

# Starting School Brochure



## Welcome to Eagle Early Years

Whether this is your first child, only child, eldest child or you are used to the school way of life, starting school is a very big step, both for you and your child. So a happy start is very important.

You are your child's first and best teacher and by learning from you, school and home will be able to work together to form a lasting partnership. This will help to ensure that your child's learning continues to be as successful in school as it has been at home.

At Eagle we pride ourselves on our caring family atmosphere where each child is nurtured and valued, so please make sure that any concerns are brought to our attention. Remember that we are here for the parents too.

This booklet should hopefully answer any immediate questions, but feel free to ring or pop in with any other issues.



### The Team

We have a happy team of staff with many years of early year's classroom experience between them.

Our Early Years Department is made up of:

- Sarah Luddington (Early Years Leader)
- Donna Egan (Early Years Supervisor)
- Chris Leach (Early Years Teaching Assistant)
- Debbie Smith (Early Years Childcare Assistant)
- Jessica Kemp (Early Years Childcare Assistant)

## Snack time and drinks

We encourage our children to have a healthy snack to help them feel full and energised through the morning. Whilst you can bring something from home and they will quickly learn to put this in the right place every morning, we will also have fresh fruit on offer every day. Please let us know of any allergies.

Your child is encouraged to bring a water bottle every day, which they will have free access to during their child-initiated learning time. They will also be able to have free school milk until their 5th birthday; after this time you can choose to purchase milk through Cool Milk.

## Lunch Time

All infant aged children will be entitled to a free hot school lunch. Please ensure that you have registered with Good Lookin Cookin at <https://www.goodlookincookin.co.uk/>. We will send you an email during the Summer Holidays when it time to do this.



If you do not wish your child to have a hot lunch, please provide a labelled lunchbox containing a reasonable amount of food that they will eat. We will encourage them to eat what you have provided, so it is best not to pop in lots of items to choose from, just what you want them to eat.

All our children eat together and it is lovely to see them using the table manners that you have taught them at home. They will be supervised and encourage them if they do not eat some of their food, but unfortunately we are unable to offer alternatives.

## Toilet Time

We have our own toilets next to the classroom which the children can access at any time. Please prepare your child for school by encouraging them to take care of their own personal hygiene. They should be able to wipe themselves, flush the toilet and wash their hands independently.

Please also put some spare underwear in your child's bag in case of accidents. It is quite normal for any child to have an occasional accident and we don't make a fuss. Although, do let us know of any medical conditions that may affect this.



## Our Learning Journey

Throughout the year we will carefully observe your child to understand their learning journey through the Reception year. You are encouraged to contribute to this by sharing with us photos or comments about their experiences at home during this time.



We think it is important that you have a feel for what happens in the classroom



too. It also helps to start conversations about what happened at school and encourage even more talk-time and active listening. So we use a free app called Class Dojo which lets you watch the class story and see photos every now and then of the fun activities we get up to.

## Passion for Reading

Reading is a very important skill and at Eagle School we provide your child with the tools for a lifelong love of books.

Friends of Eagle School will kindly supply all children new to the school with a smart new book bag. Your child may wish to personalise this for easy identification with a badge or keyring. They will bring this to school each day and store this in their own locker.

Each child will be given reading books each week. These will support their learning of letter sounds and encourage their interest in books too. These are changed after your child has read them and we ask you to sign them as read in their reading record. When you have read with your child, you can also make comments if you would like to. The books are intended to help practise skills learnt in class and will be monitored regularly for suitability.

Other resources that we provide to work between home and school include useful word flashcards and a sound book to practise letter sounds. We teach letter sounds, the building blocks of reading and writing, through our phonics sessions using a scheme called Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised, so they should be familiar to your child. Both of these benefit from being used little and often with your child as these skills learned now last forever!



## Uniform



Our school has a uniform, which includes t-shirts, polo shirts and jumpers with our school emblem. They can be purchased from Uniform Direct on Lincoln High Street or online at <http://www.myclothing.com/>.

Other items, such as grey trousers, pinafore, skirts etc and can be bought from supermarkets etc.

Please label you child's clothing as sweatshirts and other items all look the same to us. Specialist labels are available; however writing on the label is just as effective.

Also, please provide your child with sensible shoes which can be worn on play equipment (no open toes, heels or difficult fastenings).

As our weather always keeps us on our toes, your child will need a coat which will need to be warm for chilly days and waterproof on wet days ... if the sun ever comes out, a sunhat is always advised.

It would be helpful if you could practise dressing and undressing with these items to help them to get the hang of it.

## PE Kit

Our PE T-shirts can be bought from our uniform stockists, but a light blue t-shirt from the supermarket school range is also acceptable. These must also be labelled. A pair of plimsolls or trainers will also be needed.

Your child will need suitable outdoor kit for cooler weather such as a tracksuit, hoodie and/or leggings. These can be grey, navy or black and are best purchased from high street or supermarket school ranges.

We wear our PE kit to school on the day that we have our sport lessons – this will be shared with you in our termly newsletter.





## The School Day

You can arrive at school from 8.45 onwards where a member of staff will be in the playground. The teachers will come out to greet the class after the bell has gone and this may be an ideal time to speak to your child's teacher, however please remember they will be on their way back in to start the school day.

We ask that if you arrive early, you stay with your child until 8:55 when the bell will go and your child will line up. Class 1 line up near the shelter.

Initially, saying 'bye bye' and that walk into school can be daunting for little ones - this is quite normal with new experiences and in a new environment. The team will be on hand to provide lots of support so you can trust us to use lots of techniques to distract and engage your child to help them cope with the transition. We will pop a picture on Dojo to let you know they have settled or ring you if we are at all concerned.

Your child will be ready to leave school at 3.25. We will lead out of the classroom and wait by our green hand gate to see each child out one at a time to their collecting adult. We quickly learn where you usually stand. This is also a handy time to catch the class teacher.



## Routines

In Class 1 the focus is on enjoyment in learning across a broad range of skills.

There is as much emphasis on social development for example, as there is on reading and numbers. Our teaching and learning is based on the government guidelines for the Foundation stage.

When your child enters in the morning, they will be encouraged to put their own things away and get on with play type activities. Sometimes, the group naturally want to sit as a collective and talk. We will respond to the needs and preferences of the group. Each morning however, we will all come to the carpet to listen and find out about that day's routine.



Your child will typically do English and maths activities in the morning with a topic type activity in the afternoon. These are teacher led and last for a short period depending on the level of concentration.

Other activities are also on offer for your child to do throughout the day. We supervise these play based activities which will be encouraging social skills, independent learning and reinforcement of taught skills so that we see their learning in practise.

There will also be many times when we come together as a class, such as for songs, PE or a story.

We place an emphasis on learning in the outdoor environment and your child will be able to access our outdoor classroom at all times so please ensure that they are dressed appropriately.



Some days we have a break from the routine. We might go out and about or have a theme days such as “Yellow and Green” day at the beginning of spring.

We like to think that your child will look back and have some lovely memories of their early school days.

## Keeping in Touch

We like to inform you of how your child is progressing through parent's evenings, stay and play sessions and our yearly report, which includes their End of Foundation Stage learning outcomes.

There are also regular 'sharing' assemblies where children share their achievements with family and friends. We do hope that you will be able to come to some of these.

If we have any concerns along the way, we will of course let you know and hope that you will do the same. We are all parents, so we know exactly where you are coming from.

We are always here for a quick chat at the end of the day or you can email [enquiries@eagle.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@eagle.sch.uk) or call 01522 868354 with any questions.



See you soon!

