

# Foundation Stage Brochure.



Welcome  
to  
Willow Class  
(Nursery)

Welcome to Forest Academy and the Foundation Stage.

Starting nursery is an exciting time, but it can also cause some anxiety for both children and parents. Our brochure is here to help you. It will answer many questions, but inevitably not all. You are always welcome to make an appointment to come into school to talk to the staff.

The Foundation Stage is made up of part time and full time children. Children come part time in nursery, and attend either all mornings or all afternoons. The intake of children into our nursery follows Forest Academy admission criteria. They will start the September after their third birthday.

A nursery place does **NOT** give your child a guaranteed place in our reception class or a higher preference.

Children start full time in the reception classes in the September after their 4<sup>th</sup> birthday. Admissions are administrated by Suffolk County Council and follow their admissions criteria. You must fill in a school admissions form which can be obtained at the school office or online by the January before they start school.



## Willow Class (Nursery) (Part time education)

Starting nursery is a big step for any child and our aim is to make it a happy time for everyone.

At Forest Academy nursery we have 26 places for each session.

Nursery times are:

Morning session... 8.40 – 11.40am

Afternoon Session... 12.20 – 3.20pm

Children attend either five mornings or five afternoons.

### Nursery staff

Mrs Marsh	Nursery Teacher
Miss Huff	Nursery Teacher and Early Years Lead
Mrs Barrett	Teaching Assistant
Mrs Bell	Teaching Assistant

Headteachers	Mrs Grimes and Mrs Rourke
Deputy Heads	Mrs Gough and Miss Morley



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## Foundation Stage Curriculum

In the Foundation Stage, all children work within the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

The Curriculum is divided into seven areas of learning:

*Prime Areas :-*

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

Physical Development

Communication and Language

*Specific Areas:-*

Literacy

Mathematics

Understanding of the World

Expressive Art and Design

In nursery, children are free to access all areas and choose the resources they would like to use from those available. Adults play alongside the children developing their learning and planning their next steps.

Children will engage in focus activities alongside adults as well as their independent learning.



## How can I help my child's learning?

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.

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.

- Sing and tell nursery rhymes
- Talk about numbers, colours, words and letters you see when you are out and about
- Allow your child to cut out and stick pictures from magazines
- Cook/bake together
- Plant seeds or bulbs in a pot/garden patch
- Use the weather – shadows, rain, puddles, snow, wind, mist and sun – to extend your child's vocabulary
- Explore the park at a different time of the year
- Share a book
- Talk to your child at every opportunity – e.g. what you are doing that day
- On a trip to the supermarket, talk about all the different packaging shapes



Toileting

It is an expectation that children will have started to go to the toilet independently. If this is not the case, please speak to a member of staff about your child's progress in this area.



## Home learning activities

Forest Bear will come home with your child for 2 days. He will have a diary to draw pictures in, write or add photos about the things he has done with you and your family.

Parents, Grandparents and older siblings can all help to support your child with these activities.

Each week, the nursery children will have a letter pattern, number or letter of the week sent home, so you know what we are learning in school.

Children can choose a book from the book box to take home. Please fill in the folder to say which book you have taken and then tick the appropriate column when it comes back. An adult can read the story as well as talking about the pictures and characters in the stories.

Once every half term, we will have a play and stay session when you can stay in school and join in activities with your child.





## Move up day

Before your child starts nursery, they will be invited to come and visit for part of a morning or afternoon session. This helps your child to settle into their new learning environment. Parents are asked to stay for this session and they will have an opportunity to meet the staff and find out more about the nursery.

## Home Visits

To support your child starting nursery, we arrange a home visit. This will allow us to have some personal time with your child so they can get to know us, in their own environment, where they feel at ease. We will bring toys to play with or your child can show us their favourite toys. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and find out how the nursery session runs.

## Your child's first day at nursery

Please bring any contact forms and the completed "All About Me" booklet.

You will be advised of the date on which your child will start. We stagger the entry dates for new children to allow quality time to be spent with each child.

## Snack time.

Milk and water are provided for every child. We are a healthy eating school and also provide fruit for the children.



## Clothing

It is not compulsory in nursery to wear uniform, but if you would like your child to dress in uniform, you can purchase Forest Academy branded school uniform from the school office or on line through "Parents Direct" (see the office staff for more information). Children should wear red T-shirt, green jumper/cardigan, black/grey trousers/skirts with black school shoes. Children can also wear red or green summer dresses and black/grey shorts. Similar uniform can be purchased from local supermarkets without the branding on them.

It is important that all **clothing is named**, including coats, as many children come in similar clothes and it will help us find them if they are lost.



Children will be able to explore different textures and messy play, so please do not send them in their best clothes.



It is very important to allow your child to become independent. Please teach them to dress and undress themselves, put on their own coat and do it up. All children are to wear sensible shoes with back straps (no flip-flops) to keep them safe while they are exploring.



## P.E.

During their time at Forest Academy they will take part in P.E lessons. For health and safety reasons, all jewellery is removed for P.E. and pierced ears must be covered with a plaster before coming to nursery; only studs should be worn. Most P.E. sessions are done in bare feet in the hall.

**No P.E. kit is needed;** children just remove jumpers, shoes and socks. The class teacher will let you know which day we will be doing P.E.



## Attendance

Attending nursery regularly is very important to support your child in getting to know our routines, building their confidence and helping them build relationships with their peers.

If your child is not able to attend nursery due to illness or for any other reason, please telephone to let the school know.



## Outdoor Learning

We are very fortunate to have a Forest Schools site. Once the nursery children have settled in, they will have time to visit the site and learn through the natural environment. They will need to wear wellington boots, trousers and long sleeved tops to keep them safe from stinging nettles and thorns as well as keeping them dry and warm.



## Toys

We discourage children from bringing items from home as these can easily get lost or damaged. If your child needs a comforter, please talk to the teacher about it and we can make appropriate arrangements.

## Equal opportunities

At Forest Academy, every child is an individual and is treated as such. Each pupil is extended to their personal potential regardless of race, gender, religion or ability. We want children to leave nursery with a bank of learning experiences that positively impact on them for the rest of their lives.

## Behaviour policy

A full copy of this policy is available from the school office or on our website <http://www.forest.suffolk.sch.uk>.

We actively promote children to follow our school Golden Rules

### Golden Rules

- Use kind words
- Be kind and gentle
- Listen to others politely
- Respect all property
- Come to nursery ready to learn



Our Children will journey through our schools, building a memory bank of learning experiences that positively impact on them for the rest of their lives.  
We will build a collection of amazing memories where learning is fun and education is valued.

## Outdoor Play

All children will have the opportunity to play outside every day. It is important that you dress your child appropriately for all weathers. Children will get wet, muddy and messy. (We have some wellington boots and waterproof coats, or you can provide your own.) We teach children to minimize how messy they get as part of their learning, but inevitably the children will get messy. Children have fun learning about the world around them as they explore their environment.

