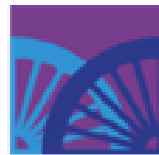


The Parkgate Academy



THE PARKGATE ACADEMY
LABOR OMNIA VINCIT

Information for parents and carers of
children starting Foundation 1.



“The quality of teaching and learning in the nursery class is excellent.”

“The quality of the provision in the nursery class is excellent. Teachers and teaching assistants have very high expectations of what children can achieve.”

May 2019



Welcome to Foundation 1

Foundation 1 (F1) is a safe, bright and lively place divided into smaller workshop areas e.g. construction area, sand and water areas, writing area, reading area, home corner. We also have an outdoor area which we use daily for free-flow indoor and outdoor learning, where children choose where they would like to learn. The Foundation 1 unit is also sometimes called 'Nursery'.

The unit houses up to 50 children in each session (morning or afternoon), aged 3-4 years old. The nursery is run by a class teacher with the support of two teaching assistants. We also offer 30 hours childcare provision for eligible parents, plus wrap around care. Please contact the school the school office for further information. 01623 860584.



Mr Reece Davy
Principal



Mrs Amanda Clifford
Nursery and Pre-school lead



Mrs Janet Connolly
Teaching Assistant



Chloe Hunter
Teaching Assistant

Our mission statement

Our mission statement is reflected through our logo and corporate identity.



THE PARKGATE ACADEMY
LABOR OMNIA VINCIT

“Hard work conquers everything.”

- ◆ We strive for our children to develop a strong work ethic, become reflective, resourceful, resilient, be good at building and forming relationships, as well as possessing the ability to take calculated risks in life.
- ◆ Children’s safety and health will always be our main priority.
- ◆ Our curriculum is based around the key skills for each subject, where ICT and English are common threads throughout, as well as enterprising skills such as developing leadership roles, teamwork and preparing children for economic wellbeing.
- ◆ Our motto reflects our ambitions that all our children develop values: spiritually, morally, socially, culturally, as team players and as young leaders.



A Day in Foundation 1

The morning session runs from 8:30am - 11.30 a.m.

The afternoon session runs from 12.15pm- 3.15 p.m.

All day children 8.30am - 3.15pm

In Foundation 1, are able to offer 15 and 30 hours funded education. In addition to this, we are now able to offer wrap around care for any parent who wishes. The cost is £13 for a supervised school lunch and play, plus an extra 3 hours of education.

At the beginning of each day you all the staff meet the children on the early years play area. The staff then take the children into nursery to support them taking off their coat and finding a coat peg. If you would like to speak to Mrs Clifford but would prefer a longer discussion, please make an appointment at a mutually convenient time.

Life in F1 is busy, productive and fun! Throughout the session children take part in activities of their own choosing, activities that are set up by adults, and small group activities led by an adult.

Each day there will be some short carpet sessions. These may be used for a variety of activities e.g. story, number, singing. We also have a free-flow environment which allows children, at times, to learn both indoors and outdoors throughout the session.

At the end of the session, we will bring the children to the same door where you left them and we will then dismiss the children one by one.

All staff need to know who is collecting your child, please let them know in advance if this will be somebody different. Children must be collected by someone over 16 years of age, who is known to staff.





The Early Years Foundation Stage

How will my child be learning in Foundation 1?



The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) has a special curriculum specifically designed for young children. It supports your child's learning and healthy development. Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through *7 areas of learning and development*.

Children should aim to 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 progress, 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 tasks are suited to your child's unique needs.

This is similar to the curriculum in primary and secondary schools, it's designed to be really flexible so that staff can follow your child's individual 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**.

Further details about the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum can be found at www.foundationyears.org.uk. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to talk to the F1 team.



Learning Outdoors

Our large outdoor space allows us to plan and deliver high quality learning on a regular basis. We utilise the playground outside the F1 classroom on a daily basis. We provide a set of wellies and waterproof coats and trousers for those children wishing to play in the mud kitchen or sand tray.

We have lots of equipment which help to develop your child's physical skills and co-ordination. The children learn to develop confidence and control of their bodies, becoming aware of the many things their body can do. The children have opportunities to climb, slide, swing, balance and travel in a range of different ways - over, under and through pieces of equipment.



