



Lower Kersal Community Primary School
...a school where everyone matters



Welcome to the Early Years

**EYFS Prospectus
2023-2024**



Contents

1. Introduction & Mission Statement
2. All about the Early Years
 - Introducing Families to our School
 - Education in the Early Years
 - The Early Years Curriculum
 - The Characteristics of Effective Learning
 - The Value of Play in the Early Years Foundation Stage
 - The Outdoor Environment
 - Assessment in the Early Years
 - A day in the life of an Early Years child
3. Parents as Partners
4. General Information
5. Attendance & Punctuality
6. Safety
7. Frequently asked questions
8. Happens Next?



1. Introduction

Lower Kersal is an exciting school for children between the ages of three and eleven years. It is hoped that this booklet will provide you with a lot of the information you will need to know to help your child settle down quickly into their new class. We get to know our children very well. We expect children to do their best and we also demand high standards of ourselves. We pledge to provide good quality teaching and resources to help children learn

All our staff keep up-to-date with educational developments in order to benefit children's learning. We pride ourselves on the personal qualities of our staff. We are approachable, friendly and always pleased to talk to you about your child and their progress. Our regular parent workshops also provide you with a hands-on way of supporting your child in school and at home and I really hope that you will be able to attend some of these during the year.

Our carefully planned and structured curriculum, along with our care and support systems, help to ensure that children reach their potential and have a happy and purposeful time at our school. **The school values a positive and supportive partnership between parents and the school and we look forward to building up this effective partnership as the year progresses.**

This booklet can only give you a glimpse of the school and its work. If you would like any further information, or you have any further questions, please contact your child's new class teacher, or pop along into the school office and ask to speak to me. I will always try my best to make time to see you as soon as I am able to. Please also don't forget to visit our Twitter page for all the latest news!

S Steward
Headteacher

Mission statement

At Lower Kersal Community Primary School we:

- Recognise each person's uniqueness and individual needs and encourage pupils to take full advantage of all that school life has to offer
- Provide a safe environment, which nurtures a love of learning and for life itself and which enables each person to have increased aspirations
- Provide a creative and challenging curriculum which is enhanced with a variety of enrichment events and after school activities
- Provide for all aspects of pupil and staff development to enable each person to achieve their potential
- Provide the same educational opportunities for all pupils, irrespective of ability, social or cultural background.

It is our aim that pupils:

- Gain a sense of satisfaction from personal achievement and become self-motivated individuals
- Have a sense of responsibility towards others and accept responsibility for their own actions and behaviour
- Respect the rights and values of others

At LKPS we take pride in how diverse and inclusive we are. At LKPS we are 'all different, all equal'. We respect each other's differences - race, religion, gender, age, gender identity, disability and sexual orientation.



The Early Years department consists of a Nursery class and a Reception class. Both classes are staffed by a fully qualified teacher and a teaching assistant.

Introducing Families to our School

Our aim is to make the transition to our school as smooth and exciting as possible for our new children. Prior to children starting in the early years classes, parents are invited to attend an induction meeting to welcome families to Lower Kersal. The Early Years team will lead an information sharing session outlining policies, procedures and routines, as well as providing practical advice to ensure that children and parents are prepared to start school. Parents have the opportunity to ask questions and speak to members of the Early Years Team.

During the session, staff will arrange dates for when parents and carers can attend the setting with the child who is coming in to the Early Years. This visit is vital as the children get to meet their new teachers, classroom and also their peers. The visit gives you another opportunity to ask any questions.

On our school webpage, we have uploaded important and useful resources and we ask that you prepare your child for starting school as much as possible by talking to them about this exciting event and sharing documents we send to you.

On our website you will find:

- Our Early Years policy
- Our Early Years parents booklet
- Helpful leaflets about getting ready for school
- Transition tips to for parents

When your child arrives for their first day in September, they will be greeted by a member of staff they recognise and you will already have an insight in to how the Early Years is run. When children initially enter the Nursery in September, it is on a part time basis only. The Nursery staff decide when each child is ready to increase their hours towards full time. Parents will be given plenty of notification as to when their child will be able to increase their hours, this will include them staying for dinner and eventually staying for the full day.

