



Welcome to Scotholme Foundation Stage

Child's name: _____

Class: _____

Class teacher: _____

Key Person: _____

School contact number: 0115 978 1968

(Please ask to be put through to the Nursery)

Contents

- What is the Foundation Stage?
- EYFS framework
- Scotholme Foundation Stage (Classes, Attendance, English as Additional Language, Special Educational Needs, Safeguarding)
- How will my child be learning?
- How can I find out how my child is doing?
- How can I help with my child's learning?

What is the Foundation Stage?



Welcome to the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)**, which is how the Government and early years professionals describe the time in your child's life between birth and age 5.

This is a very important stage as it helps your child get ready for school as well as preparing them for their future learning and successes. From when your child is born up until the age of 5, their early years experience should be happy, active, exciting, fun and secure; and support their development, care and learning needs.

As a school we must follow a legal document called the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework. Further information on this curriculum can be found by clicking on the link in the Parents' section on our school website: www.scotholme.nottingham.sch.uk

Why do we have an EYFS Framework?

The EYFS Framework exists to support all professionals working in the EYFS to help your child and was developed with a number of early years experts and parents.

In 2012 the framework was revised to make it clearer and easier to use, with more focus on the things that matter most. This new framework also has a greater emphasis on your role in helping your child develop. It sets out:

- The legal welfare requirements that everyone registered to look after children must follow to keep your child **safe** and promote their welfare
- The 7 areas of **learning and development** which guide professionals' engagement with your child's play and activities as they learn new skills and knowledge
- Assessments that will tell you about **your child's progress** through the EYFS
- Expected levels that your child should reach at age 5, usually the end of the reception year; these expectations are called the "**Early Learning Goals (ELGs)**"

There is also guidance for the professionals supporting your child on planning the learning activities, and observing and assessing what and how your child is learning and developing.

Scotholme Foundation Stage

In the Foundation Stage we aim to:

- ✚ Provide a happy, caring safe and secure environment, which caters for the individual needs and interests of the children;
- ✚ To develop good relationships with the children so they feel secure;
- ✚ To provide a good transition from home to school;
- ✚ For children to develop moral and social values;
- ✚ To encourage active learning through first hand experiences both indoor and outdoor;
- ✚ To encourage the children to become independent learners;
- ✚ To develop positive home school links with parents/carers so the children see a common sense of purpose;
- ✚ To have high expectations of the children based on their abilities.

Our overall aim is to: **For children to feel happy, safe and secure and achieve their full potential.**

Classes

We have 3 Foundation classes in school. **Foundation 1** caters for 3 and 4 year olds and **Foundation 2** caters for 4 and 5 year olds. All children have fruit and milk once during their session.

Foundation 1 provides places for 30 part time children, attending either an afternoon or morning session.

It is situated in a self contained unit adjacent to the main school building.

Morning session runs: 8.50-11.50 am

Afternoon session runs 12.30- 3.25 pm

Nursery Teacher: Miss Wall

Teaching Assistant: Mrs Price

Bi-lingual Instructors: Mrs Rashid, Mrs Gupta



Foundation 2 consists of 2 classes (F2 and F3) providing for 60 children overall.

The classes are situated in the main school building as part of the Key Stage 1 department.

The school day begins at 8.50 and finishes at 3.30 pm. The children have a lunch break and two 15 minute breaks, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

Teachers: Mrs Holmes, Miss Day

Teaching Assistants: Mr Davis, Ms Rana



Attendance

We cannot emphasise enough the importance of regular attendance. As a school we are aiming for **95% attendance**, please help us to achieve this by working with us. All absences must be notified to appropriate staff as soon as possible either through a phone call or a verbal message. Poor attendance may result in your child losing their place.

English as an Additional Language

To ensure all children are able to access the curriculum we have a bilingual Teaching Assistant who is able to speak in Punjabi or Urdu to help the children understand instructions and enable them to access activities. We also incorporate practical activities and visual prompts to support learners. At Scotholme we encourage the children to speak in their own language alongside English to ensure we gain a good understanding of the child.

Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Across the Foundation Unit we work hard to ensure children with special educational needs are able to access all areas of the curriculum. We identify children with SEN and work closely with the SEN coordinator (Ms Dargavel) to ensure the correct provision is provided. Children have an Individual Education Plan that is shared with parents, staff and the child and is reviewed termly. If you have any concerns regarding your child's development or learning please do not hesitate to speak to your child's key person or class teacher.

Safeguarding

We work very hard to ensure all children are safe. Equipment is checked daily when it is being used and an audit is done at the end of each year to ensure equipment is safe. During class time we talk about key issues and remind the children how to stay safe both inside and outside school.



