

Welcome

to



Great Sankey Primary School



'Together We Learn and Grow'

Welcome

We are delighted to welcome you and your child to Great Sankey Primary School, and we hope that you are as excited about joining us in September as we are of having you as part of our GSP team.

A great deal of information can be found in this transition pack which will support and guide you towards your child's September start. If you have any further queries or questions, then please do not hesitate to contact school on 01925 728176 or via email

admin@greatsankeyprimary.tcat.uk.com We also have a vast amount of information on our website: www.greatsankeyprimary.co.uk





Our Curriculum

Our Early Years curriculum is designed around the 7 Areas of Learning. These 7 areas include the knowledge, skills and understanding which young children should have acquired by the time they reach the end of their reception year.

Each day, we stimulate children's interests, respond to each child's emerging needs and guide their development through warm, positive interactions coupled with secure routines for play and learning. As children grow older and develop their skills throughout the reception year, we use more direct teaching and modelling. These strategies help us to focus on teaching the essential skills and knowledge in specific areas of learning so that children develop the skills and confidence required to prepare them for the National Curriculum.

Our curriculum is bespoke to Great Sankey Primary School. We teach the majority of the curriculum through high quality texts. Each half term we select 2 wonderful children's books and plan activities to develop children's love of reading, writing skills and mathematical knowledge. We also plan for our indoor and outdoor provision areas which promote creativity and interest in the world around them. Phonics and Maths teaching also takes place daily.





Homework

Homework in the early years centres around the core skill of reading as this is one of the essential competencies children will need to be successful in their learning journey.

We ask that children have regular reading experiences at home and that as well as having stories frequently read to them, they also have the opportunity to read their own school reading scheme books, which will be sent home early into the autumn term, daily or at least 3 times per week. Research has shown that practising the skill of reading little and often in the early years is the best approach to take. More guidance will be shared with how best to support your child with reading once they have started school.

In addition to their reading books, the children will have their 'key word keyrings' to practise, along with some phonic sounds to work on at home. Further information will be sent out to you once your child has settled into their new routines in the first half term.

As a school, we also purchase licences to a maths program called 'Ten Town'. This is a fun, online platform which helps to support your child in learning basic number through games, songs and characters. The login will be shared with you during the first half term so that you can access it from home should you wish to.





The School Day Timings

- School gates open at 8.30am
- Entrance into the school building via the playground / EYFS outdoor area is from 8.45 – 8.55. Reception parents are invited to wait around the wooden fencing area for members of the Reception team to come out and greet you and your child at 8.45. We ask that you do not block the entrance into the playground to allow other families a clear access.
- School starts at 8.45 prompt and the playground gate is locked at 8.55 to ensure the security and safety of the children inside. If you arrive after this time, your child will need to go through the main entrance and a member of the admin staff will accompany them to their classroom. Please try to get your child in school on time.
- Lunchtime is 11.45 - 12.45. The children will have until 12.20 to eat their lunch in the hall. This can be a school lunch, or a packed lunch brought from home.
- End of the day is 3.15 and pick-up is from the playground / EYFS outdoor area. Reception staff will hand your child over to you at this time.





School uniform

We are very proud of our GSP uniform, and it is often commented upon positively by others. All children wear a uniform to instil a sense of pride in their school and parents and carers are asked to support this request.

It is our school policy that all children wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in a school-organised event outside normal hours.

Our uniform can be purchased from two suppliers:

<https://www.sg-embroidery.co.uk/>

<https://www.touchline-embroidery.com/shop-by-school>

School ties can be purchased from the school office.



Our suppliers stock grey cardigans and jumpers with the school logo. However, plain grey jumpers and cardigans are acceptable if parents wish to have a more cost-effective option.

We have a choice of our beautiful, bespoke kilt, available from the suppliers, or you can opt for a plain grey pinafore to wear. Grey trousers and grey tailored school shorts are also part of our accepted uniform. In the summer, some opt to wear a red and white gingham dress.



Children also wear collared cotton shirts, not polo shirts unless agreed with the Headteacher.

Children must wear black, sensible shoes for school and not trainers unless it is their PE day.



