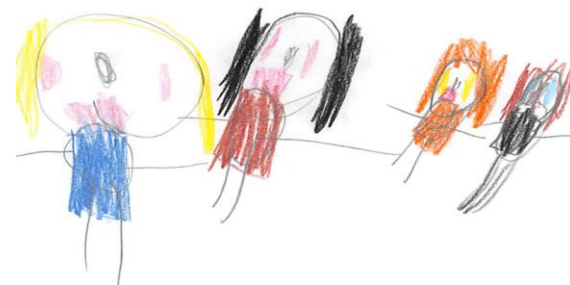




Welcome to Foundations @ Thurcroft

Transition Booklet



Thurcroft Junior Academy

Welcome to Foundations @ Thurcroft Junior Academy

Welcome to Foundations at Thurcroft Junior Academy. Starting school is an exciting time for children. They make friends, have new experiences and develop new interests. We make it a very happy rewarding experience for all children. Here at the Academy we aim to deliver a broad curriculum that supports every child to thrive, and become powerful learners. We hope this booklet provides you with the information you need to support a smooth transition into Foundation stage.

Our school details are:

Principal: Mrs R. Stone

Thurcroft Junior Academy

Green Arbour Road

Thurcroft

Rotherham

S66 9DD

Telephone Number: 01709 543194

E-mail: foundations@thurcroftacademy.org

Facebook: Foundations at Thurcroft Junior academy

Web: www.thurcroftjunioracademy.org

We would like to introduce you to our team in Foundations.

Miss R. Bradley Nursery Manager

Miss C. Williams Teaching Assistant

Miss G. Cadd Teaching Assistant

Please feel free to speak to any member of staff if you have any questions or queries.

Opening times and funding:

All children are entitled to 15 hours' free provision and some children will be entitled to a further 15 extended hours. For more information or to check if you qualify you can visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk or contact Childcare Choices helpline 0333 1234097 for more information.

We are open between the hours of 7:30am and 4:30 pm. We offer sessions between these hours, please speak to the nursery manager regarding sessions.

Please note: Sessions outside of your funded hours are charged at £4 per hour.

Attendance and Absence

Regular attendance is very important for your child to make progress and settle into a routine. If your child becomes ill and is unable to attend, please contact the academy or send a message on class Dojo. Following the NHS guidelines, if your child has an episode of sickness or diarrhoea we ask your child remain at home for 48 hours after the symptoms have stopped.

Please also inform staff if you have updated your contact number, in the event your child became ill whilst at nursery you would be contacted to collect them.

Medical needs and administration of medicines

It is of the highest importance that we are informed of any medical conditions relating to your child so we can ensure that your child remains safe and healthy at nursery.

In order for medicines to be administered to children during the day, you will need to fill out a medication form, which must be completed and signed by a parent.

In the event your child will need regular medication for conditions such as asthmas or allergies, an ongoing medication form must be completed and monitored regularly.

Behaviour and Rewards

Appropriate behaviour is encouraged and praised throughout the academy. Expectations, including our three Rules- Be Kind, Be Careful and Be Helpful, are constantly reinforced during the day to allow children to understand what we expect of them. We also have a tidy up rhyme that children quickly develop an understanding of and use in their play- Choose it, Use it, and Put it away. We reward positive behaviour through verbal praise, giving children stickers and a weekly sparkle and shine award, which are given to a child in each class throughout the academy.

Key Worker Approach

We use the key worker approach to help your child feel valued and well cared for whilst away from home. This approach means your child will have a named member of staff who will be the main point of contact for you and your child. The key person will work closely with your child to build a strong, positive relationship with them. This will give your child a sense of security and confidence, as they become familiar with their new environment and routine.

School Uniform

All children must be in full school uniform when attending the academy. As children join in messy activities or have an accident, they may need to be changed at some point during the day. Please include a spare set of clothes in their bag- we do have some spares but are very limited in sizes.

Please can you send your child with a suitable coat everyday along with a sun hat in hot weather. When the weather is forecast to be warm, please ensure you apply sun cream to your child before their session and we will re-apply during the day.

We also ask your child wears sensible footwear (as stated in the uniform policy) open-toed shoes, sandals or flip flops can be dangerous when children are accessing climbing equipment.

Uniform

- Grey or black trousers / dress / skirt / shorts / yellow gingham dress
- Gold polo shirt
- Grey school jumper
- Black shoes (no coloured trims)
- School coat (optional)

The uniform policy can be found on the [Thurcroft Junior Academy website](#).

School coats, jumpers, polo shirts and book bags can be purchased direct from the academy or from Pinders Schoolwear. The rest of the uniform can be purchased from most supermarkets or high street stores.

Please remember to clearly label all of your child's belongings. Children often take jumpers off or hang their coats on the wrong pegs. It can be very time consuming for staff to locate lost items of clothing.

Collection

As you reach the end of the path that leads to Foundations, please press the buzzer and you will be let in by a member of staff. Your child must be brought and collected by a responsible adult and collected by an adult aged 18 or above (unless they have parental responsibility for the child). Please let a member of staff know if someone different will be collecting your child and also inform them of your collection password (children will not be allowed to go home with an adult who is unfamiliar to us, if we have not been informed by a parent)

Our Curriculum

Our Foundation provision offers a safe, secure, stimulating environment, which enables every child to thrive. We provide high quality teaching experiences over all seven areas of learning. Our provision follows children's interests and is planned in short topics in both the indoor and outdoor environment. Our high quality provision develops children's confidence, independence and supports them to become independent learners. Children engage in open-ended activities testing their own ideas and making links to become critical thinkers. Our text rich environment offers reading and writing opportunities alongside all areas within the setting. Children will take part in a short story session every day to encourage a life-long love for reading.