Education in the Early Years

The Early Years Team has thoughtfully planned the environment to ensure that all areas of learning are supported. There are dedicated spaces for all areas of learning, which provide a range of resources that children can independently access, enabling each child to follow his or her own interests and initiate his or her own play. The staff observe children and aim to develop their learning through supporting and extending opportunities in their play.

We know that children learn best from doing things they like so we carefully design activities which encourage the children to be aware of their surroundings, use their imagination, to think of others as well as themselves **and most importantly to be happy and have fun.**

Our classrooms are well equipped and the activities that are planned for the children will ensure that all children have the opportunity to access all areas of the Early Years curriculum both inside and outside.

The Early Years Curriculum

Our Foundation Stage curriculum aims to develop each child to reach their full potential. Experience in the form of structured play forms the basis for this aim. The EYFS is made up of seven areas of Learning and Development. All areas of Learning and Development are connected to one another and are equally important. The areas of Learning and Development are split in to prime areas of learning and specific areas of learning.

Prime areas

Personal, social and emotional development: Throughout all activities, children will be encouraged to be kind, caring and helpful. They are encouraged to take turns and to be aware of other peoples feelings. Children become more confident in themselves and their abilities.



Physical development: Activities in this area work to improve fine motor skills and gross motor skills. Children will learn to move safely and confidently with an awareness of others. They will also learn about the importance of personal hygiene and the importance of making healthy choices related to food, sleep and exercise.

Communication and language: This area of learning helps to promote communication with other children as well as adults. Children are supported to speak clearly about their understanding of stories and activities and improve their listening and attention.



Specific Areas



Literacy: In Literacy, children begin by enjoying books and familiar rhymes, recognising their name and familiar signs, and later in Reception linking sounds to letters. They will begin to give meaning to their marks and in Reception begin to use correct letter formation, writing words and develop to writing short sentences.

Mathematics: In Mathematics, children will learn to count confidently, develop a deep understanding of the numbers to 10, the relationships between them and the patterns within those numbers. They will also begin to recognise common 2D and 3D shapes, recognise, copy and create repeating patterns. Children will be encouraged to investigate measures including size, weight, capacity, position, distance and time.



Understanding the world: In this area we guide children to make sense of their physical world and their community. In addition, listening to a broad selection of stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems will foster their understanding of our culturally, socially, technologically and ecologically diverse world.

Expressive arts and design: Creative development covers all aspects of music, dance, art and design. Children will learn songs, perform dances, and produce pictures and models using many different methods and materials. They will investigate sound using a range of instruments and develop imagination and cooperative play by engaging in the role play area.



In the Foundation Stage, we aim to provide a structured environment for learning and the curriculum is carefully planned to provide opportunities for learning in the context of purposeful play in a meaningful situation.



Characteristics of effective learning

To support your child's development, we also observe the way that your child engages in activities and how they learn. Through our provision and planning, we aim to support them in becoming independent learners.

The value of Play in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Children naturally explore the world around them through play. Play in the Early Years provides children with the opportunities to develop these skills, explore and take risks in a safe, secure and fun environment. These skills will be refined and built upon as they move through life and through school. Play also offers children the opportunity to become confident, independent learners and allows them to develop an understanding of the need to show care and concern for others.

Outdoor Environment

The children have access to the Outdoor Environment throughout the day and the resources that are provided for the children will vary during the year to ensure they are being challenged in their learning.

On **rainy days** children are encouraged to wear their wellington boots and waterproof coat. These should remain on their peg at all times, as we continue to explore the outside area in all types of weather. When the weather is **warm and sunny** we ask you that your child comes to school with a sun hat (with their name in) and sun cream already applied. This will help to protect your child from the effects of the sun.

