

Rivington Park Independent School



**NEW TO SCHOOL
BOOKLET**

Welcome to Rivington Park Independent School

At Rivington Park we pride ourselves on having a friendly and caring atmosphere in which all of our children will be encouraged to achieve their best. All of our teaching staff are approachable and aim to make both parents and pupils feel welcome and an important part of our community.

The school itself is a bright and happy place and we aim to instil a strong sense of community in the children that attend the school, making them feel that it is very much their school and it is their responsibility to care for the local environment.

At Rivington Park we provide all of our children with a broad and balanced education academically, creatively, socially and morally. Extra curricular clubs are also an important part of life at Rivington Park with children across the school being offered many opportunities to learn a variety of skills.



We work hard to ensure our children are all happy and secure in the environment we provide and we feel that this is of the utmost importance. Everyone who comes into our school comments on the warm and positive atmosphere and friendly well-behaved children they encounter. All of the staff at Rivington Park work hard to maintain this and feel this is of the utmost importance.



We hope that you will find the information in this booklet helpful and we look forward to you and your child joining Rivington Park. We are confident that your child will find our school to be a happy, comfortable, and stimulating environment, within which he/she will continue to develop during his/her time with us.

Before School

When your child does start school it would be helpful if they could do some of these things.

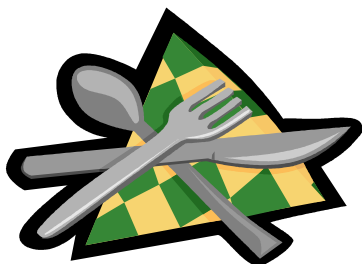
1. Dress and undress themselves.
2. Take off their own coat, gloves and hat and hang them up.

3. Change shoes and wellingtons.



4. Use the toilet properly and flush it.

5. Wash and dry their face and hands.



6. Use a knife and fork.

7. Tidy and clear away their toys.



8. Use a handkerchief.



9. Share toys and be able to take turns.

10. Know their full name and their address.

Being able to do these things will help your child to have an easier transition into school life. In addition to this it is also vital to ensure that your child gets enough sleep as this will improve their concentration and in turn help to aid their progress.

The Early Years Curriculum

The children in the Foundation Stage follow a learning programme that is designed to take into account their individual needs. The Early Years curriculum lays the solid foundation young children need in order to make a smooth transition to Key Stage 1 and for future progression through school.

The Foundation curriculum is organised into six areas of learning: -

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication, Language and Literacy
- Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy
- Knowledge and Understanding of the World
- Physical Development
- Creative Development



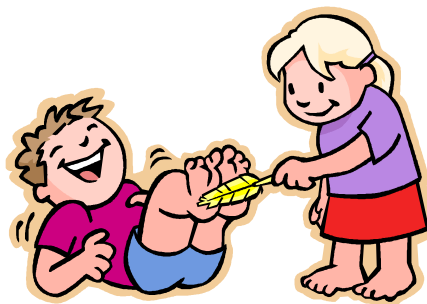
The three core subjects are Personal, Social and Emotional Development; Communication, Language and Literacy and Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy development.

We deliver the Foundation Stage curriculum through Early Learning Goals, a set of Government targets that all children starting school will work towards. It is anticipated that most children will reach these targets by the end of the Foundation Stage.

Your child's progress will be constantly monitored and assessed, mostly through informal observation, to enable us to plan effectively for their needs. Your child will progress through the carefully structured steps of the Early Learning Goals, where his/her particular strengths will be identified and catered for. Where appropriate, your child will be moved on to the National Curriculum objectives, working towards targets for Year 1 children. Equally, any area of difficulty will be identified and addressed. If your child has a Special Educational Need, he/she will be assessed and supported in accordance to their individual need.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This is a crucial part of the Early Years curriculum, as it is a pre-requisite for success in all other areas of learning. We aim to provide an environment that will enable your child to develop a positive sense of him/her self and of others.



Communication, Language and Literacy

This area of learning includes speaking and listening in different situations and for different purposes, developing your child's basic reading and writing skills through knowledge of sounds (phonemes) and using these emerging skills to read a range of texts and write for a variety of purposes.