Our suppliers stock the coloured PE T-shirts with our school logo on them. Purchasing a plain coloured T-shirt from elsewhere is also acceptable.

In PE, children wear plain black shorts in the warmer months or plain black jogging bottoms or plain black leggings when it gets cooler. These can be complemented with a plain black sports jacket or black hooded jumper which are available with our school, badge and your child's initials from our two stockists if required. As an alternative, they can wear their school jumper with them. We challenge PE kit with designs or in bright colours not in keeping with our policy.

The children will need to wear black pumps or trainers.

When it is your child's PE day, they can come to school in their PE kit.

There is a detailed policy around school uniform available on our website.

To support parents with the rising cost of living, we operate a pre-loved uniform shop which is run by some of our wonderful parents who are part of our 'Friends of GSP' group. Items of our school uniform are available to purchase for £1.





Communication

A digital system called Arbor is our main form of communication with our parents; information will be given to you around how to set this up. We use Arbor to send emails and letters as well as for you to be able to make payments for any school visits and school lunches as your child moves through the school.

Each Friday, you will receive a digital newsletter via email containing information about what's been going on in school, about upcoming events, reminders, and things to be aware of. We would really encourage you to read this so that you don't miss out! These are also shared on our Twitter (X) and Facebook school pages and are on our website to refer to.

As well as Arbor, we also love to use Twitter (X) to share our learning, photographs, and other information. Both Reception classes have their own Twitter pages [@Cherrytreeclass](#) and [@lime_class](#) as well as having a whole school page [@GtSankeyPrimary](#)

Each class in our school has access to Google Classroom and your child will be set up with a login and this will be shared with you in the first term of Reception. We use Google Classroom to post useful learning resources, homework and reminders from the teachers.

Despite all of this wonderful technology, nothing beats a face to face conversation so staff are available to speak with at the end of the school day or if you would need a lengthier meeting then please do not hesitate to email us at admin@greatsankeyprimary.tcat.uk.com or ring 01925 728176 to speak with our admin team and the teacher will then make contact with you to arrange a suitable appointment for you to meet. Our school office is open between 8am and 4pm.

We formally report on your child's academic progress three times per year through termly parents' evenings and a detailed end of year written report. However, if we need to speak to you regarding any matter before these dates, then we will invite you in to meet with the class teacher to see how we can work together to further support your child. Parents can also request to meet with the teacher if they are concerned about anything regarding their child's progress.



Attendance & Reporting an Absence

Regular attendance at school is vital to help children achieve and get the best possible start in life. Our aim is for every child to achieve attendance of **96%** or above.

Parents can support regular school attendance by:

- Making sure their child leaves for school early enough to arrive at school on time (8.45).
- Supporting and encouraging their child by attending parent's evenings and other events.
- Working in partnership with the school to resolve any issues that are impacting on their child's attendance.
- Making any medical appointments outside of school hours whenever possible.
- Not taking children out of school for holidays in term time or for other unnecessary reasons. All holidays taken in term time are unauthorised unless deemed an 'exceptional circumstance'.

We do recognise that children get ill, particularly when they first start school and are mixing with lots of new people. If your child is so unwell that they cannot attend school, then please contact us:

- **By ringing the school on 01925 728176 between 8am and 9am, and selecting option 1 (report a pupil absence)**
- **By emailing the school to report an absence on attendance@greatsankeyprimary.tcat.uk.com before 9am.**

Planned absences for medical appointments, holidays, special family events etc must be requested prior to the absence (we ask for 2-weeks if possible) by completing the paper forms which are held in the school office.



Enrichment

At GSP, we are very proud of the many enrichment opportunities we offer to our children. As your child moves through our school, they will get the chance to become more involved in areas such as live performances, school council, prefect roles, residentials, visits and after school clubs to name but a few.

Whilst they are just starting out on their educational journey, we recognise that many of our younger children will need time to adjust to their new environment and to the new people surrounding them. However, as they become more settled into their new routines, more opportunities will be opened up to them. In the spring and summer terms, we will enhance their educational experiences by taking them on external day visits as well as opening up selected enrichment clubs to them. Then, as they move through the school, they will be able to take part in many more opportunities.