Assessment

On admission to Nursery, all children will be assessed during everyday classroom activities. These assessments, which are made through observations and discussions with parents and children, will help your child's teacher find out about your child's knowledge and abilities so that they can plan effectively for your child's learning needs. They also help the school to measure and monitor the children's progress from when they start school. The teacher will then continue to assess your child's progress throughout the year.

In September, when your child joins the Reception class, they will complete the statutory Reception baseline assessment which is a baseline measure to track pupils' progress during primary school. This is a 15 minutes long practical activity, covering literacy, language, communication and early maths. At the end of your child's Reception year, the assessment against the Early Learning Goals will be completed where your child's knowledge and abilities are assessed in preparation for the transition to Year One and the beginning of the National Curriculum.

We encourage Parents/Carers to tell us the special moments they share with their child through the use of WOW! sheets. These can be used to communicate and share your child's achievement for example if you have noticed them singing a song to themselves, reading a story book using the pictures to help them or if they talk about things they notice such as "it's cold today Mummy". These are available from the class teachers and the WOW! sheets are then used to form part of your child's assessment; as their learning does not just start and stop in school, but is a continuous process.

A day in the life of an Early Years child

A typical day might be as follows:

Arrival – Children, parents and carers are asked to use the gate on Northallerton Road to enter the playground. At 8.50am members of staff from the Early Years will open the gates and the children enter school independently through the double doors.

Coat pegs – Children come in to school and independently find their named peg and place their coats and bags on to the pegs.

'Dough disco' /Registration – Before registration, the children will take part in 'Dough Disco'. This is a fun activity which combines the use of play dough with a series of hand and finger exercises designed to improve fine muscle control. The movements develop children's fine and gross motor dexterity, hand-eye coordination and self-esteem. The overall aim is to ultimately support children's handwriting skills. The children then sit on the carpet for registration.

Carpet Time - After registration there is a short carpet session. This may be a Phonics, Literacy or Numeracy session, a Circle Time activity or an activity for any one of the seven areas of learning.

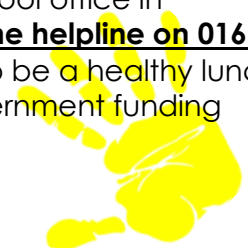
Child Initiated Learning - After the carpet session, the children are able to access the continuous provision in both the indoor and outdoor environments to 'choose'. This is where they will be observed and challenged in their learning.

Snack - Children in the Foundation Stage are given a piece of fruit and a carton of milk each day, if your child does not like milk, they will be provided with water. Throughout the day, children can independently visit the snack area where they can enjoy their fruit and drink. Children under 5 receive their milk free as part of a Government scheme.



Lunchtime – All children eat together in the school canteen between 11.20am-12pm. Staff remain with the children during this time and help develop important social skills. In the canteen, there will be a choice of two hot dinners one of these will be a vegetarian option. The meals provided are healthy with controlled amounts of sugar, salt and fat. With their dinner, the children are provided with a drink and also a dessert. The children can choose their own dinner during morning registration or you can order their dinner via School grid. This will be arranged and set up by the School office in September. Once the children have finished their dinner, they have lunch time play on the Early Years playground where they are supervised by Early Years staff and welfare supervisors.

The cost of school dinners is currently £2.10 a day or £10.50 a week. Any dinner money should be paid using our online system 'Parent Pay'. This will be arranged and set up by the School office in September. **If you feel you might qualify for free school meals, please contact the helpline on 0161 793 2500.** If you would prefer your child to have a packed lunch then it needs to be a healthy lunch. All children in Reception are provided with a free school meal as part of a Government funding scheme



Afternoon session

Registration and carpet time – This is at 1.00pm when the children sit on the carpet for registration and then there is another short carpet session led by the teacher.

During the afternoon – As in the morning, the children are able to choose between indoor and outdoor activities.

