



# **The Bythams Primary School**

2022-2023

**New Parents' Handbook**

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## Welcome!

Thank you for choosing the Bythams Primary School for your child's education. We hope that the following pages will help to answer some of your questions.

Hopefully, there will be many opportunities for parents, staff and friends of the school to get together socially throughout the school year, as well as at Parents' Evenings and open days.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child to the Bythams School.



## Staff who will support your children



Mrs Shaw -  
Hedgehogs  
Class teacher



Mrs Bengel  
Hedgehogs  
Class TA



Mrs Foster -  
EYFS/KS1  
HLTA



Mrs Wilson -  
MDS



Mrs Martin -  
Headteacher



Mrs Ives -  
SENDCo

## The Early Years Foundation Stage

Activities are planned around the following areas of learning:

Communication and Language

Physical Development

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Literacy

Mathematics

Understanding the World

Expressive Arts and Design



The children learn through practical, play based activities. We utilise the different learning environments available, from our stimulating indoor classroom to the wider outdoor environment of our Forest School area.



## Getting Ready for School

### *Make time for Play*

Enjoy this precious time with your child and don't underestimate the value of play. Play is central to school life in the Early Years Foundation Stage. Children learn through play. It is vital for personal and social development and promotes progress in speech and language, numerical ability and physical development as well as physical and creative development.

### *Stamina and Fitness*

In our busy, modern world, children spend a lot of time in cars and in front of screens so do not always develop their stamina and fitness sufficiently in the early years. This can have an impact on all round development so please try to encourage your child to walk as often as possible and give them opportunities to play on large equipment in the park, practise ball skills and ride scooters or bikes. Focusing initially on 'big' movements and children's gross motor skills will ultimately help children to develop their fine motor skills, enabling them to develop writing and cutting skills.

### *Positive Attitude*

To encourage your child to have a positive attitude to school, please make sure you always talk about school positively and enthusiastically.

Try to adopt a good daily routine from now so that your child is ready to start school e.g. plenty of time to get ready in the morning and a set bedtime. Please encourage your child to be as independent as possible.

If circumstances change at home and this could affect your child's behaviour or well-being please let us know.

## **School Meals**

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal at lunchtime. Our hot school meals are provided by Ideal Ltd. Parents are responsible for ordering hot meals for their child via the Ideal Ltd website. Details of how to order meals are enclosed in this pack.

## **Milk, Fruit**

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to free fruit, which school organises. Children under the age of 5 are entitled to free milk. At the Bythams, we provide free milk for Reception children throughout their first year at school.

## **School Uniform**

Andrew Hyde Ltd produce uniform with the Bythams School Logo on and parents can order items via the following website [www.ahyde.co.uk](http://www.ahyde.co.uk) or you can contact the company directly on 0113 289 3303, email: [sales@ahyde.co.uk](mailto:sales@ahyde.co.uk) . Our 'Friends of School' also sell pre-loved uniform at a very reasonable rate. Please contact the school office for more details.

## **Girls in Winter**

- Grey or black skirt or pinafore or grey or black trousers
- Royal blue sweatshirt, cardigan or polar fleece with the Bythams logo
- White polo shirt (with or without the Bythams logo)
- Grey or black tights
- Sensible black shoes

## **Girls in Summer**

- Blue gingham Dress
- Grey or black skirt with white polo shirt
- Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan (with Bythams logo)
- White socks
- Sensible black shoes

### Boys in Winter

- Grey or black trousers
- White polo shirt (with or without Bythams logo)
- Royal blue sweatshirt or polar fleece (with Bythams Logo)
- Grey or black socks
- Sensible black shoes

### Boys in Summer

- Grey or black shorts
- White polo shirt (with or without Bythams Logo)
- Royal blue sweatshirt (with Bythams Logo)
- Grey or black socks
- Sensible black shoes

### P.E. Kit

- P.E. Bag (with or without Bythams Logo)
- White t-shirt or white polo shirt
- Black shorts
- Black jogging bottoms (for winter)
- Bythams sweatshirt
- Trainers
- Girls wearing tights in the winter will need to bring a spare pair of socks to change into.

### Forest School

- Wellies
- Waterproof coat
- Waterproof or warm trousers
- Warm sweatshirt or jumper
- Hat and gloves in winter

### General Items

- Book Bag with Bythams Logo
- Waterproof Coat
- Hat and gloves in winter
- Sun hat in summer
- Water Bottle for water (not juice or squash)

### Personal Belongings

School cannot be held responsible for any personal belongings children may bring into school, and we ask that these are kept to a minimum, as children can get very upset if precious items get lost or broken.

**WE CAN'T STRESS ENOUGH HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO NAME  
EVERYTHING!**

### Jewellery

Children are only allowed to wear a watch and a pair of sensible stud earrings to school. Necklaces and bracelets should not be worn. Earrings and watches cannot be worn for PE lessons. If your child cannot remove their earrings independently they should not be worn on PE days.

### Hair

Long hair for both girls and boys must to be tied back and out of the face.

### Make-up

Make-up and nail varnish should not be worn at school.



## **My school day**

Children travelling to school on the bus will be met by a teacher when they arrive.

The school gates open at 08.45 to 8.50am.

Parents dropping their children off at school should come to the gate at the back of the school. Access to this entrance is gained via the school car park.

We have a drink and a piece of fruit during the morning. Lunch is at 11:50am and then we play outside until 12:50pm.