The Foundation stage is an important stage of children's education as it prepares them for future challenges and successes as they begin their education. We ensure a smooth transition from home to school and then prepare children for their next stage of learning as they progress into FS2.

Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

The EYFS curriculum is divided into seven "Areas of Learning"

3 Prime areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional development
- Physical development
- Communication and Language

4 specific areas of Learning:

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

Throughout these areas, the children will be developing the Characteristics of Effective Learning:

- Playing and Exploring
- Active Learning
- Creating and Thinking Critically

Communication and Language

The development of children's spoken language underpins all seven areas of learning and development. Children's back and forth interactions forms the foundations for language and cognitive development. Children are encouraged to develop speaking and listening skills and to think independently. These skills can be supported in the home environment, lots of discussions and asking questions as they develop their speaking and reading. To develop your child's language skills reading frequently with them is a very important way of supporting their communication and language development. Children will take part in regular phonics sessions and we will work closely with parents to support them with helping their child apply this within the word reading process.

Assessment

Ongoing assessments take place across all 7 areas of learning through observations and adult initiated activities. High quality interactions and conversations between adults, and peers promote communication and language development which links within all areas of learning. Staff regularly assess children against the EYFS Curriculum checkpoints, which can highlight any areas of interventions we may need to put in place to ensure every child makes regular progress. Through our high quality provision and activities children will face challenges to become motivated, critical thinkers. Young children develop at different rates and their abilities can change very quickly, this is nothing for you to worry about. If at any point you were worried about your child's development or progress, please arrange an appointment to speak to their key worker. Your child's development will be shared with you at parent's evenings, along with their Learning Journal during the Autumn and Spring terms.

Home Learning

Home learning is set for children in a variety of ways:

- "Home Challenges" will be shared on our class Dojo each week
- Every half term your child will receive an activity sheet to work through linked to what we have planned for in our provision.
- Reading and Number leaflets will be given to you when your child joins Foundations, these give useful information of how to support their learning, and examples of activities you can do with them.
- Each week we will have a new rhyme to learn which will be linked to our topic, this will be shared on class Dojo.
- Each week children will be given the opportunity to choose a library book to take home to share with an adult. Please share this book in a quiet space and encourage your child to talk about what you have read by asking them questions.
- Later in the year, phonics activities will be sent home, as some children begin to orally blend and segment sounds.
- As children develop their phonological understanding they will bring home a phonics reading book to read with you.

Home learning is very important to support your child's learning and development, please encourage them to take part in these activities.

Snack

Each day the children will have a morning and afternoon snack. Please provide two healthy snacks separate to their lunch (crisp or chocolate are not considered to be healthy snacks and support a healthy diet). Milk and water is provided at snack times and staff will support children to independently pour themselves a drink, children's own water bottles will be given to them at lunchtime.

Lunches

Children are welcome to bring a packed lunch (clearly labelled) or have a hot school meal. School meals are charged at £2.05 per day and can be paid for on the school gateway app. As we are a healthy school we ask, only one item of chocolate is included in their lunch bag.

Special Educational Needs

Some children may need some additional support as they develop across the seven areas of learning. During your child's time in Foundation stage, we are constantly observing and assessing your child against the curriculum guidance checkpoints. This can highlight any areas we may need to focus on and allow us to put interventions in place to support your child with their development. We will share any concerns with you and talk about additional support we can offer to support you and your child. If you have any worries or concerns about your child's development, please speak to a member of staff. The school SENCO, Mrs Bell, will co-ordinate a support plan for your child alongside Miss Bradley to ensure your child's needs are met. On occasions, other agencies may need to become involved such as speech therapy or the learning support team, however parental consent is always required and a member of staff would discuss this with you and together decide the best way forward for your child.

Child Protection

All schools are required by law to follow a procedure for any child protection concerns. Any concerns must be referred to social services by the designated Safeguarding Lead (R.Stone) within school for further investigation. We have a duty of care to protect any child who may be at risk.

Working with Parents as partners

At Thurcroft Junior Academy we work closely with parents to form a partnership which will support your child's learning and development. We will:

- Invite you to 'Stay and Play' sessions which will focus on a particular area of learning
- Share with you any 'Star' moments or amazing achievements your child has made
- Provide information sheets to support you and your child with their home learning
- Schedule parents meeting throughout the year to discuss your child's progress
- Share weekly activities, learning or general information regarding your child via the class Dojo app
- Share planning with you by either class Dojo or the school website

All staff are available to message on the class Dojo to arrange a suitable time to talk about any worries or concerns you may have.

Please Note: You can find all off the academy policies on the school website

www.thurcroftjunioracademy.org

Thank you for reading our booklet. We hope your child is looking forward to joining Foundations @ Thurcroft. We will do everything we possibly can to ensure that your child's experience of Foundations at Thurcroft is the absolute best it can be. We look forward to working with you and your child during their time in Foundation stage.