Nursery Clothing

At The Parkgate Academy we expect all children to wear school uniform. School jumpers for boys and school cardigans for girls can be bought from the school office. The children can get messy when they are playing and learning. Although protective aprons are used in Nursery, we cannot promise to avoid all accidents.

School uniform consists of grey or black trousers/skirts/pinafores with black shoes. In the summer, children can wear blue and white checked dresses or grey/black shorts. White polo shirts can be worn with a grey jumper or cardigan.

Please be aware that we have a strict no jewellery policy at The Parkgate Academy. Small stud earrings and a watch are the only items permitted.



Your child will have their own peg where their coat and a bag of spare clothes, if needed, may be kept throughout the session. The children will be encouraged to find their coat for outdoor play

Clothing for All Weathers

In F1 we spend a lot of time learning outdoors, even when it is cold and a little drizzly. Your child should be provided with suitable clothing for the changing weather; a hooded coat, scarf, mittens and hat on cold days and a sun hat and sun cream on hot days (we recommend applying a long lasting sun screen before Nursery).



Drinks and Snacks

In F1, children are offered a piece of fruit each day as part of the National Fruit Scheme. Your child will also be entitled to free milk, or water if they prefer. We have snack time as a group to develop our social skills and communication skills. You're child is welcome to bring in their own water bottle which we will fill on a daily basis.



Messy Activities

In F1 we like to offer the children access to a range of activities. Often these are messy, sensory activities such as play dough, shaving foam, cornflour etc. The children participate in cooking and tasting activities on a regular basis.





Visitors, Trips and Special Events

During your child's time at Nursery we aim to provide them with a wide range of experiences.

Visitors and trips

We take every opportunity to invite visitors in to help the children learn about the world around them.

Each year we take the F1 children on a special trip out. This may be to a farm, a wildlife centre or park. On our trips, we are reliant on parent support to ensure we have the correct adult-child ratio to keep the children safe. We will always let you know in plenty of time in order for you to make arrangements to enable you to support us on the trip, should you wish.

Special Events

Throughout the year we take part in many special events which are always fun and exciting! These include Christmas concerts, sports days, dressing up days, Easter/Chinese New Year/Diwali celebrations. We like to involve parents in their child's learning as much as possible so will always let you know when we have a special event coming up!

This year, we are planning to visit White Post Farm to watch a nativity show with real donkeys and lambs and visit 'someone special!'





Parent Partnership

We always endeavour to strengthen our communication between school and home. We strive to communicate through weekly whole school newsletters and weekly homework which inform you of what your child is learning in F1 and how you can help support your child's learning at home. Throughout your child's time in F1 you will also receive information about your child's next steps in their learning and how you can help your child to achieve these at home.



We hold parent consultation evenings in the Autumn and Spring terms to discuss your child's progress. This is followed by a written report in the summer term which explains your child's achievements through the year.

In order to share your child's learning journey, we use an app called 'Class Dojo'. There is a portfolio in which we collect examples of your child's wow moments. You will be given log in details so you can access this at home.

ClassDojo is also a home school communication system in which staff (including Mr Davy) can post messages or letters to parents keeping them up to date. Parents and staff can also message each other privately. All you need to do is to provide myself with your email address or phone number and we will send you an invitation to join.



F1 Transition

Home Visit

Two members of staff will visit you and your child at home for about 20 minutes before your child starts nursery. The purpose of the visit is for the staff to speak to you about your child and answer any questions or queries you may have. They will also be able to observe your child in their home environment.



Visits to Nursery

Before your child's first term in F1, you will have the opportunity to visit us in nursery. This will provide an opportunity for your child to explore the F1 unit and meet the staff who will be working with them. We ask that parents/carers stay with their child during the visit as this may be the first time your child has visited the unit.





How can you help your child?

It's really important that children learn to talk and listen so they can communicate with people around them, learn, make friends and have fun. Parents are the best people to help their children learn – they know them best, they care about them most and want to give them the best start in life.

Helping your child learn to talk can be as easy as you talking, listening and playing with them whenever you can. Lots of children struggle to develop their communication skills – if you know what to expect, you can make sure your child is on the right track.

