



Glebe Primary School

Nurture • Inspire • Challenge

Headteacher: Mrs Karen Crutchfield

Church Lane, Southwick, West Sussex, BN42 4GB

tel: 01273 592163 | e-mail: office@glebeprimary.co.uk | website: www.glebeprimary.co.uk



Welcome to Glebe Primary School





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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Glebe Primary School.

We are delighted that your child will be joining our school's Reception classes this academic year and we are looking forward to getting to know your child.

Starting school should be a happy and exciting time for both your child and for you. We know that you will have lots of questions to ask us and the purpose of this booklet is to begin to answer at least some of those questions.

We hope that you are looking forward to joining us and taking part in all that we can offer your family. We will do our very best to make you and your child feel comfortable, secure and valued.

Our aim is to provide your child with the very best education possible and we hope that you will work with us, in partnership, to achieve this aim.

A questionnaire is included in this pack which will support us in knowing more about your child. Please complete and return to the school office office@glebeprimary.co.uk.

Please do not hesitate to talk to us if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,

Annabelle Fox and Mrs. Crutchfield
Assistant Headteacher and Headteacher





What happens before my child starts school in September?

Ahead of your child starting school in September there are some important events to help settle them into Glebe:

- On Thursday 7th July 2022 at 3.30pm we will have a welcome meeting, informing you of the class your child will be in. This will be an opportunity for you to meet your child's class teacher in the EYFS learning environment. This meeting is for parents/carers only and will last for approximately 45 minutes. Please come to the main school office at 3.30pm.
- On Thursday 19th July 2022 we welcome you and your child for a stay and play session. This session will run from 1pm-2.30 pm. During this session your child will meet their class teacher and teaching assistant. This will be the children's opportunity to explore their classroom and their outdoor learning environment. Please come to the main school office at 1pm. During this session your child will also be provided with a small learning pack of activities which will allow them to practice some key skills during the summer holidays in order to prepare for school.
- On Friday 2nd September 2022 you and your child are also invited for an open afternoon. This is an opportunity for you and your child to see their classroom set up ready for their first official day at school the following Monday. Please pop into this session via the Kingston Lane entrance any time between 1pm-2.30 pm. The gate will be left open as this is an INSET day.

All children will then begin school on Monday 5th September full time at 08:30am (normal school hours).

Will you be speaking to my child's previous setting before they start?

We will be making contact with your child's previous setting to support your child's transition to school. Please complete the 'starting school questionnaire' which is attached to this email.



What does my child need to wear?

We like children to look smart and tidy for school. Our uniform is aimed at affordability, ease of movement and practicality.

All children	Summer (optional)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• White only blouse, shirt or polo shirt (top with a collar).• Navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan with or without the school logo.• Black/dark grey skirt, pinafore dress, trousers or shorts.• Younger children and anyone who finds it more comfortable should opt for an elasticated waist. Tidy black or dark grey joggers or leggings are acceptable if more comfortable.• Sensible, sturdy school type flat black shoes (covered toes all year round).• We ask that young children have a velcro fastening until they are able to tie laces. No boots or ankle boots.• Hair should be tied back at all times and only single stud earrings, one per ear can be worn.• No other body piercings.• No jewellery should be worn to school except a watch.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blue and white striped/checked dress• Shorts- dark grey or black• Dark socks or white socks only (not patterned or bright colours)• Short or long socks• Baseball cap

When children start school we highly recommend elasticated waist trousers and no fiddly belts! Jogging trousers in dark grey and black are very suitable. We also advise velcro shoes as children are too young for laces and don't yet have the dexterity for them. Please label everything!

Where to purchase our uniform from:

Our uniform can be purchased from Sussex Uniforms in Hove. Website: [Sussex Uniforms](http://SussexUniforms.com), Address: Sussex Uniforms, 40 Blatchington Road, Hove, BN3 3YH, Telephone: 01444227066, Email: sales@sussexuniforms.co.uk



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Please also note that you can buy standard uniform items from most supermarkets and shops.

P.E Kit

On your child's P.E day, your child will need to come to school in Glebe's PE kit - they will wear this all day at school. P.E days will be shared with you when your child has started in September.