We also have safeguarding procedures in place for when children are leaving and entering school. Please help us to keep your child safe by following these.

- Please ensure no-one under 16 years old brings or collects a child.
- If you have arranged for another adult to pick up your child, please inform the staff and if possible introduce that person beforehand.
- We ask parents not to talk to the adult on the door as they are responsible for ensuring children arrive/leave safely and stay in the classroom. If you need to speak to an adult please wait till the door is closed or the majority of children have gone.
- Please bring your child to the classroom at the start of the session.

Foundation 1

- When you collect your child please wait near the cloakroom in nursery.
- The gate on Berridge Road will open at 8.30 am and close at 9.00am. It will reopen at 11.50 am and shut at 11.56 am. It will reopen again at 3.25pm
- This gate is only open to collect or bring nursery children.

Foundation 2

- If collecting your child for home dinners you will need to come into school via the main entrance and wait for the bell to go. Once the bell has gone you can go down to the classroom to collect your child.
- When your child returns to school during dinner time they **MUST** go the office to sign in.
- When picking up your child from school at the end of the day we ask that you wait outside until the bell has gone. The door will then be unlocked and you can collect your child. A member of staff will be on the classroom door where we ask you to wait for your child to come to you.

How will my child be learning?



The EYFS Framework explains how and what your child will be learning to support their healthy development.

Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through **7 areas of learning and development**.

Children should develop the **3 prime areas** first. These are:

- Communication and language;
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development.

These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning. As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in **4 specific areas**. These are:

- Literacy;
- Mathematics;
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design.

These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. The professionals teaching and supporting your child will make sure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs. This is a little bit like a curriculum in primary and secondary schools, but it's suitable for very young children, and it's designed to be really flexible so that staff can follow your child's unique needs and interests.

Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside. Please ensure you child is dressed in appropriate outdoor clothing for the weather as we will go outside in all weathers!



How can I find out how my child is doing?

It is important that we, as parents, carers and teachers, work together. We want you to feel comfortable about exchanging information and discussing things that will benefit your child. This is an important part of the EYFS Profile, your knowledge about your child's learning and development, so do let your child's class teacher know about what your child does with you: such as how confident your child is in writing their name, reading and talking about a favourite book, speaking to people your child is not so familiar with or their understanding of numbers.

In each class your child will be designated a **key person** (please see the front of this book). This is your main point of contact within the setting, although other staff are more than willing to talk to you if they are unavailable. This person:

- Helps your child to become settled, happy and safe;
- Is responsible for your child's care, development and learning;
- Takes a careful note of your child's progress, sharing this with you and giving you ideas on how to help your child at home.

We hold parents evening each term which provides an opportunity to share your child's progress both at home and at school.

Each class also has a section on the school website which is updated regularly.

www.scotholme.nottingham.sch.uk

You will be able to get information about your child's development at any time and we produce a written report for children at the end of the academic year.

Try to speak to your child's key person as often as possible about what your child has been doing, what they have enjoyed, what they need to be doing more of and what you can do at home.



How can I help with my child's learning?

In **Foundation 1** we work hard to learn to write or copy our first names. We do this in different ways; in sand, with paint, with crayons and pencils.

Your child will also be given a rhyme of the week to learn at home. Please practise singing this with your child at home and encouraging them to join in.

In **Foundation 2** the children will have a reading book to take home, please could you read with them every day if possible and encourage them to read words too. Please sign their reading diary to say you have read with them. Their book will be changed once a week.

The children will also be given a Bear word card to learn to read. The children need to practise these every day. They will be tested on these once a week and will receive a new card and a certificate if they complete it. This really helps their confidence and reading skills.

All the fun activities that you do with your child at home are important in supporting their learning and development, and have a really long lasting effect on your child's learning as they progress through school.

Even when your child is very young and not yet able to talk, talking to them helps them to learn and understand new words and ideas. If you make the time every day to do some of the following things with your child it will make a real difference to your child's confidence as a young learner.

If you're looking for new ideas for things to do then find out what is on offer at your local children's centre or local library. Many offer 'messy play' activities which you and your child can join in with, and many of the activities they provide are free. Your child is able to get a library card and borrow books; there is no fee for late returns. They also do story telling groups (see the nursery notice board for times).

Other ideas to do at home



Any other questions?

Please come in and chat to your child's class teacher or teaching assistants. We will be happy to talk to you.

You can find the **Early Years Foundation Stage** which includes the early learning goals at www.foundationyears.org.uk. The foundation years website also includes a range of resources and contacts.