



Welcome to Foundation Stage Two



at

Tankersley St Peter's Primary School *"A Love of learning developed in a Christian Environment"*

Tankersley St Peter's C.E. (A) Primary
Westwood New Road



**Tankersley
Barnsley
South Yorkshire
S75 3DA**

T: 01226 742357
admin@tankersleypetersprimary.org.uk

www.tankersleypetersprimary.org.uk

"A love of learning developed in a Christian environment"

Diocese of Sheffield | Barnsley MBC

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Tankersley St Peter's Reception Class. Although it is still part of the Foundation Stage, we understand that the move into the Reception Class may seem a little daunting for the children and parents alike. There is a lot to remember but we hope to ensure that the transition into Reception is as easy and worry free as possible. We want your children to feel confident, happy and secure when they start school and hope that the information given here answers some of the questions or concerns that you may have. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to ask.

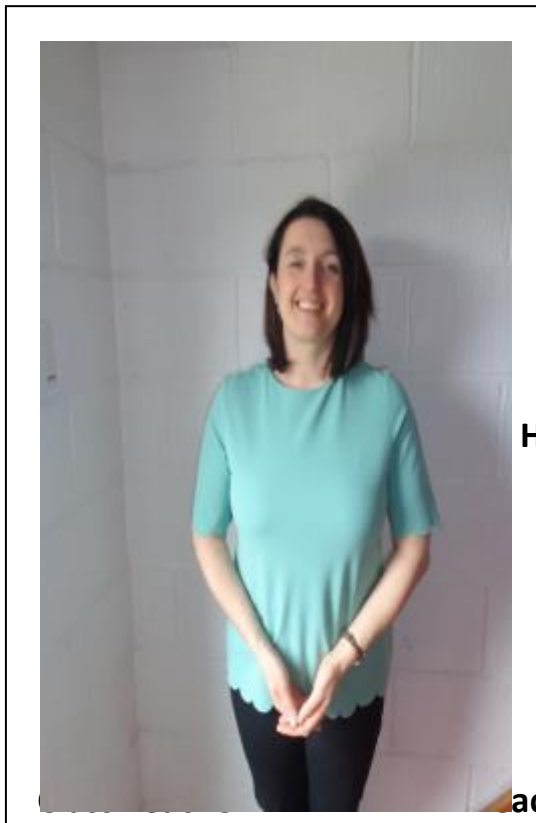
Mrs Hartley
Reception Class Teacher



www.tankersleypetersprimary.org.uk

Who will be working with my child?

Meet the Reception staff...



Melanie Hartley



Tracey Hendry

Henry

aching Assistant

What will my child be learning?



The Foundation Stage Curriculum

Throughout the year, the children will learn new skills, acquire new knowledge and demonstrate their knowledge through 7 areas of learning and development. The 7 areas are split into 2 sections, the prime areas and the specific areas.

The prime areas are the most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning. They are:

- Communication and Language
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development

As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in 4 specific areas. These are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

The areas above are taught through play. The children will learn by playing and exploring, through being active and through creative and critical thinking. All of these things will take place both indoors and outdoors.

How will my child learn?

Some of the work is organised in topics. However, we believe that wherever possible children should lead their own learning at this stage. During their time in school some of the children's learning will be structured play as it is in the Nursery. There will also be periods of teacher directed learning.

The time spent on this more formal learning will increase through the year to ensure that children are ready for Key Stage One.

Carpet time

During carpet time the children come together as a whole class. During carpet time children might listen to a story, sing songs or be introduced to the next session. Carpet time gives children the opportunity to come together as a class and it helps children to develop their concentration.



Small group time

Children will also learn when working in small groups. Children work on adult led activities to meet their needs and develop their skills.



Child learning

This is the time of the day where the children choose what activities/resources to explore. During this time children will access the activities that have been set up for them to learn through play. It is during this time that adults observe and take note of children's progress to extend the child's skills and knowledge, based on their individual interests.



Phonics

Once the children are settled, each day they will take part in a phonics session to meet their reading needs. Children will be grouped according to their reading abilities and the group will learn new sounds, learn to segment and blend words with sounds they already know. They will learn to use some sounds to spell words. We follow the Read Write Inc phonics scheme. Please see the leaflet for more information.



The daily routine



What do I do in the morning?

The school doors will open at 8.45am and you are asked to say goodbye to your child at the classroom door, so that they can enter the Reception classroom with staff.

It would be helpful at this point for you to give your child a nice, quick goodbye as this will help him or her to settle for a great day of learning. The children will place their belongings (coats, water bottles, PE kit and lunch box) in the appropriate places, select their dinner choice and choose a table top activity.