Glebe's PE kit is:

- Navy blue PE shirt with Glebe logo or a navy blue t-shirt
- School jumper.
- Navy blue or black shorts.
- Dark grey/navy/ black jogging bottoms or leggings.
- Dark grey/ black or white socks.
- Trainers for PE - velcro fastenings until children learn to tie their laces, please

Glebe PE shirts can be bought from Sussex Uniforms (<https://www.sussexuniforms.co.uk/collections/glebe>) as can the rest of the kit though you may find items such as jogging bottoms cheaper in supermarkets.

What does my child need to bring to school?

In YR lots of the learning takes place outside. Please ensure during the colder seasons you send your child in with a coat. We also ask that they bring a pair of wellies which can be kept at school.

The children will have an allocated peg where they will be able to keep their coat and personal belongings. We ask that the children bring either a navy book bag or a small rucksack. This is so they can take home items from school such as reading books. Please provide your child with a named water bottle. We ask that the children take these home daily and bring a bottle of water in each day to have in the classroom.

When will my child start school?

The school term starts on Monday 5th September. At Glebe Primary School we have a policy of children in Reception classes being able to start full time on day one. This is because many children have been used to full time Pre-School and coming to school and spending a whole day there is not a big change for them.





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If you are concerned about your child starting school full time on day one then please email Annabelle Fox Annabelle.Fox@glebeprimary.co.uk to arrange a time to discuss your needs. YR (Reception year) is not a compulsory school year and parents have options until the term when their child is aged five. We advise regular attendance at school but there are sometimes good reasons for a more staggered approach e.g. special educational needs or being very young in the year group.

Which class will my child be in?

At Glebe we have three Reception Classes with room for thirty children in each. Each class in the school is named after a tree. We have the fruit trees: Apple, Pear and Cherry! Every class has a teacher and a teaching assistant. We will notify you during the parent meeting on Thursday 7th July 2022 about which class your child will be in. If your child has any friendship preferences it is important that you notify us as soon as possible via the questionnaire. Even though the children are allocated to a class there are lots of opportunities where the children can mix with other children across the reception cohort. We share a lot of learning, especially in our large shared outdoor space.

Can I stay with my child when they start in September?

We encourage you to bring your child into their classroom and settle them into a learning activity. Once your child is settled our expectation is that you should leave. We will always notify you if your child became distressed. However, we often find they settle quickly and we keep them busy with lots of learning activities. It is advisable to go swiftly and not to linger! We appreciate what a big day starting school is for families and we try to make the day as gentle and happy as we possibly can.

What are the times of the school day?

Morning session - 8.30am – 11.35am

Our class doors open at 8.30am. Teachers make themselves visible at the classroom doors and your child will enter the classroom putting their bags and coat away. The children will then self-register themselves by finding their name.

Lunchtime - 11.35am - 12.35pm

The government provide free school meals for children in Reception to Year 2. Alternatively, you can send your child in with a packed lunch.

Afternoon session - 12.35pm – 3.00pm





Children will return to the classroom for the afternoon session and will be dismissed at 3.00 pm by the class teachers. During this time there is a chance to have an informal chat about your child's day at school and to pass on any relevant information.

Where do I collect and drop of my child?

Please use either entrance on Kingston Lane or Church Lane. There is no parking near the school gates so please park further away and walk in. Children who attend the school may bring their scooter or bike and we have storage for these. We advise wearing a helmet (please label).

What happens at lunchtime?

All school lunches are freshly prepared on site by the school meals provider The Pantry (<https://www.thepantrycatering.co.uk/>). Their menus are of a Food for Life Gold standard, which ensures all of The Pantry's meat, is to a minimum Red Tractor and all sourced within the UK and freshly cooked from raw ingredients. Their lunch time menu provides a range of exciting dishes that are varied and offer something for everyone. They will provide the hearty, wholesome meals that your children desire. All children in Reception to Year 2 are provided with the option of a school meal free of charge! This is government funded. We strongly recommend a hot meal each day as the food will be highly nutritious and eating a meal gives children good energy for the day at school. Learning to eat with cutlery and proper sitting and manners are also key skills which we encourage. Children soon pick up good eating habits if you stick with hot meals. More information will follow about how to book these. Dietary needs are fully catered for.

Some pupils choose to bring a healthy packed lunch instead; sweets and fizzy drinks are not allowed and you are reminded that we aim to be as nut free as humanly possible.

Will my child be able to have a snack?

In Reception, a fruit snack is available when your child needs it, throughout the day. Therefore, your child will not need to bring in any snacks from home. A water bottle containing fresh plain water should be provided and brought into school every day. During the snack time you child will also be provided with the option of having a glass of milk. Please let us know if your child has any allergies as we can provide alternatives. Children are encouraged to drink plenty throughout the day. The fruit and the milk are government funded and absolutely free too!

