

Welcome Booklet for Foundation Stage 2

Introduction

In the Foundation Stage, we aim to continue to provide a secure learning and play environment, which reflects the Jewish ethos of our school.

Aims of BWJPS Foundation Stage

In our Foundation Stage, we strive to achieve the following aims:

- Create a safe, secure, stimulating and well-planned learning environment that meets the individual needs and interests of all our children.
- Provide opportunities through play, which encourage children to develop emotionally, socially, intellectually and physically.
- Promote good standards of behaviour and interaction with other children and adults.
- Develop and maintain good relationships with parents as we work with them in partnership.
- Continue to build upon what the child has learnt at home, broadening their range of learning experiences and stimulating their curiosity and imagination.
- Enable each child to develop as a happy, confident and independent learner with a well-developed sense of self-worth, responsibility and community.

The Foundation Stage Curriculum

During your child's education in Reception they will be following the curriculum for the Early Years Foundation Stage that means that your child will work towards the statutory Early Learning Goals. The Early Years Foundation Stage outlines standards for learning, development and care for all children aged 0-5. (For more information look on www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/eyfs)

The seven areas of learning:

Personal, Social and Emotional development: We encourage independence, confidence, making friends and getting on with other children and telling others how you feel and what you like.

Communication and Language: We encourage development of listening skills, learning to enjoy stories and rhymes, developing their understanding of language and their speaking skills.

Literacy: We encourage children to begin developing skills in reading and writing.

Mathematics: We encourage children to use number names in play, play counting games, and experiment with shapes and measure.

Understanding of the World: We encourage children to use their five senses to notice things in the world around them, finding out about people or places in the local community, designing and making things, learning about animals and plants and how to look after them.

Expressive Arts and Design: Children are given the opportunity to learn to express ideas and feelings through painting, drawing and modelling, acting out different situations, singing and making music and movement and dance.

Physical Development: We encourage an enjoyment of active play and gaining confidence in movement, energetic activity indoors and outdoors, development of skills such as running, throwing, climbing, learning how to make delicate movements with fingers and hands and finding out about health and fitness.

Our approach is child centred, with an emphasis on developing the whole child and the way in which young children learn through play. Each of the seven areas are equally important and depend on each other to support a rounded approach to child development. All areas will be delivered through planned, purposeful play, with a balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities.

The curriculum should take account of:

- The developmental stages and needs of each child.
- The interests of the individual child.
- The previous experiences gained by each child.

The curriculum aims to:

- Build on the child's curiosity, interest and fascination in the environment.
- Provide opportunities within a context that is meaningful to the child.
- Broaden and deepen the child's experiences.
- Increase self-awareness, develop language usage and enhance relationships with family peers and the community at large.

Your Childs Day

School starts at 8.50 am. Please bring your child to the outside classroom door, where Miss Jason, Auntie Channi, Auntie Belinda and Auntie Joanne will welcome the children into school. We like to welcome the children into the classroom and then wave goodbye to mummys and daddys so that we can start our day on time. Being punctual is important and we ask for your support with this. However, if your child has an appointment or is going to be late please inform the school office and send a note into school.

At the end of the school day (3.30 p.m.), you should collect your child from the outside classroom door. Children will not be allowed to leave the building until we can see that you are there. **Please inform us if somebody other than yourself is collecting your child.**

The Foundation Stage is made up of an inside and outside area.

The outside area is open all year round, in all types of weather because young children benefit from being in the fresh air, need daily opportunities for vigorous exercise, and need opportunities to explore the outside environment including materials, insects and weather conditions. The outside area offers unique opportunities to develop social and linguistic skills for getting on with others, (e.g. learning to share, taking turns with bikes, prams etc) and for learning on a larger scale than is possible inside. There are also large construction blocks and equipment such as tunnels, balancing beams and balls etc. to develop physical skills. The children can choose to go outside at regular times throughout the day.