End of the day – After the children have tidied up they will sit on the carpet for a story/songs/review of the day and then book bags and any models or pictures they have made will be handed out. Early Years children finish at 3.20pm and once the gate has been opened, we ask you to stand outside the EYFS doors in a position that is visible. Once the teacher sees you, they will call your child to leave with you. Children will only be dismissed to adults who have been authorised by parents/carers to collect them.



3. Parents as Partners

We hope that you and your child/children will always be made to feel welcome. We want the school to be a warm and friendly place. Parents are always welcome in school and teachers are usually available to speak briefly with parents at the beginning or end of the school day. Parents' evenings are held to enable a more in depth discussion between parents and teachers. A detailed report is sent home at the end of the school year describing the child's progress in relation to the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Parents in School ~ we offer regular 'workshops' and 'drop in' sessions, inviting parents into class with their child. Letters are sent with details of these events nearer the time.

Information leaflets ~ each half term, the class teacher will send home a newsletter to inform parents about the topics and learning intentions for all areas.

School website ~ this provides a range of information about the school, such as school policies, school events, term dates and celebration of children's achievements.

Twitter ~ we regularly upload pictures and information about your child's class on our school Twitter page @lowerkersal

Text service ~ teachers will regularly send texts to parents to inform them of any important events, dates, reminders or any achievements that your child may have achieved in school. Please keep the office updated with your current contact details.

Reading books and homework ~ it is essential that all the pre-reading skills are in place before any child is launched on to a reading scheme. A great deal of time will be spent developing these pre-reading skills during your child's time in the Nursery. To support us with this we operate a weekly Nursery book loan where your child will be free to choose from a wide range of books for you to 'share read' with them. In Reception, the children will be given reading books to take home weekly. These reading books are matched to the child's individual reading ability. Homework in the Early Years is handed out weekly and this will be to support and consolidate what they have been learning about in class.

4. General Information

School uniform

Lower Kersal Primary School has a school uniform and all children are encouraged to wear them when they start school. Our uniform is:

- Plain grey skirts, pinafores, trousers, shorts
- Yellow polo shirts.
- Royal blue school sweatshirt or cardigan
- Black shoes not trainers (any sensible footwear)
- Summer dresses in blue and white and grey shorts can be worn in the Summer months



Please enquire at our school office if you need advice as to where to get a school uniform from. Items such as yellow polo shirts, skirts, trousers, shorts and shoes can be bought from any large supermarkets or shops such as Asda, Tesco or Matalan.

We also ask parents to provide a bag with spare clothes inside it in case of any accidents and this can be kept on your child's peg. All items of clothing must be clearly labelled with your child's name in order to avoid any confusion. For safety reasons, no jewellery should be worn in school. If children have pierced ears, stud earrings may be worn, only if parents take responsibility for them. They must be removed for PE sessions.

5. Attendance & punctuality

Parents of children absent from school should telephone the school office giving a reason for the absence. Regular and punctual attendance at school are habits your child should be encouraged to form. Arriving at school for 8.55am is very important. Children who arrive AFTER 9am are classed as late and unfortunately this is recorded as an unauthorised absence. Hence, a child who comes in to school late each day would be recorded as being off for a long period of time even though they were in school. Unexplained absences or regular lateness may be picked up by the Education Welfare Officer who regularly checks school registers.



6. Safety

The safety and security of everyone in school is vital. All parents and visitors who wish to gain access to school during the day must enter by the main entrance which is controlled by an electronic system and report to the school office. All visitors to school are required to sign the visitor's book and wear a security badge. **From 9.05am to 3.15pm, the playground gates are locked to ensure the safety of all in school.** Access to the school can only be gained by coming in the front entrance of the building.

It is most important that the school is kept up to date with changes of address and work/contact numbers. All changes of contact details must be given to the office as soon as possible.



Accidents

All accidents are logged in an accident book and we will let you know if your child has had a minor fall at the end of the school day. If a serious accident occurs we will contact you or your emergency contact number whilst treatment is being arranged.