Is there any before and after school provision?

The childcare provider 'Play' runs a breakfast club and afterschool club on the school site. The breakfast club runs from 7.30am and the after school care till 6pm each school day.



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In addition, they run school holiday childcare sessions.

For further information please visit their website Glebe Primary — Positive Learning Active Youth plaype.co.uk.

Contact Play:

email: glebe@plaype.co.uk

phone: 07512 08245

What will my child do all day?

We believe that pupils in the Early Years Foundation Stage (which includes Reception) learn best through play-based activities and first-hand experiences that are both enjoyable and challenging. We aim for them to become self-motivated, independent learners through a balance of child initiated (where children decide what they want to do) and adult led experiences.

We provide, and are continually developing, a high quality curriculum in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage guidance. The curriculum is wide and varied, and builds on your child's existing knowledge, skills and experiences.

If at the end of a day your child tells you that they have "just played", rest assured that your child's day will have been well planned and purposeful! Our curriculum encompasses seven areas of learning and development. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected.

Three areas are particularly important for building a foundation for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, forming relationships, and thriving.

These are called the prime areas:

- communication and language
- physical development
- personal, social, and emotional development.

Four areas help children to strengthen and apply the prime areas. These are called the specific areas:

- literacy
- mathematics understanding the world
- expressive arts and design





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In addition, weaved throughout the EYFS curriculum are three Characteristics of Effective Learning:

- 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

These elements underpin how we reflect on each child's development and adjust our practice accordingly. Supporting children in their individual learning behaviour and observing the context of children's play is essential.

How will I know how my child is doing?

Assessment in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) takes place through observations of what the pupils can do and what they say. During the first few weeks of school, we will be assessing the knowledge, skills and understanding of your child using a wide range of tasks covering the EYFS curriculum. This provides the teaching staff with a valuable insight into the pre-school experiences of each child and helps to mould the educational programme or provision for each individual. The results of these informal assessments will be shared during Parent Consultations, which will be held at the end of the first half of the Autumn Term and then again in the Spring Term.

We use Tapestry (an online software package) to showcase your child's wow moments. Parents are encouraged to sign up to enable them to view and contribute in order to build as complete and rounded a picture as possible. Further information regarding Tapestry will be provided in due course.





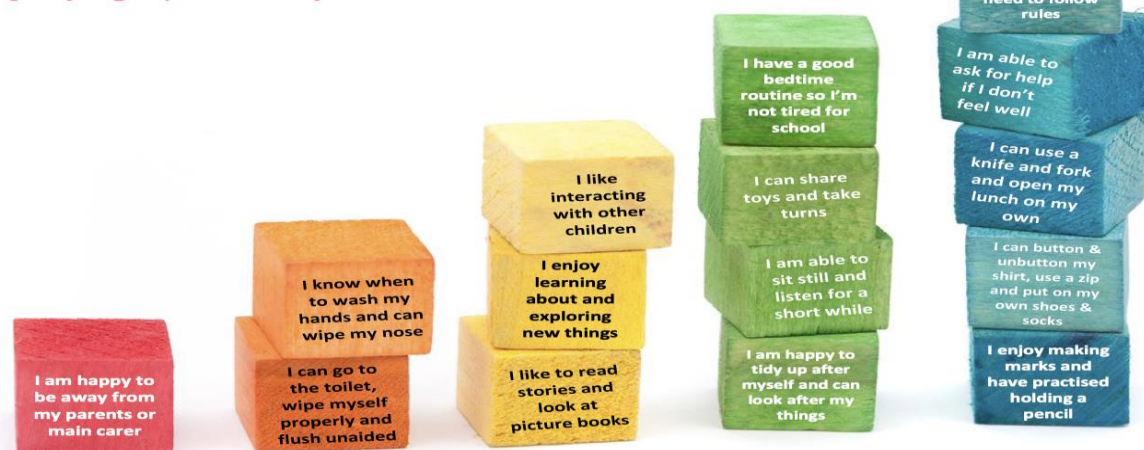
How can I help my child before they start school?

The information below contains some useful advice to support your child in preparing for school. More information will follow in our induction video.

