

Reception Induction Newsletter



Welcome to the Early Years
at The Grove Academy



We are delighted to welcome you and your child to The Grove Academy. We hope this Induction Newsletter gives you all the information you need to help create a smooth and effective transition to Reception.

The Curriculum

We follow the curriculum outlined in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) document. The EYFS framework includes seven areas of learning and development, all of which are important and interconnected. Three areas are particularly important for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning and are known as the prime areas. Here the children build their capacity to learn and begin to form relationships.

- **Communication and language** – Listening and attention, understanding and speaking.
- **Physical development** – Moving and handling and health and self-care .
- **Personal, social and emotional development** – Self-confidence and self-awareness, managing feelings and behaviour and making relationships.

The other areas are known as the specific areas of learning and they develop essential skills and knowledge for children to participate successfully in society. The specific areas are;

- **Literacy** – Reading and writing.
- **Mathematics** – Numbers and space, shape and measures.
- **Understanding the world** – People and communities, the world and technology.
- **Expressive arts and design** – Exploring and using media and materials and being imaginative .

The EYFS also includes the characteristics of effective teaching and learning. They highlight the importance of a child's attitude to learning and their ability to play. It encourages the children to explore and think critically about the world around them. The three characteristics are;

- **Playing and Exploring** – children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go' .
- **Active Learning** – children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements .
- **Creating and Thinking Critically** – children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

Teaching and Learning

We ensure there are some adult led and child led focusses across the day.

Child led activities

Learning through play is an important part of our Early Years classrooms. We believe children learn best from activities and experiences that interest and inspire them. Using children's interests as a starting point, we provide children with stimulating, active play experiences in which they can explore and develop their learning to help them make sense of the world.

Adult led focusses

Adult led focusses allows for structured teaching in both literacy, phonics and maths which are built upon in child led learning both inside and out. These focusses are particularly important in helping children to learn specific skills and knowledge, and use them independently in all areas of learning.

Opening Times

Monday to Friday

Doors open at 8:45am

Registration at 8:55am

Finish at 3:15pm

Please ensure that you have completed the 'Collecting Children From Early Years' form and returned it to the school office. Only adults named on this form will be allowed to collect your child.

Please pick up and drop off at the outside door of your child's classroom.

You can access the school via the main entrance in Fourth Avenue or via the Cow Lane gate. *Please note that Cow Lane gate and Early Years areas are locked at 9:15am and they are reopened at 3:00pm.*

Before the Summer Holidays

Please ensure that ALL of the following admission forms are completed and returned to the school office by **Monday 13th July:**

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| 1. School Application Form | 6. Ethnic Background Record Form |
| 2. My All About Me Booklet | 7. Collecting Children From Early Years |
| 3. Registration Form - FSM/Pupil Premium | 8. School Meals Information Sheet |
| 4. Medical Form | 9. Tapestry Code of Conduct |
| 5. Images Consent Form | |

If you would like your child to have school milk, please remember to complete and return the form directly to Cool Milk.

Getting ready for Reception at home

To help aid a smooth transition we have created some resources for you to use at home over the holidays.

1. Visit our website www.thegroveacademy.org.uk
2. Encourage your child to:
 - use the toilet independently
 - wash their hands
 - put on and fasten their coat
 - play games
 - share and take turns
 - read books and sing songs/nursery rhymes
 - count objects and recognise numbers
 - imaginative play and painting/colouring

We also recommend that you:

- Involve your child in the process of buying their uniform and practise dressing and undressing. When buying think about their independence and what they can do by themselves.
- Talk about snack time.
- Talk about who will be dropping them off and who will be picking up.

Transition Dates

If your child attends our Nursery or another setting, Transition Forms are completed to help a smooth transition into our Reception for your child.

Week 1 - Thursday 3rd or Friday 4th September

Pre-booked Induction visit 9-9:30am, 10-10:30am, 11-11:30am, 1-1:30pm or 2-2:30pm where you will be able to talk to Reception staff and your child can familiarise themselves with their new environment.

Week 2 - Monday 7th to Friday 11th September

Please see your letter for individual start day.

School Uniform

The Grove Academy items can be purchased through Mapac (information is in the Welcome Pack).

Please ensure that ALL items are labelled clearly

- ⇒ The Grove Academy sweatshirt or cardigan
- ⇒ The Grove Academy red polo shirt or plain red polo shirt
- ⇒ Black school trousers/skirt/dress
- ⇒ Black school shoes (no long boots please)
- ⇒ Black tights
- ⇒ The Grove Academy book bag
- ⇒ Pair of wellies (to stay at school)
- ⇒ A water bottle
- ⇒ The Grove Academy PE bag
- ⇒ A Grove Academy PE top (your child's house colour, see individual letter)
- ⇒ Black shorts
- ⇒ Black jogging bottoms
- ⇒ Pair of black plimsolls

Please can long hair be tied back with appropriate ties. Children are allowed to wear small, flat, non-hooped stud earrings in school. During PE lessons, games and physical activities earrings either need to be removed by the child or covered using medical tape. No other jewellery must be worn in school.

Extra time to settle

If it is felt extra transition arrangements are needed to ensure your child settles, your child's class teacher will discuss this with you so that a staggered intake for your child allows a successful transition into our Reception.

First Week

Where do I go?

Please go to the Reception class outside door and come in with your child, help them to put their things away and settle them at their activity.

What do I bring?

- School Book bag
- Named wellie boots (to stay at school)
- Appropriate outdoor clothing (coat/sunhat)
- A water bottle
- PE bag with full PE kit inside

Please ensure ALL items are clearly named.

What to expect?

Your child's teacher will talk to you about how your child is settling. They will share a 'settling in' record with you.

Tiredness! Even for those used to full time Nursery.

Parents/Carers as Partners

At The Grove Academy we strive to build a positive parent partnership by:

- Welcoming parents into class on a daily basis and encouraging open communication between home and school. Every child will have a Key Worker, please speak to them whenever you need to.
- Inviting parents to special events such as a Reception production, Sports Day as well as Stay and Play sessions.
- Involving parents in electronic 'Learning Journals' using Tapestry. These outline your child's progress and achievements throughout the year. Please ensure you complete and return the Tapestry Code of Conduct letter. If you have any queries about this, please speak to a member of staff.
- Friends of The Grove Academy (PTA). We have an amazing PTA that support our school. They organise great activities for the children and are always looking for volunteers to get involved.

Useful Links and Contact Information

The Grove Academy

Telephone: 01923 674463

Email: admin@thegroveacademy.org.uk

Website: www.thegroveacademy.org.uk

Twitter: TheGroveAcad

Berrygrove Early Years (wrap around care) 30 hours

Telephone: 01923 676763

Email: berrygroveearlyyears@outlook.com

Berrygrove Family Centre

Telephone: 0300 123 7572

Website: www.hertsfamilycentres.org