Photographs

The school is involved in a wide range of activities with outside agencies. On occasions we are asked to permit photographs of the children to be used in publicity material and on websites. Pictures of groups of pupils at work in school are used on the schools website and within school. Parents should note that children are not identified by name. **If a parent does not wish for a child to be photographed in school we need a record of this.** At the start of the Nursery year we send out a consent form requesting your permission for us to take photographs of your child. It is very important that you complete this form annually to ensure that we comply with your wishes.

Internet safety

The school has a policy for the acceptable and safe use of the internet by pupils and staff. Access to the internet is restricted by the Local Authority so parents can be assured that children can only access approved websites. Parents who do not wish a child to access the internet as part of the curriculum should make a staff member aware.

7. What do I do If.....? (FAQ's)

My child has a Medical Appointment:

As much as possible we do ask that medical appointments are made out of school time. However we do understand that this is not always possible. If your child has to be taken out of school for a medical appointment, the school must be advised by either notifying your child's teacher or the staff in the office. When you come to collect your child for your appointment, we ask for security reasons that you come to the office first.

My child is absent from School through illness:

If your child is absent from school through illness it is important that you inform the school on the first day of illness. If the school is not informed the absence will be marked as unauthorised.

My child needs to take medicines during the school day:

School is only able to give children Prescribed Medication. This needs to be taken to the School Office and a form must be completed.

My child has a medical condition or allergy:

It is essential that school is aware of any condition or need so that we can keep your child as safe and well as possible. Any child with asthma **MUST** have an inhaler in school. It must be clearly labelled by the doctor with the name, dosage and a form must be completed at the School Office.

My child has head lice:

The school office has useful information, courtesy of the School Nurse, on how to deal with cases of head lice. Do not be embarrassed to let your child's class teacher know if your child has head lice, it is very common. We will not disclose your child's name, but a general class letter will be sent out to make parents aware of the situation, so that they can treat their children too.

I want to take my child out of School for a Holiday:

You will need to apply for authorised leave which needs to be agreed by the headteacher. A form needs to be completed which can be requested at the school office. Please note – school applies a policy of not authorising holidays during term time.

Children arriving late:

If your child is arriving late for school please accompany them to the school office as the doors to the foundation stage will be locked at 9:05am.

8. What happens next?

Starting Nursery

In September your child will begin a phased entry into Nursery and school life. They will either be allocated a morning or afternoon place. This period of time is to allow them to adjust to new rules, routines and expectations. Once all the children are settled we will begin to extend their school day. This is initially done with inviting them to stay for lunch time for a couple of days and then introduce them in to full time school life. There is no time scale set for this as each child is different and we take this in to account. Parents must be aware that an allocation of a place in the Nursery gives **no automatic guarantee** of a place in the Reception class. Admission arrangements for the Reception class will begin with letters being sent to your home address. They require completing as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Starting Reception

In September your child will begin a full time place in the Reception class.

Completing forms

It is very important that all information forms are completed **BEFORE** your child starts school in September. This ensures that we have all of the correct information so your child can get the most out of school life. These forms will all be included in your start pack. If you are unsure please ask your class teacher or at the front office.



What my child should bring to school

- A complete change of clothes to be stored in a bag on their peg (underwear, socks/tights, skirt/trousers, t-shirt)
- A pair of wellies to keep at school (useful in the rain but also when playing outside)
- A coat, hat, gloves.
- A sunhat/cap. If the weather is hot sun cream should be applied before coming to School.
- A reading book bag (these can be purchased from the school office)
- Nappies and wipes (if appropriate.) (These are stored in a named bag on their peg.)

Most importantly, please make sure everything is labelled with your child's name!

We hope that this booklet has provided you with some useful information and that many of your questions about our Early Years have been answered.

Please remember that we are happy to speak to you at any time. If you have any questions, or are unsure about anything, please do come and see us. We will be very happy to help.

We look forward to seeing you and your child on their first day here.