Steps to starting school

Build your child's confidence so that they start school confident, curious and ready to learn

Access more great advice, tips and downloadable resources at pacey.org.uk/schoolready



More top tips:

- ★ Get your child ready for their new routine by switching their meal times to match those of the school day
- ★ Encourage your child to explore new environments and interact with new people
- ★ Talk to your child about what they are most looking forward to at school
- ★ Let your child practise putting their new school uniform on and taking it off
- ★ **And remember**, every child is different and starts school with different abilities



The rising tide at Glebe Primary School

As an experienced Headteacher who also taught in EYFS, Karen Crutchfield, Glebe's new Head, was struck by the potential of the purpose built EYFS unit at Glebe on her first visit to the school in early 2020.

"The YR classrooms are interconnected, there is a wonderful large outdoor space and full facilities for very young children. I immediately had a clear view of what could be possible."

The school's 2019 Ofsted report had included clear action points for EYFS that Mrs Crutchfield couldn't wait to address. "I was appreciative of the strong community vibe at Glebe and the fact that colleagues were open and committed to improvement. The school was already improving significantly, and we were - and are - determined to continue this and achieve great things."

Achieving greatness for Glebe meant beginning at the beginning, in Reception class, with a commitment to providing YR children with the best possible start to their school life. An experienced and innovative new leader of EYFS was appointed and in the summer, Mrs Rawlings and her new team volunteered their time to help the school in a total make-over for EYFS.

Glebe is the school I became a teacher for.

There is a wave of rising standards at Glebe, and its starting point is the opportunity Mrs Rawlings has been given to put all her experience and ideas into a rejuvenated YR. "Glebe in 2021 feels like the school I became a teacher for," she says. "When I qualified as a teacher, my first post was in YR and I absolutely fell in love with it. Being a Reception teacher means encouraging the children, demonstrating and explaining challenges, modelling language and introducing new ideas. One minute I'm pretending to be a fire officer, the next, I'm helping the children write a letter to a giant!"

Children learn best when engaging in something that is meaningful and has a purpose and Glebe's indoor and outdoor spaces in YR are now set up perfectly for this. Development of communication and language skills is key, and the children have a balance of child-led and adult-led learning sessions. In the former, children are creatively taught phonics, maths, writing skills as well as other key skills. In the latter, the children learn by following their own interests with the staff skilfully interjecting to enhance their learning.

One of the results of the challenges of the pandemic has been the amount of discussion and collaboration and ingenuity needed by teachers, and this has only strengthened and galvanised the total rethink and raising of standards in Glebe's EYFS. And, despite the disruption caused by Covid, meaningful progress has been made. Reading was an Ofsted action point for the school and, by December 2020, 85% of children in Glebe's YR were at a 'Good level of Development' for reading.

No child gets left behind or left out at Glebe

Mrs Rawlings has overseen the development of reading of both fiction and non-fiction. In addition, the children are encouraged to tell stories. There is a daily book sharing session and at the end of each day the



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children take part in a 'Love of books session'. Crucially, Glebe's approach to reading in YR is bespoke. Books are appropriately matched to each child's stage of learning and regular assessments are conducted to ensure all children are making progress. "No child gets left behind or left out at Glebe," Mrs Rawlings says. "As the leader of EYFS I can look any parent in the eye and guarantee that."

And YR parents have been having their say too:

"Since my child as started in September I've been overjoyed with her progress, she loves school and to achieve this in such tumultuous times is a real triumph."

"My child always comes home with exciting stories to tell me about her day, the things she has learnt, new experiences, new achievements and the fun she has had."

"Since starting reception our child has flourished in all aspects of learning and independence."

"I feel the staff know my child as an individual, and provide fun, learning opportunities that inspire and challenge her."

Bouncing back

When asked about what's important in EYFS education, Sir Kevan Collins, Chief Executive of the Education Endowment Foundation, talked about the importance of skills beyond the core teaching subjects. "In reception, teachers have a duty to carefully focus on not just what children need to learn but how they learn it."

He then offered this list of fundamental skills; "Being willing to have a go and try something new. Bouncing back after difficulties and persisting in the face of challenge. Being encouraged and supported to have their own ideas. Finding more than one way of doing something. Being proud of how they achieve something, not just the achievement itself."

"Bouncing back after difficulties and persisting in the face of challenge" is a good description of what Glebe Primary School has been doing for three years now and the school can justifiably claim that children will be catching a wave by starting their school life in Glebe's YR in 2021 and beyond.