At 3 Years your child will be starting to...

- Use about 500 to 700 words
- Enjoy make-believe play, e.g. dressing-up
- Follow longer instructions with three key words e.g., 'find the cup and put it in Kim's bag'
- Use sentences of around 4 or more words
- Use little grammar words like 'I, me, a, the,' and putting 'ed' endings on doing words e.g. 'We walked' but will use immature grammar sometimes e.g. 'shutted'
- Talk about things that happened in the past and what might happen in the future
- Ask lots of 'what', 'where' and 'why' questions



Helpful hints from a child's perspective...

- I love make-believe games and really enjoy it when you play these with me.
- Say the words to me how you would say them. I can copy when I am ready but don't get me to say them back to you now. If I say 'I buyed the book', say back to me 'yes you bought the book'
- Because my language is developing so much, I might start to stumble on some words. This is ok, just give me lots of time to talk and try not to draw attention to the stumbles.
- I feel really good when you look at me when I am talking. It lets me know that what I am saying is important.
- Read my favourite book to me over and over again.
- Encourage me to join in and say some of the words to 'pretend read'.



Frequently Asked Questions

What will my child need for Nursery?

Your child will need to come to school in school uniform and black school shoes. They will need a coat each day as we spend part of the session learning outside. Your child will also need a sun hat in summer or hat and mittens in winter as we learn outside in all weathers! You may also wish to send your child with some spare clothes in case of any accidents. These can be brought in a bag which can be kept on their peg throughout the session. Please ensure all of these items are clearly named. Details about these items can be found in the welcome pack.

School book bags are available for you to buy from the school office. We try to promote the children's independence by asking them to choose their own books to take home. We do ask that if your child wants to take a book home, they have a book bag to make sure they don't get wet or become damaged.

Meet and greet

At the start and end of each session, we ask that you meet us on the Nursery playground, where we will meet and dismiss each child individually. On your visit, we will be able to show you where this is if you are unsure.

If my child attends Nursery, will they automatically get a place in school?

A place in our F1 class **does not** guarantee your child a place in full-time school. You will need to apply for a school place using the Nottinghamshire County council website.

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-admissions/apply-for-a-school-place>



What do I do if.....?

.....my child is late for Nursery?

If, on the rare occasion that you may be late, please ensure that you register your child at the office. A member of staff will then take your child to nursery.

.....my child was sick/had diarrhoea in the night?

Sickness and diarrhoea are extremely infectious. The **48 hour** rule applies. The advice of the Health Protection Agency is that your child should be kept away from school for 48 hours after the last bout of vomiting or diarrhoea. Remind your child about the importance of hand washing and show him/her how to do it properly.

.....my child is not well enough to come to school?

Please ring the school office on 01623 860584 if your child is ill. *All* children in school have an attendance target of **97%**. Please see the attendance leaflet for more information.

.....I've been unavoidably delayed and may be late picking my child up from school?

Don't panic! If you have not arrived by the end of the school day your child will be supervised until you arrive. If you are running late please try to inform the school office on 01623 860584 so that we can reassure your child.

.....I have a particular concern about my child?

All the F1 staff are very approachable and want the best for your child. Try to see Mrs Clifford at the **END** of the session after the children have been dismissed. The beginning of the day is very busy as learning begins straight away. Alternatively, an appointment can be made with Mrs Clifford at an agreeable time, if you would like a more in depth chat.

....I need to take my child out of school?

Please speak to Mr Davy, our school principal or Mrs Leivers, our school attendance officer, who will advise you. Please be aware that the Trust discourage *any* holidays taken during school time.



Contact details

Head teacher: Mr Reece Davy

Teacher in Charge of Pre-school and Foundation 1: Mrs Amanda Clifford

Attendance and admissions: Mrs Elaine Leivers

Name of School: The Parkgate Academy

Address: Whinney Lane, New Ollerton, Newark, Nottinghamshire . NG22 9TH

Telephone number: 01623 860584

Email: office@theparkgateacademy.co.uk

Website: www.parkgateacademy.co.uk

Instagram: [parkgatefs1](https://www.instagram.com/parkgatefs1)

All classes in school have their own Instagram account that provide an update of their weekly activities.