

Gamston St Peter's CofE Primary School

Early Years

Welcome Pack



A very warm welcome.

Thank you for your interest in the Early Years Setting at Gamston St Peter's CofE Primary School

We hope that you find this pack informative.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us:

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Take a look at our website: www.gamstonschool.co.uk

About us



We are pleased that we are able to admit Nursery Children into our excellent Early Years setting the term after their third birthday.

Based in a lovely classroom with a fantastic, large outdoor learning area, we pride ourselves on creating a personal and homely environment for children and their families.

We believe that every child deserves the best start in life and we support this to enable them to fulfil their potential. We ensure there is a secure foundation through learning and development opportunities and employ quality and inspirational staff to ensure consistency in our setting. We want every child to make good progress so that no child gets left behind. We plan activities around the needs and interests of each unique child

whilst working in partnership with parents/carers.

We ensure that we employ only the most dedicated, highly qualified and desirable staff, with a natural affinity for childcare and a great understanding of the under 5 age group. We can promise that your child will be loved, well cared for and treated with the respect and dignity that every child deserves.

Our School motto is “Be the best you can be” and we want all of the children within our care to strive to achieve the best that they possibly can.

Our Staff

Class Teachers: Miss Z Palmer/Miss S Wilson
Nursery Nurse: Mrs D Morris

Staff Qualifications

The staff working within the Early Years setting are highly trained and skilled and are very experienced working within an Early Years setting and understanding and catering for the differing and diverse needs of young children.

All of the staff are fully trained in paediatric First Aid, Safeguarding and MAPA training.

‘Parents and carers are unwavering in their praise for the school. As one parent, typical of many, commented: ‘We love this school.’ Ofsted March 2024

Some Practical information

We encourage the children to drink water throughout the day, please feel free to send your child in with a named water bottle.

Children will receive a piece of fruit each day during our morning play time, however if you would like to send your child in with their own healthy snack, that is also welcomed. In Hillary Class we have a very flexible timetable, we believe in allowing the children to pursue their interests and to give them time to be fully engaged and engrossed within an activity, therefore we take our own break times in the mornings to allow the children to have chance to explore the big playground and equipment without the rest of the school being there.

In Hillary Class we put a lot of emphasis on learning outdoors and spending as much time as possible outside, (rain, snow, sunshine we will be outside exploring!) Therefore, your child will need a pair of named wellingtons in school with them. Also sun hats and sun cream for when we have our sunny days exploring outside.

The children will need their PE kits with them all week, they will need to bring them to school on a Monday and take them home again on a Friday. Please ensure that all items of clothing are labelled with your child’s name as we cannot take responsibility for lost property.

Our Classroom



Hillary Class has an inviting and friendly atmosphere which is filled with fun and adventure and has access to the main early year's playground.

The Early Years staff encourage independence and confidence so that the children have the skills and assurance to continue with them through school. The children are encouraged to sit at group activities, story time and partake in Maths and Phonics activities.

There are toilets located off the main room, enabling children to take themselves off but have staff close by to support with accidents and general care.

We have a role play area inside which is a home corner where which the children can play in their own imaginative worlds. We also have an outside florist shop role play area.

We have a cosy reading and writing area for the children to relax, play quietly and read books.

We provide table top activities so that the children can learn through play with an assortment of equipment that provides open ended discussions. Our resources are all linked to our topics.

Children are able to access the outdoor playground throughout the day and ensure it's at least once in the morning and afternoon. We provide a range of equipment from den building, bikes, role play, builder's area and messy play area for the children to enjoy.

In our Maths area we have a variety of tools and apparatus that will lead to learning and discussion. These include tape measures, shapes, counting blocks, calculators, ruler and many more.

We have a range of Creative equipment, sand, water, arts and crafts and messy play which all children are free to access throughout the day.

We have a designated mark making area where the children are able to put meanings to marks through drawing, writing their name or letters. This table incorporates the use of stencils, pens, pencils and a variety of other mark making tools. Children have access to this table throughout the whole day encouraging them to develop their own abilities at their own pace. Mark making is also carried out in other areas around the room including the sand tray and role play areas.