1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

This includes counting, sorting, matching, seeking patterns and working with numbers, shape, space and measures.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

In this area your child will develop the skills, knowledge and understanding to help him/her make sense of the World. This forms the foundation for later work in Science, History, Geography, Design & Technology, and Information & Communication Technology.



Physical Development

Through a range of physical activities your child will increase in confidence and control of the way he/she moves and the way he/she handles both PE equipment and tools that will develop her/his fine motor skills (eg. use of pencils, paintbrushes, modeling materials, etc.)

Creative Development

The aspects covered in this area include Art, Music, Dance, role-play and imaginative play. This will enable your child to make connections between one area of learning and another, and to extend her/his own understanding. Using all of her/his senses, your child will be able to utilise resources for her/his own and other cultures to stimulate thinking.



All of the areas in the Early Years Curriculum are developed through practical activities, and include stories, songs, games, role-play and imaginative play. Well-planned play is an important part of all areas of development. In play activities, discussion, exploration and even disagreeing can help your child to develop essential skills.

Rewards and Rules

Your child will be praised and rewarded for all aspects of school life. A reward system is also used where your child can earn a lesson worth of 'Golden Time' on a Friday afternoon. Failure to follow the classes 'Golden Rules' during the week results in a loss of some Golden Time for the individual.

Home/School Partnership

A welcoming environment has been created throughout the school and we believe that a partnership between parent/carer and the teacher is essential within education. Please approach your child's teacher about any queries you may have or let us know about changes and events at home that may affect your child's happiness at school.

Sharing Activities

At Rivington Park we use a variety of reading schemes including the Oxford Reading Tree Reading Scheme, so you will all become very familiar with the lives of Biff and Chip and all of their friends and family!!!



There are lots of things you can do to help your child develop. Number games using the environment (for example counting as you go up steps) will give your child confidence as will sharing fairy tales and Nursery rhymes and practising writing and recognising their own name.

Practical Arrangements

Admissions

In order to help your child settle into school, the Foundation Classes will begin the Autumn Term at the same time as the rest of the school. Usually children start school full time from the start of the term. Admissions are accepted in January and April for children who are ready to progress into Reception from Pre-school. In some circumstances a morning session for a few weeks is considered appropriate to aide the transition into school.

The School Day

You may wish to share some of the following information with your child before he/she starts school: -

Initially your child's teacher will meet them at the school door and bring them into school. While you are welcome to come into school with your child we would encourage you to leave them at the door in order for them to develop their independence.

08:45 School opens - Children go straight to class

08:50 School starts

11:45 Lunch

13:00 Afternoon session

15:30 School finishes.



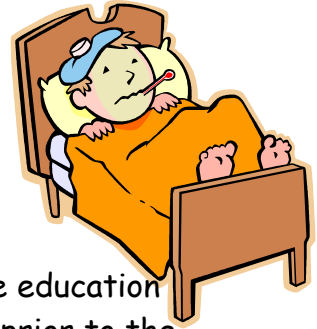
Collecting Your Child

Please wait in the main library area and we will come out to meet you.



Attendance

It is a parent's/carer's responsibility to ensure that their child attends school regularly and arrives in plenty of time for the start of the school day. If your child is too ill to attend school, please contact us before 9.30am and on their return, send a letter to the class teacher stating the dates and reason for the absence.



There is no entitlement to taking holidays in school time, it is disruptive to the education of your child and any holiday absence must be sanctioned by the Headteacher prior to the holiday being taken. *Application for Absence* forms are available from school.

Continuous Provision

In the Foundation Stage we operate a system of continuous provision. This enables the children to experience periods of sustained play, which are vital for extending children's learning. Outdoor play activities are an integral part of the Foundation curriculum, where your child will have the opportunity to use a variety of other outdoor play equipment as well as ride-on toys.

The Foundation children have the daily opportunity to mix with the other children at lunchtimes and during break



Snack time

As part of our Personal, Social and Health Education, the children may bring a piece of fruit or healthy snack to eat during the morning break. Children may bring a bottle of water (no juice) with them to drink throughout the day. Please ensure that this is also labelled.