At 8.55am, when they hear the song, the children will make their way onto the carpet for the register. If you are late (after 9.10am) please bring your child down to the school office.

What does my child do at lunchtime?

Children may bring a packed lunch or have a school dinner.

A menu can be found on the school website and a copy can be found by the classroom. Children select whether they would like a school dinner (the choice on the menu), a grab and go (a sandwich made in school), a special (pasta and sauce – Thursdays and Tuesdays only) or a packed lunch from home. It would be really useful if you could have a quick chat with your child about what they would like for their lunch. This way they will be able to choose more easily when they are asked after the attendance register. At the start of lunchtime, the children are given a wristband to indicate their choice of meal.

What do I do at home time?

The school day finishes at 3.30pm and you may wait for your child in the playground, outside the Reception classroom. The children will be given to the appropriate adult and any significant issues/concerns from the day will be discussed. If anyone other than the usual adult is going to collect your child please notify your child's teacher verbally, in writing or in the case of emergencies, through the school office. There is a form available for you to list friends/relatives that may regularly collect your child. We will not hand your child over to anyone who we are not authorised to.





Uniform and PE kit

What uniform do I need to get for my child?

The children will need to have shoes and outdoor coats that they are able to fasten and unfasten themselves. We encourage independence at all times. Children are not allowed to wear jewellery, make up or nail varnish at school and children with long hair should wear it tied back.

Please ensure **all** of your child's belongings are named with their full name. Uniform is available from school trends (www.schooltrendsonline.com).

School uniform is:

GIRLS

White Polo Shirt/blouse
Red School Sweatshirt/Cardigan
Grey Skirt or Pinafore Dress and grey tights
/white socks
Red Summer School Dress and white socks
Grey Trousers
Black sensible school shoes

BOYS

White Polo Shirt/shirt
Red School Sweatshirt
Grey Trousers
Grey School Shorts for the summer
Grey/dark socks
Black sensible school shoes

Children will need a PE Kit

This should be brought to school on a Monday and taken home for washing on Fridays.

Black or red Shorts
Plain White T-Shirt or Polo shirt
School PE Bag
PE pumps

EVERYTHING MUST BE NAMED CLEARLY

Book bags

Children will need a book bag; these can be purchased from the school shop. It is important that this is brought to school daily so that the children can take home their reading books and any letters that are sent home. Book bags will be left in the 'book bag box' inside the classroom.



Water bottles

Please make sure that your child has a water bottle that is freshly filled each day. We will encourage children to drink **water** throughout the day. Water bottles need to be clearly named with your child's full name. Water bottles will be placed in the water bottle box in the classroom.



Will my child need a snack?

We provide a healthy snack each day in the Reception class continuing the practice of the Nursery. The fruit and vegetables are provided under the 'School Fruit and Vegetables' scheme introduced by the government, which provides a piece of fruit or vegetable for each child in Foundation Stage and KS1 free of charge.



Can my child have milk?

Children can have the opportunity to have a drink in the morning. If your child does not want milk, they can have a drink of water. You will need to order milk, the easiest way to do so is through the website www.coolmilk.com, alternatively you can complete a form found on the school website.

Bun day

On a Wednesday the children are invited to buy a bun at the cost of 20p. Please bring in 20p and add your child's name to the bun list.

Piggy Bank

In the Foundation Stage and Key Stage One classes we ask for a voluntary contribution of 50p per week. This is used to buy dressing up clothes, play dough, cooking ingredients etc.



How can I help my child at home?



Reading

Phonics

Children learn to read by segmenting the sounds in a word. Children will take part in a daily phonics lesson. You can encourage your child to work out words by looking carefully at the sounds.

Reading books

At first the children will bring home a wordless picture book to share with you. You can discuss the story and the characters. As the children settle into the routines, I will begin to assess their knowledge of letters and sounds and the children will bring home a book that is the appropriate level. Reading should be an enjoyable and positive experience for you both. We encourage children to read frequently at home so they become confident readers and enjoy books. In addition we also have a home-school reading incentive whereby the children will be rewarded for reading at home. This will be monitored using the home-school reading records. Books are changed on a Friday and they will need to be placed in the 'book change box'.

Reading in the environment

Remember that words are not just in books! Encourage your child to take notice of words on cereal packets, at the shops, in the streets, on the bus etc.

Sharing books

As well as the reading books that the children bring home it is important to share a range of different books with your child. Books are fun and can help your child to learn new skills and words. As well as writing about the books sent home you might also like to tell us about other books that you enjoy reading together in your child's yellow reading journal.



How can I help my child at home?