We have a construction and small world areas, all children have easy access to the resources on offer, these include a range of blocks for building with, pipes, wood and a selection of small world characters to inspire children to create small world areas. These activities support their gross and fine motor skills, incorporate mathematics and speech and language to aid in all round development.

Learning Journeys

In Hillary Class staff make regular observations on the children's learning and development, allowing us to ensure that all children's needs are met to the best of our ability.

These observations are stored in individual learning journeys for each child and are available for you to view at any time.

Please add your own comments including things that your child has become interested in, any new skills that they have learnt and/or any significant experiences that your child may have had. This allows us to continually evaluate our resources and start topics and discussions that are relevant to your child. Parents and carers have a hugely important role to play in their child's education.

"Record-keeping is exemplary. Staff track children's progress carefully and record their achievements well in 'learning journey' profiles, which are shared with parents. These profiles clearly explain the children's progress and allow staff to plan appropriate next steps in learning for the children and to share these with their parents." (Ofsted 2016)

The EYFS in our Setting

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is a framework that we follow to support your child between birth and the age 5.

We ensure that we keep your child safe and promote their welfare. We use the 7 areas of development in our planning and ensure we are meeting the children's needs so that they can play and learn happily in ways which will help them develop skills and knowledge across the Prime and Specific areas of learning in the EYFS.

Food and Drink Policy

We aim to provide a healthy nutritionally balanced diet for the children attending. We hope that all parents can be confident that we are offering your child a wide variety of high quality food. Full Menus and dish specifications are available on request. (Menus are subject to change.)

We are keen to introduce children to different religious and cultural festivals through different types of food and drink.

No child will be forced to eat or drink anything against their will and food will not be used as a reward or punishment.

We prepare all of our meals on the premises daily.

We aim to use fresh, local and ethical produce wherever possible.

Each parent/carer is required as part of the admissions policy to inform the School Office of any dietary requirements or allergies their child may have. We endeavour to cater for all special dietary requirements.

Staff will be made aware of any allergies etc and will ensure that the food and drink offered to the child takes this information in to account.

All dietary needs and preferences are displayed in the class rooms, staff room/ office and kitchen.

If a parent would prefer to provide their child with a packed lunch, we request that fizzy drinks, chocolate bars, chocolate yoghurts, sweets and crisps etc. are not included.

Suggested alternatives would be salad sticks (cucumber, carrot, pepper etc), sandwiches with a protein filling (tuna, ham, cheese) a piece of fruit, a yoghurt, a snack bar.

Snack and meal times are considered a 'social time' for staff and children to sit and talk together. The staff in Hillary Class encourage good eating habits and promote the use of good manners.

'Children in the early years settle well into school routines. They enjoy singing familiar songs and rhymes. They learn to take turns and share. Children apply what they have learned with adults to their own independent learning. For example, children talked knowledgeably about parts of a plant as they mixed colours to paint flowers.' Ofsted March 2024

Our timetable and Class information

Hillary Class children line up in the playground at 8.50am and are taken into their classroom by the Class Teacher. They can then get themselves ready for their day ahead with the support of Miss Palmer, Miss Wilson and Mrs Morris.

Our playtimes are 10.30-10.45 in the mornings, 2.00-2.15 in the afternoons and lunch time is 12.00-1.00.

Our afternoon sessions run from 1.00- 3.20 and you will be able to collect your child at the end of the school day from the Hillary Class door where either Miss Palmer, Miss Wilson or Mrs Morris will hand them over to you.

On a Friday afternoon, the whole school and parents/carers are very welcome to join us too, for our 'Celebration Worship' starting at 2.45pm, in the school hall.

In Hillary Class the phonics approach that we use is Little Wandle. The children will be learning new sounds daily. We also teach Maths daily and we use Numicon to help support children's mathematical development.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child to Gamston Primary School!



How do I sign up for the 30 hours?

You can apply for both the 30-hour offer and tax-free childcare via a single application on the [Childcare Choices website](#) .

To complete the application, you provide your name, address and national insurance number, as well as whether you expect to meet the income requirements over the next three months and whether you are in receipt of any benefits.

If you live with a partner, you will need to provide the same information for them as well. This will enable HMRC to decide whether your child is eligible for the 30 hours (as well as tax-free childcare).

