



# Valley Infant School

*Where every child matters*

## Introduction to Foundation Stage - Phase 1



## Children at Play



**In September 2001 the Early Years classes of all state schools became known as 'The Foundation Stage'.**

**Nursery:** Foundation Stage Phase 1

**Reception:** Foundation Stage Phase 2

## **Aims of the Foundation Stage**

We aim to provide a secure and happy atmosphere in which your child can develop confidence and self esteem. We hope to achieve this by enabling the children to become active participators in their own learning.

Through a play based approach the children will experience a wide variety of learning opportunities which will enable them to achieve the Government's Early Learning goals by the end of Phase 2

## **Foundation Stage Phase 1 Organisation**

**Morning:** 9.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.

**Afternoon:** 12.45 p.m.- 3.15 p.m.

## **Foundation Stage Fund**

Parents are asked to contribute towards various nursery activities.

## **Your child will need:**

- A pump bag
- A pair of elasticated pumps
- A spare pair of pants and socks

In addition, green sweatshirts, grey jogging trousers and white tee-shirts showing the school logo are available to purchase through the PTA. These items are not compulsory but it is felt that they may give your child a sense of 'belonging' to Valley School, and help prepare them for their progression into Foundation Stage Phase 2.

## **Please wear play clothes to Foundation Stage Phase 1**

- Sleeves that can be pushed up.
- Trouser fastenings that can be managed by your child
- Open-toed sandals and jewellery can be dangerous - we would prefer them not to be worn.

**School Uniform will be worn by children in Phase 2**

## Working together with parents

Foundation Stage staff value the involvement and support of the families of our children.

### **Please can you:**

- Visit our school and talk about it with your child;
- Consider a home visit from a member of staff;
- Complete a written profile about your child;
- Spend a session with us in Phase 1 to see what we are all about;
- Come to regular open days to look at your child's work in Phase 1;
- Help on a regular basis in Phase 2.

We are always ready to talk over any queries or problems you may have. Please help us to help your child.

## Getting ready for the Foundation Years

Talk to your child as much as possible - when you are cooking, shopping, gardening etc. and let him/her help with these household chores.

- Answer all questions as fully as possible.
- Listen to your child.
- Tell stories and look at books together.
- Sing Nursery Rhymes.

Help your child to be independent. Give him/her time to put on his/her coat and shoes by him/herself. Try not to be tempted to help in order to save time.

Try to make sure your child can go to the toilet by him/herself.

Visit at the given times and talk about the visit and the staff.

Your child needs to know that you are happy about him/her coming to Valley School, so please share any worries you may have with us.

## Absence

If your child is absent at any time please let the school know the cause as soon as possible. It is very important that your child is quite well before returning to school after an illness.

## Photographs

We often use photographs in school to enhance displays and record special events. This may mean that your child is pictured either individually or within a group working within school. Any objections to this should be made in writing to either the Head Teacher or School Secretary.



## We need to know:

- Who will collect your child.
- Please inform staff if someone unfamiliar to staff is collecting your child.
- Any changes at home which may affect your child.
- The death of a relative or pet, a parent away on business or the possibility of moving house can all be unsettling events for your child.
- Any change of address or telephone number.
- Care/Access arrangements if appropriate.

## Visit

If you would like a member of staff to visit you and your child at home, please note the following arrangements:

..... will visit you

on .....

at .....

Your child will be starting Foundation Stage Phase 1:

on .....

at .....

*The information in this booklet is correct at the time of publication. However, it is subject to alteration with reasonable notice at any time.*