partners in their child's development and learning and welcome your support and contributions in all aspects of Nursery and Reception.



### Our School Details

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## What is the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)?

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is a foundation for the child's future learning and development. It emphasises that every child is unique, that children learn through positive relationships, that the environment where they learn has staff who respond to their needs and work in partnership with parents and carers. Through playing and exploring, active learning and creating and thinking critically children can develop and learn in different ways and at different rates. Our aim is to foster and encourage this learning every day. Nursery and Reception education is referred to as the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) The indoor and outdoor classroom, and open ended collaborative play and exploration, are key features of the early years learning process.

Children in Nursery and Reception Class follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum which is a developmental curriculum aiming for children to succeed in achieving 17 Early Learning Goals by the end of their Reception year in school. The EYFS Curriculum is divided into 3 sections.

- Characteristics of Learning
- Three prime areas of learning
- Four specific areas of learning



### Characteristics of learning

- Playing and exploring - the children are finding out and exploring, playing with what they know and being willing to 'have a go'.
- Active Learning - the children are involved and concentrating, persevering and enjoying achieving what they set out to do.
- Creating and thinking critically - the children have their own ideas, making links and choosing ways to do things.

### Prime Areas of Learning

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development** is when the children are making relationships and getting along with one another and adults. They are developing their confidence and self-awareness, and being able to manage their feelings and behaviour.
- **Communication and Language** is where children are given many opportunities to develop good listening, attention and understanding skills. They are also able to speak and express themselves effectively.



- **Physical Development** is all about developing large and small movements in a variety of ways and having good control and co-ordination when handling different tools and equipment. It also covers health and self-care, looking at ways to keep ourselves healthy and safe.

#### Specific Areas

- **Literacy**, where children learn stories, rhymes, books and reading. The children are also given lots of opportunities to develop their mark-making and emergent writing skills.
- **Mathematics** is where the children find out about numbers, counting, shape, space and measure.
- **Understanding the World** is where children find out about people and communities. Children develop an understanding about the work they live in, including ICT.
- **Expressive Arts and Design** where children are given many opportunities to explore music, dance and song. The children use a variety of media and materials to develop creativity and imaginative play.

#### Learning through play

It is widely recognised that children learn a significant amount through play and exploration. Play helps children to find out and develop through doing, talking, exploring, investigating, creating and experimenting. "Play underpins the EYFS. It also underpins learning and all aspects of children's development. Through play, children develop language skills, their emotions and creativity, social and intellectual skills. Play takes place indoors and outdoors and it is in these different environments



that children explore and discover their immediate world. It is here they practise new ideas and skills, they take risks, show imagination and solve problems on their own or with others" (Early Years Matters 2012). We provide interesting experiences that are appropriate for children's age and stage of development. Staff endeavour to take your child forward in their learning by building on what they already know and can do. Every day is varied, stimulating, imaginative and fun!

#### Assessment

We assess pupils using a 'Spotlight' approach.

Every child will have 'spotlight' observations carried out by their key person. These are detailed observations of the children carried out over a 3 month period. The first of these will take place within 6 weeks of them starting the setting and will be our 'baseline assessment' and provide the starting points for our discussions and planning. There will then be follow up observations which will take place over a 3 month cycle and staff will be assessing if pupils are meeting their developmental milestones or not. Next steps will then be planned in conjunction with parents. These spotlight observations will be record as a mini-report and kept in each child's portfolio on class Dojo. Wow moments and other exciting learning experiences will be shared via photographs and annotations on each child's online Class Dojo portfolio. As soon as your child starts the setting, you will be provided with login details and a guide for how to download and access the Class Dojo app.

Parents can also add photographs and comments about all the fun things you get up to at home too. It is always really great to read contributions from home and the children love sharing photographs from home with their friends. If you would like staff to chat with you about how to upload to Class Dojo, please feel free to ask at any time. Also, please shout up if you have mislaid your password – they are very easily reset!

### Starting at our school

#### **For Nursery**

When a nursery place becomes available for your child you will be informed via a phone call or letter. This place may occur either on or soon after your child's 3rd birthday, subject to availability. If you accept the place offered, your child's birth certificate must be seen by our school secretary (either Mrs Smith or Mrs Clarke-Boyd). If you are in receipt of a 'Golden Ticket', your child may start Nursery the half-term BEFORE their third birthday. Again, you will be contacted via phone call or letter.

#### **For Reception**

If your child has not attended our school nursery, they will be invited to an induction session in the summer term before they start in September. Your child will start full time straight away, unless you feel this will be too much for them, in which case we can arrange a graduated entry.

## Coming into school:

#### **Nursery & Reception children-**

Please gather at the entrance on the front of the school building. The door will be open at 8.45am. We encourage Reception children to say goodbye to parents at the bottom of the steps and come in to school independently. Nursery children can come into the cloakroom with their parent and then say goodbye once they have hung up their coat.

## Nursery packages:

These packages differ according to your family entitlement.

Package One	15 hours to be taken 5 mornings a week (9am-12pm)
Package Two	15 hours to be taken over 2 ½ days (Mon & Tues 9am-3pm, Wed-9am-12pm)
Package Three	30 hours (Monday-Friday 9am-3pm)

Additional hours can be purchased between the hours of 9.00am and 3.00 pm at a cost of £4 per hour. Nursery fees must be paid in advance of a pupil staying for extra hours.

#### Uniform:

#### **Nursery:**

- Navy jumper (can have school logo if you wish)
- White polo-shirt (can have school logo if you wish)
- Navy or Black joggers
- Black trainers or black school shoes
- Warm, waterproof coat

### Reception:

- School jumper
- White polo-shirt
- Black or grey school trousers or skirt
- Black school shoes

### Food:

Children can either have packed lunch or school dinners. School dinners are free for RECEPTION children as they are currently funded for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. For Nursery children, they currently cost £3.00 per day. This must be paid for in advance.

If you are in receipt of certain benefits, you may be entitled to register for 'free school meals'. This means that your child will also get free milk and our school will receive additional funding for resources. Please see the office staff if you think you may be entitled.

Your child will have access to free fruit throughout the morning.

### Tuck shop:

During morning playtime, there is a tuck shop. Children can buy a snack from a selection of different items. This costs 20p per day.

### Breakfast Club:

School operates a breakfast club for reception age children only. This runs from 8.00am-8.45am and costs 50p per day.

Every morning, there are bagels provided for all children for free too. They will access these in their classrooms.

## Preparing for Nursery and Reception – how parents can help!

In order to prepare your child for their time in Nursery there are some really simple things you can do:

- ❖ Help your child to become more independent in going to the toilet themselves
- ❖ Show them how to wash and dry their hands themselves
- ❖ Encourage independence by teaching your child to put on shoes, coats and jumpers themselves
- ❖ Avoid clothes with tricky fastenings