We have lots of equipment to use outside. We take it in turns to go on the Trim Trail, Muga and Mezzo, as well as our enormous sandpit! We have just purchased new bikes and scooters too. We do not provide helmets or knee/elbow pads to wear in school as it is unsafe for children to wear a poorly fitted helmet. Children only use bikes and scooters when supervised and we take the appropriate precautions to keep children safe. However, if you would prefer for your child to wear a helmet in school, you may choose to send one in for your child's use.

We have Phonics sessions in the morning and also start maths sessions when everyone has settled in.

All of our activities are set up in continuous provision, where the children can access them freely as well as a role play area, water tray, creative area, construction area and book corner. We also have continuous provision set up in our own outdoor area and spend lots of time outside.

We usually end the day with a quiet story time, which allows us to relax and reflect on our busy day.

## **Reading**

All children take part in a range of reading activities throughout the day. Reading is taught using the Read Write Inc programme, which is a structured phonics scheme that is designed to ensure all children learn to read accurately and fluently. Each child is heard read individually at least once a week.

Books and words are sent home to read. Please hear your child read every night and write a comment in their Reading Record.

### **Home Time**

Children should be collected from the school gate at 3.05 pm. If your child is going to be picked up by another adult, you must let the class teacher or office know.

If your child is going home on the school bus, you must inform the school.

Please inform the school office of any changes to how your child is going home at the end of the day. It is best to call, as emails may not be picked up in time to pass messages to class teachers.

### **Breakfast and After School Club**

Breakfast and After School Club is held every day in the hall. Breakfast Club is from 7.30am and includes breakfast at a cost of £4 per session. After School Club finishes at 5:45pm and includes snack/tea, at a cost of £7 per session. If eligible, you can claim support as part of the Government's Tax Free Childcare scheme. The sessions are run by Donna Goring, please contact her via email [bythamsafterschoolclub@hotmail.com](mailto:bythamsafterschoolclub@hotmail.com) for further details.

There are also a range of after school clubs to participate in throughout the year, run by school staff and sports coaches. These include computing club, art club, yoga and football clubs and run from the end of the school day until 4pm.

### **Children's Progress**

We hold two parent's evenings/open sessions each year when you will be able to discuss your child's progress with their teacher. One meeting is held in the Autumn and the other in Spring. You will receive a written report in July.

We will also hold regular 'stay and play' sessions which parents are welcome to join.

If you have any concerns about your child or there are any changes at home which may affect your child, please come and talk to your child's teacher and/or the Headteacher.

We always welcome parents into school, as visitors or to help. If you have any spare time to help in school please speak to your child's teacher.

## **Home/School Communication**

Letters, newsletters, forms and notices will be sent to you via ParentMail. Please find attached a letter regarding ParentMail and a form for completion and return. Please ask your child to hand in any return slips/notes to their teacher.

We also use the website as a way of keeping parents up-to-date, as well as sending out some communication via text.

The school website address is [www.bythams-school.co.uk](http://www.bythams-school.co.uk)

## **Absence, illness and medication**

If your child is away due to illness please ring the school to let us know as soon as possible. The answer-phone is on 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Any un-notified absences will be recorded as unauthorised and will appear as such on your child's report. Please follow published guidance about absence periods following illnesses [Exclusion table - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

We will administer prescription medicines providing you complete and sign a medication consent form. We cannot administer any medicines containing Ibuprofen, unless they are prescribed by a doctor. Inhalers are kept in the children's class areas and use of them is supervised by staff. Forms must be completed for all medication held in school. Please ask at the school office, if this is applicable.

Current regulations mean that we may only authorise term time absence for an exceptional, once in a lifetime event. Such an event could be for a funeral or a special ceremony involving a close family member. Any application must be received prior to the event. These regulations apply equally to all pupils, including those who are not yet 5. Please contact us if you have any queries.

## **Term Dates**

This information is available via the school website [www.bythams-school.co.uk](http://www.bythams-school.co.uk) under "Parents Info". We look forward to welcoming all children into school full time from Tuesday 6th September. Due to the small class size, we are confident children will all benefit from starting school on a full time basis from the beginning of term.

## **Travelling to School**

We ask parents not to park in the lay-by at the front of the school as this is used by the school bus between 8.25-8.50am and 3.00-3.30pm. Please use the school car park.

The County Council will provide transport to the school within the designated transport area (DTA), or to a nearer school if the distance between the child's home address and the school is more than 2 miles.

If you believe your child is eligible for Free School Transport you should apply online at [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/parents/schools/school-transport](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/parents/schools/school-transport)

## **FOBS**

Our 'Friends of the Bythams School' (FOBS), are a valuable asset to our school as they raise much needed funds to help us enhance our children's education.

They meet regularly and are always looking for new members to help raise funds and come up with new ideas.

Contact [fobs.chair@outlook.com](mailto:fobs.chair@outlook.com) if you are interested in joining/finding out more information.



We trust this booklet contains all you need to know about starting school, however, if you require any additional information please do not hesitate to contact us.

We hope starting school at The Bythams Primary School is a settled transition for you and your child and they flourish and grow within our fun and exciting learning environment.

## **Contact us:**

The Bythams Primary School

Creeton Road

Little Bytham

Grantham

Lincolnshire

NG33 4PX

Telephone: 01780 410275

Email: [office@bythams.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:office@bythams.lincs.sch.uk)