The inside area is set out each day with a variety of activities such as small construction, writing materials, messy play activities, imaginative play, sand, investigative activities, puzzles, books and role play areas. Children have free access to all areas and will be encouraged to be as independent as possible. Adults will be on hand to support children in their play and learning.

School uniform

All children must wear school uniform:

Boys

- Grey school trousers / shorts
- White polo shirt with/without school logo
- Burgundy sweatshirt with school logo
- Grey socks
- School yarmulke with 2 clips
- Tsitsis

Girls

- Grey pinafore dress / skirt (knee-length)
- White polo-style shirt with/without school logo
- Burgundy sweatshirt with school logo
- Grey/white socks or grey tights
- Pink gingham dress (summer - optional)

Both boys and girls will need the following items of PE kit-

- Black pumps

- Navy shorts (please avoid cycling shorts)
- Plain white T-shirt kept in the blue pump bag provided by nursery.

All children should wear sensible black shoes with Velcro fastenings if possible (not trainers), which are suitable and safe for playing outside. Children may wear sandals in summer, but these should not be sling-backs.

School sweatshirts and polo shirts may be purchased from the school. You will shortly receive a school uniform order form, and we have samples of different sizes for you to try on your child.

Boys must wear tsitsis and yarmulkes at all times. These may be purchased from the school office.

In addition, your child will need a pair of Wellingtons.

Blue Bags

Children will be provided with a yellow bag, which should be filled with spare clothes – underwear, socks/tights, trousers, and skirts in case of accidents. This should be kept in school on your child's peg.

All items of clothing must be clearly labelled with your child's name.

Baking

Each week children will take part in- group baking activities e.g. fruit salads, biscuits, pizzas etc. For this we ask parents to pay £3 each half term or £18 for the year.

Tissues

As you can imagine, the children frequently suffer from colds and runny noses and we would be very grateful if you could donate a box of tissues at the start of the year for use in the Foundation Stage.

Profiles

In the Foundation Stage the staff observe your child at play. We build up a record of your child's progress that includes examples of work, photographs and written comments on your child's interests and strengths. You can ask to see this at any time; they will also be shared at parent's evenings.

Confectionary and toys

Please do not send your child into school with sweets, toys or other valuable items.

Fruit

We would like to ask for contributions of fruit every Friday for the children to eat at Shabbos party.

Library books

Children will receive a book bag after the first few weeks of starting in The Foundation Stage, please ensure you bring this to school every Monday so a new book can be given. More information about this will be given when you receive your first library book.

Snack

Milk is available for children in the mornings. The government 'Fruit in Schools Scheme' means that all children will be provided with a piece of fruit each day. Children should bring in their own water bottle clearly named each day with fresh water.

Jewish Studies

Jewish Studies is an integral part of the school timetable, with all children taking part in daily sessions, often in smaller groups. The Jewish Studies teacher (Auntie Channi) also leads daily assemblies, brochas and benching, and helps to teach the children the basic routines.

Parent's Evening

Our door is always open for a chat and we will see you daily, but there are two formal parents evenings throughout the year. The first one is in November where we will inform you of how well your child has settled into school. The second one is in March where you will be able to discuss your child's progress.

A written report will be given to parents at the end of the school year.

Reading

We teach reading through a variety of approaches:

1. Introduction to key words
2. Phonics -learning sounds and names of letters, beginning to break down and build up words
3. Books, initially pictures and single words, building up to sentences.
4. Jolly Phonics word cards and songs.
5. Online e-books

We appreciate and support the reading that you do with your child as this helps to support our work at school and helps build your child's confidence.

Conclusion

We hope that your child will be very happy in our Foundation Stage Class. If by the time your children leave this class to enter Year 1, they have achieved self confidence in their own abilities, find life interesting, are eager to learn, and can communicate feelings and ideas, we will feel satisfied that we have achieved our aims, and we hope that you will be to.

Please remember, we are always here and willing to help!