If you are eligible, you will be given an 11-digit code that you will need to take to your childcare provider along with your national insurance number and your child's birth certificate.

Your provider will then use the government's eligibility checking system to check the code is valid. If it is, they will be able to book your child's place – but bear in mind that providers don't have to take part in the 30-hour offer, so be sure to speak to your childcare provider about what they are able to offer for your family.

You will need to reconfirm your eligibility every three months and will receive a reminder text message or email from the government before the deadline.

If you give false information about your eligibility, you could be fined up to £3000.

Your child will be eligible for the 30 hours offer from the term after they turn three, or the term after you receive your eligibility code – whichever is later.

For example, if your child turns three on 25 March, and you apply for the 30-hours on 27 March, your child will be eligible for a place from 1 April (i.e. the start of the spring term). However, if your child turns three on 25 March but you don't apply for the 30 hours until 5 April, your child won't be eligible for a place until 1 September (i.e. the

start of the Autumn term).

If you want to start the 30 hours entitlement in September, the Department for Education is encouraging parents who want to take up a 30 hours place in the Autumn term to apply NOW and NO LATER THAN THE END OF JUNE, to get their code in good time. HMRC sometimes needs more information from the parent to check whether they're eligible, so parents should allow time for this.

Accessing 30 hours places: Things to know

- Early years providers don't have to offer the 30 hours.
- Like the 15-hour offer, the 30-hour scheme is optional for providers. This means that your childcare provider may decide not to offer funded places. Alternatively, they may limit the number of 30-hours places they offer.
- This might be because, for example, the level of funding they receive from the government is not enough to cover the cost of delivering places, or because they do not have enough staff to deliver the extended offer.
- You don't have to take up the full 30 hours to receive funding.
- If you want to take up, for example, 25 hours per week, this will still be funded by the government under the 30-hour offer.
- You can split the offer between more than one childcare provider.
- You can split your funded entitlement between more than one provider, though no more than two sites in one day. For example, a child could attend a breakfast club and nursery setting based on one site or a maintained school and a private, voluntary and independent (PVI) provider on two different sites. However, it is important to bear in mind the impact of multiple providers on a child's learning, development and wellbeing.
- If you are splitting your offer between providers, you will need to provide your eligibility code and information to each provider.
- 30-hour funding only covers 38 weeks of the year.
- The actual government funded entitlement is for 1140 hour per year. This means that if you take up your full 30 hours per week, government funding will only cover this for 38 weeks of the year. However, your provider may choose to deliver a 'stretched offer' i.e. fewer hours per week over more weeks of the year: for example, 22 hour per week over 52 weeks or the year, or just under 24 hours per week over 48 weeks of the year. Speak to your provider about how they can offer the hours and what works best for all of you.
- Providers can charge non-compulsory additional charges.
- Government funding is meant to cover the delivery of early education and care only. This means that childcare providers are allowed to charge for additional goods, services and activities, such as lunch or trips, as long as these charges are voluntary. For example, your provider might give you the choice of paying for lunch or providing lunch yourself, though it is important to note that this is not possible at all childcare settings (for example, some may not have food storage facilities).

Tax-free childcare

- Tax-free childcare is a government scheme that allows all eligible parents of children under 12 – or 17, if your child has a disability – to open an online account to pay for childcare. For every £80 you pay in, the government will pay in an extra £20.
- You can save up to £10,000 in a tax-free childcare account (£8000 that you've paid in, plus £2000 that the government has paid in) or up to £20,000 (£16,000

that you've paid in, plus £4000 that the government has paid in) if your child has a disability.

- The eligibility criteria for Tax-Free Childcare is broadly the same as for the 30-hour offer (see the 'eligibility' section above). You can only use Tax-Free Childcare to pay registered childcare providers.

It is important to note that, while you can use Tax-Free Childcare alongside the 30-hours offer (or 15 hour offer), you can't use it at the same time as:

- Childcare vouchers
- Universal Credit
- Tax credits

More information is available at the government's [Childcare Choices website](#). Think carefully about your options before deciding what is best for you – for example, some parents may find they benefit more from being able to use tax credits than they would if they switched to tax free childcare – it depends on your individual circumstances as to what will be best for you and your family.