

The Foundation Stage



Ringshall School

RINGSHALL SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

WELCOME TO THE FOUNDATION STAGE

What is the Foundation Stage?

Saplings Nursery and Cherry Class together form the Foundation Stage.

The Foundation Stage begins when a child is 3 and finishes at the end of a child's Reception year.

Saplings Nursery offers places for up to 26 children from age 3+. The sessions are Monday-Friday 9.00 am. to 11.30 am.

Cherry Class offers places for up to 30 children from the school term when a child becomes 5. The sessions are Monday to Friday 8.50 am. to 3.15 pm. Our maximum admissions number for any one year group is 40, but classes are planned not to exceed 30 and mixed year grouping would be used if we had more than 30 children in a year group.

Our Foundation Stage is situated in a spacious, bright and secure double classroom with self-contained toilets. We have our own enclosed outdoor play area with large toys and regular access to the school garden, playing field and adventure playground.

The Staff

Nursery Teacher:	Mrs Eileen Stravoscoufis
Nursery Assistant:	Mrs Dawn Studwick
Reception Teacher:	Mrs Jo Longhurst
Teaching Assistant:	Mrs Sarah Stones

RINGSHALL SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

THE AIMS OF THE FOUNDATION STAGE

We aim to provide an environment for learning that gives children and parents a purposeful, happy, positive and useful introduction to Ringshall School.

- We encourage security and trust in school as a base for learning
- We encourage the building of friendships/relationships with children and adults beyond the family.
- We provide opportunities to encourage self-confidence and to 'try for yourself'
- We encourage language skills - talking, listening and writing
- We encourage a love of books, their care, an understanding of print and what it is for and an understanding that books have a wide range of content e.g. stories, rhymes/poems, reference material
- We encourage children to be confidently part of a group, to care, share, take turns and work together while respecting everyone's individuality
- We encourage curiosity, enthusiasm and willingness to have a try
- We build sound foundations towards all National Curriculum areas
- We take part in whole school events and celebrations e.g. assemblies, school plays and through visits and contact with the teacher and classroom to ensure smooth transition to the Reception/Year 1 class.

Most of all we have fun!



RINGSHALL SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

WHAT WILL MY CHILD LEARN?

The Foundation Stage curriculum is organised in six areas of learning. They are outlined below.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Children learn how to work, play and co-operate with others.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Children learn how to speak and listen in different situations and for different purposes. They begin to read a range of simple texts and write for a variety of purposes

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Children learn to count, sort, match, seek patterns and work with numbers, shape, spaces and measures. Their understanding is developed through stories, songs, games and imaginative play, so that children enjoy using and experimenting with numbers, including numbers larger than 10.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Children develop skills to help them make sense of the world. This area of learning forms the foundation for later work in Science, History, Geography, Design and Technology and Information and Communications Technology.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

The aspects covered in this area of learning include Art, Music, Dance, Role-play and Imaginative Play. Being creative allows children to make connections between one area of learning and another and so extends their understanding.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Children develop confidence in controlling the way they move and the way they handle tools and equipment. They work in indoor and outdoor environments, recognise the importance of keeping healthy and those things, which contribute to this.

RINGSHALL SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

SAPLINGS NURSERY

A typical day in Saplings begins at 9.00am when the teacher and the Nursery Assistant welcome the children and their parents into the Nursery.

Children can choose from a range of structured activities including role-play, art and craft, sand and water, construction toys, jigsaws, pencil work, outdoor toys, music and quiet reading. One of the activities will be the focus for the morning and will be led by an adult. All the children will be encouraged to participate in this activity.

After tidy up time, the children enjoy a story, singing or talking with the teacher on the carpet. This session is usually linked to the 'theme' of the week. Children are encouraged to listen to others and take turns to talk.

Snack Time next. Children wash their hands and find their name card at the table. They help to pour drinks and pass the snack around. This is a chance to chat with their friends and adults. When they have washed their cups they can go outdoors.

Sometimes the Teacher or the Nursery Assistant takes them to the adventure playground or the garden. Sometimes they work on the big playground with balls, hoops, etc.

Back inside the classroom the children sit on the carpet for a story before they are collected at 11.30am from the classroom door.

During the week there are also opportunities for cookery, PE and using the computers in the ICT suite. There are also times when we join together with the main school if appropriate, e.g. for the Harvest Festival.