Writing

Phonics

As well as learning to read during phonics lessons children will also learn to spell words using the sounds that they know. At first children will write just the simple sounds but as they progress they will learn to write some simple words using their sounds. You can support your child to spell words using the sounds that they know by playing different games. For example children might want to spell words using fridge magnets, words blocks.

Writing at home

Young children start mark making with pens and pencils as their first step to writing. They will begin by drawing pictures and then as they learn some sounds they may attempt to write some words. This progresses to trying to write their own name. Let them see you write by slowly forming letters, your child will begin to understand that there is a correct way to form them. Children find it easier if you show them the lower case letters at first. You can also support children to write their own labels, notices, cards etc. Some children find holding a pen or pencil difficult. Their fine motor skills may develop later. Give them lots of opportunities to use their arms with activities such as climbing or throwing balls, and using toys such as puzzles, pegs and boards and play dough will help too. As children begin to write you can help by giving them different real life reasons to write e.g. writing lists, cards, postcards etc. Children should be encouraged to 'have a go' at spelling words. Rather than becoming reliant on asking for spellings they should use the sounds they know to make their own attempt.

Letter formation

a b c d e
f g h i j k
l m n o p
q r s t u
v w x y z



How can I help my child at home?



Maths

Maths is used in lots of everyday situations. You can support your child's mathematical development in different ways:

Stories

Lots of stories involve numbers, you can discuss these with your child e.g. Snow White, The Three Little Pigs etc.

Rhymes

There are lots of number rhymes that you can sing or find on the internet. Talk about the numbers in the rhyme or song. Some good examples include; 'One, two, three, four, five,' 'One, two, buckle my shoe,' 'Five currant buns,' 'Five little speckled frog.' There are lots more!

Games

Many games involve using numbers. Children often practise recognising numbers and saying them aloud through games such as snakes and ladders. They also practise counting and recognising a number through games such as dominoes. Many children's games also involve shape. You can even invent your own games to play!

Everyday Maths

Talk about maths wherever possible. Playing in the sand, water, role-play and imaginative play all provide opportunities for maths. You might want to count as you lay the table or put biscuits onto a plate. You can also look at the numbers on houses or on a computer keyboard.

Writing numbers

When your child is ready they can be shown how to write numbers. Children can trace the shape of the numbers and make numbers in different places e.g. in the sand. It is important that numbers are formed correctly from the start to ensure that children don't get into bad habits.



How can I help my child at home?

To ensure that your child is ready for school you can make sure that they can:

- Use the toilet independently.
- Get dressed and undressed themselves.
- Tidy up after they have used something.
- Recognise their own name.
- Share toys and equipment.
- Handle a pencil.
- Listen to others, looking at the person who is talking.
- Follow simple instructions.
- Practise counting to 10.

Where possible, encourage children to be independent. The more prepared they are to eat their food independently, get dressed independently and generally help themselves, the more confident they will feel and hopefully this will help the settling in process.



Other information

Absence from school

Please make sure that you inform the school office if your child is unable to attend school due to illness. After a bout of sickness or upset tummy, your child should remain at home for 48 hours. We do not authorize holidays during term time. Special leave may be authorized in exceptional circumstances. Please see the school office if you require a special leave form.

Medication

If your child has a medical condition, e.g. asthma, please obtain a consent form from the school office that will detail when medicine should be given. For other illnesses that arise we are limited as to the medicines that we can give in school and where possible we encourage medication to be given at home. If you feel that your child does need to be given medicine throughout the school day then you will also need to complete a consent form, which can be obtained from the school office.

Breakfast club

We run a breakfast club at Tankersley. This is a before school childcare provision which opens at 8.00 am.

After School Clubs

There are a number of after school clubs on offer. Information about these and how you can sign your child up, will be sent out at the start of each term.

Visits and outings

During the school year we aim to go on 3 school trips, one per term. Information about trips will be sent out to parents prior to each trip.

How can I get involved with my child's school?

We are always looking for parent/carer helpers and feel it is a very valuable experience for all. During school time we appreciate parents/carers coming in to either read with children or support with small groups. If you could spare a couple of hours each week please let the school know. We will help with the CRB process. You may also be interested in getting involved with the 'Friends of Tankersley'. This is a group of parents and other members of the community who organise fundraising and other events.

What should I do if I am worried about my child?

If you have any worries or concerns please do come and see the class teacher. Problems are better dealt with quickly. If you cannot resolve the issue with the class teacher then appointments to see the head teacher can be made via the school office.

Family support worker

For your information, we also have a family support worker in school. Trudie Crisp works with families who need support for various reasons and she can be contacted via the school office should you need support.



If you have any questions about the information here, or any other matter, please ask a member of the Foundation Stage Two team and we will be more than happy to help.