School Uniform

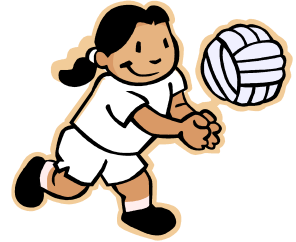
Children need to feel comfortable if they are to work well, and all clothes need to be practical. It would help if difficult fastenings or complicated straps could be avoided. The following school uniform which is easily maintained, comfortable and economical can be purchased from Andrew Leach Sports Wear on Blackhorse Street, Bolton. 01204 392610.

Boys Grey trousers (long or short), grey school jumper over a white shirt with blue tie, school blazer and grey socks.

Girls School skirt, white shirt, blue tie, grey school jumper, school blazer and grey tights or socks.

PE Kit

- a) A pair of blue P.E. shorts (not cycling shorts) or blue gym skirt for girls and a yellow T-shirt. The yellow school T-shirt with school badge is preferable.
- b) white or black training shoes
- c) P.E. bag (named).
We have a school P.E. bag for purchase from Andrew Leach.



NB It is extremely important that all children's clothing is clearly marked with the child's name as it can save school considerable time and parents' considerable expense when an article of clothing is lost.

A number of parents send their child to school with spare clothing, in case of 'accidents', i.e. underwear and socks, which can be kept in the child's bag. We do have a supply of spare underwear, and can provide a change of clothing if needed. If you choose to send a change of clothes, please make sure your child knows they are there and inform their teacher otherwise we will use our supply.

Hats

We encourage children to wear suitable hats dependant on the weather and have for sale a blue school cap with the school badge on for sunny days.

Footwear

Please ensure that your child is able to spend the day in comfortable and practical black shoes. If wellingtons are necessary in winter, it is essential that a pair of shoes is also brought to school. Trainers are not a satisfactory alternative to shoes and "Scholl" type sandals are not suitable for school use.

Your Child's Belongings

Your child will have a labelled cloakroom peg and drawer in the classroom. We will encourage your child to look after his/her own belongings, as this is an important life skill. Please encourage your child to carry his/her own belongings and hang them on his/her peg.

Your child will need to have a small book bag to keep their belongings in. It is rarely necessary for the child to carry anything other than a reading book and letters to and from school and we have suitable school book bags available for purchase from Andrew Leach.

PE kit should be left in school all week. Please put your child's name on all items of clothing and belongings.

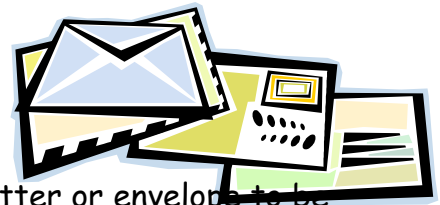
Jewellery (including ear-rings or studs) cannot be worn during P.E. lessons. Jewellery can cause many problems within school and we strongly discourage the wearing of jewellery and especially ear-rings or studs because of the safety implications. Following serious accidents which have resulted from the wearing of ear-rings for pierced ears, we do request that children do not wear ear-rings of any type.

Money and Correspondence

IMPORTANT IMPORTANT IMPORTANT

As all monetary payments are dealt with separately, we request parents ensure that each amount of money brought to school is put in a **separate sealed envelope** bearing the name and class of the child and the nature and amount of the contents. e.g.:-

George Brown	Class 3H
School trip money	£9.00



We encourage children to be responsible for handing correspondence in to their teachers, please make sure your child knows if there is a letter or envelope to be handed in. However, in Reception Class, a member of staff will, initially, check children's bags for any correspondence.

School Meals

The School is fortunate in having its own kitchen so that meals are freshly prepared on site. The school catering staff take considerable trouble in ensuring that the children have an adequate midday meal. We expect a high standard of table manners from children and these will be reinforced by the welfare assistants.

Payment for school dinners is to be made in advance on a termly basis.

This is our School Motto

Together Everyone Achieves More



We look forward to you all joining our **TEAM**