During the half-term before they start in Cherry class, children in the nursery have the opportunity to stay for some school lunches. We invite Mums or Dads to join them for this experience. Children then go home with parents at around 12.30pm.



RINGSHALL SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

RECEPTION CLASS

A typical day in Cherry Class begins when the bell is rung and children line up in the playground near the stripy fence. Their teacher meets and greets them and leads them inside. After hanging up their coats, children put their lunch boxes and water bottles on a trolley and their book bags in a box. Then they find their name card and put it on a school dinners or a packed lunch chart. They sit on the carpet while the teacher 'calls the register'.

The visual timetable in the classroom shows the children what they will be doing that day. All areas of the Foundation stage curriculum are covered daily, usually through a class topic. Throughout the day, children work in small groups with the teacher or teaching assistant. They can also choose from a range of structured play activities which may be indoors or outside. These help them gain new skills, and encourage independence and co-operation with friends in the class.

Children have a break mid-morning for a healthy fruit or vegetable snack followed by outdoor play time with the rest of the school.

Lunchtime is between 12.00 and 1.10 pm. Children are helped to open lunch boxes or cut up their food by our Mid Day Assistants who later supervise them in the playground and help to teach them games.

The afternoon begins with an assembly in the hall with the whole school. Children may later do PE, music making, use the ICT suite or other fun things in class. Children will be learning to relate letters to sounds and will develop early skills for reading as soon as they are ready. Looking at and sharing books is an enjoyable part of each day.

After a ten-minute outside playtime with Key Stage One children, the afternoon finishes with a story.

Parents wait for their children in the playground, near the gate in the stripy fence. A Teaching Assistant or older child takes children, who go home on the bus, to the bus queue whilst the class teacher sees that children are collected in the playground.



RINGSHALL SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

PARENTS AS PARTNERS

We recognise the role parents have already played in the education of their child and that their continued involvement is crucial to successful learning.

This involvement begins at our induction sessions where you can meet the staff and other adults who work at the school, for example, the secretary and the cook. You will have an opportunity to purchase book bags and items of school uniform. As is required nationally, we have a "Home School Agreement" which has been written in consultation with parents, staff and children. This is signed by all parties when a child joins the school.

If your child is coming into Cherry Class, we invite you to join them for lunch and sample a school dinner.

To enable us to plan appropriate activities more easily for your child, we encourage you to bring along any records, reports or samples of work from their previous playgroup or Nursery.

Sometimes parents volunteer their help in school. We appreciate their help and talents, for example with cooking, art/craft, simple games, changing books or mending bicycles!

QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE

What should my child wear?

Please dress your Nursery child in comfortable clothes. Many children wear the school sweatshirt. This is available to purchase from the school secretary.

Children who are joining Cherry class should wear the school uniform. There is more information about this earlier in the school prospectus.

Will s/he need special clothes for PE?

Nursery children change into shorts and t-shirts (any colour) and Reception children change into blue shorts and white t-shirts. Plimsolls or trainers are worn for outdoor PE.

PLEASE LABEL ALL CLOTHES CLEARLY WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.

RINGSHALL SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

What time shall we arrive?

Nursery starts at 9.00am.

Cherry class starts at 8.50am when the playground bell rings and children line up and come into school.

What if I am unavoidably delayed in collecting my child?

Staff ensure that children do not leave school until a parent/carer arrives.

If you are late you can be assured s/he would be cared for until your arrival.

If someone else is to collect your child, please inform us in writing.

Does my child need to bring a snack?

Nursery children are provided with a healthy fruit or vegetable snack and a drink of milk or squash. We ask you to make a contribution of £1 per week towards the cost. Any money remaining is used to purchase cookery ingredients.

Reception children are also given a healthy fruit or vegetable snack or may bring their own healthy snack to school.

School dinner money for the week must be brought to school on Mondays, in a named envelope.

Will my child learn to read?

Each child will be at a different stage of reading readiness. As professionals we respond to each child's needs and if they are ready, then we introduce them to words and books. We have a wide range of early reading materials and books. If we think a child is not quite ready for formal reading, we provide alternative activities for home and school that will help pre-reading skills to develop. Picture books without words are a useful introduction to reading, with children telling the story from the pictures.

We are here to work in partnership with you, to help your child have a happy, rewarding time.

We hope this information is useful. If there is anything further you wish to discuss, we will be happy to arrange a time to talk to you.

