



# **2020 Pre-school New Starter Information**

**June 2020**

***“Inspiring learners, thinkers, carers, dreamers”***



**NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY**  
ACADEMY TRUST PARTNERSHIP

## **Welcome to Lings Primary School.**

Firstly, a very warm welcome to you and your family to Lings Primary School.

This pack covers the information that we hope will provide you with an insight into what to expect when your child joins our Pre-school and all the information that you need to know. If you have any questions or queries, please call the school on 01604 410369 or email us on [preschool@lingsprimary.org.uk](mailto:preschool@lingsprimary.org.uk)

Please also do look at our school blog – [Lingsprimaryblogs.net](http://Lingsprimaryblogs.net) on the 'New Intake to Pre-school 2020' page where we have added more photos, a short video and where our Early Years Team can be seen reading some lovely stories.

At Lings our motto is 'Set the Standard'. We aim to set the standard in everything we do – by behaving to a high standard, always trying our best and being a kind and caring friend. We are very much looking forward to your child joining Lings Primary School, being part of our Lings family, and helping us to 'Set the Standard' in the years to come.

***All of these plans are still subject to any further government guidance on the opening of schools in September and this guidance has been written on the assumption that schools will be open to all pupils after the summer holiday.***

**The School Leadership Team:**

Mr Mark Wilson      Head Teacher  
Mrs Emma Jacox      Deputy Head Teacher  
Mr Matt Bushell      Deputy Head Teacher

**The Early Years Team:**



Mrs Jo Tucker  
Early Years Leader and Class  
Teacher



Mrs Emily O'Hagan  
Class Teacher



Mrs Carol Crane  
Pre-School Lead



Mrs Renata Cieslik  
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Helen Henderson  
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Kelly Allen  
Early Years Practitioner



Mrs Ildi Szabo  
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Natalie Whitestone  
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Anna Webb  
Early Years Practitioner

## **Transition to Pre-school**

We plan to work with you to provide the best transition to our pre-school as possible. We have not been able to put the normal transition activities in place during the summer terms, but we feel that the revised plans will still provide a good start to your child's school life.

### **Home visits**

Instead of a home visit, we will invite you into school, with your child, during the week commencing 31<sup>st</sup> August. We will cover the paperwork and detailed discussion normally covered in this visit at school. Whilst you are talking to one of the team, your child will be able to play with another one of our team. After this discussion, you are welcome to stay in the setting for as long as you and your child would like to (you will be responsible for the supervision of your child during this time). We would encourage you to stay as long as possible and access all the resources so that your child will feel comfortable being left with us the following week.

*These arrangements are obviously all subject to any further guidance from the government. If parents and carers are not allowed to enter the school premises in September, we will telephone you at the time given for the school visit.*

### **Play and Stay Sessions**

During week commencing 7th September, we will be offering morning and afternoon play and stay sessions where you will ideally leave your child with us. This may initially be for just a short period and it may be necessary to come to several sessions to help your child. If your child finds it difficult to settle, then we will work with you to try to overcome this. As long as the government allows parents in school, you will be able to stay for part or all of the session with your child, although we will encourage you to leave them with us.

### **Pre-school sessions**

The sessions at pre-school run from:

Morning: 9am to 12pm  
Afternoon: 12pm to 3pm

There is also an opportunity for children to do a whole day from 9am to 3pm if you are eligible for 30 hours childcare funding. To find out if you are eligible please visit the gov.uk website <https://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare>. Please provide the school office with this code by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 any time after this it will not apply until January 2021. If you are not eligible for the funding your child may still stay for the whole day for the cost of £14.50.

### **The first few weeks at pre-school**

During the first few weeks at school, we will be getting to know the children, speaking with them to make sure that they feel safe, secure and happy. We will observe the children in their play, teach them our routines, set out our expectations for behaviour and generally try to build their confidence and independence at preschool.

### **The Early Years Curriculum**

We follow the national curriculum for Early Years and the enclosed 'What to expect When' outlines the progress a typical pre-schooler should make. The children's learning is underpinned by the Characteristics of Effective learning, that is, how children learn. These are Playing and Exploring, Active Learning and Creating and Thinking Critically. We focus on the three prime areas of Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Physical Development, Communication and Language. At Lings, we try to follow the children's interests and adapt our teaching to this. We usually have a topic for one or two weeks which may come from a child's idea, a book, a popular theme e.g. dinosaurs, or something topical.

## **A typical session at pre-school**

Once the children are settled, a typical day would be as follows:

9.00	Children arrive at school and go straight into independent learning
9.25 – 10.45	Independent learning (child initiated) and adult led group or 1:1 work
10.45 – 11.00	Adult led learning in 3 small groups
11.00 – 11.45	Independent learning (child initiated) and adult led group or 1:1 work
11.45 - 12.00	Story/singing
12.00	Lunchtime/ home time afternoon children arrive for afternoon session
After lunch	Independent learning (child initiated) and adult led group or 1:1 work
2.45	Story/singing
3.00	Home time

At the end of your child's session, the children are dismissed from their classrooms to parents/carers on a 1:1 basis to ensure that they go with the correct person. If someone else is picking your child up, you must inform us, or the office who they are, and on collection this person will be asked for the password given on the data form. If someone unknown arrives to collect your child, we will never let them go (even if the child says they recognise them) without speaking to you first. If you are going to be late picking up, please call the School office and you will then be asked to fill in a late collection card.

## **Our Learning environment**

The Pre-school has one indoor space and a large outdoor learning environment which is shared with our Reception children. During independent learning sessions, the children can choose what activities they access inside or outside. The continuous provision (activities set out) is changed on a weekly basis and the children are encouraged to explore, be busy and challenge themselves in their learning. When you visit in September, you will be able to see how it is all set out but, in the meantime, hopefully these pictures will enable you to talk to your children about it. There are further pictures on the school blog site; [lingsprimaryblogs.net](http://lingsprimaryblogs.net). Please click on the New Intake into Preschool 2020 tab.



Our inside environment



Our Outside environment





## **School Rules and Behaviour**

At Lings we always support the children to 'Set the Standard'. The following simple rules apply to everyone within Lings Primary School and are the basis for creating a happy and productive learning environment:

- Have kind hands, kind actions and kind words
- Look after each other and our school
- Always Set the Standard

We hold our children in an unconditional positive regard and have high expectations for the behaviour of everyone at our school. We endeavour to be a safe, happy and successful community where individuals are welcomed, accepted and equally valued. We encourage the consideration and respect of others, tolerance and understanding. Everyone is encouraged to be the best they can be, and we believe that every child has the potential to thrive if given the right support and a range of opportunities.

Positive behaviour is rewarded at every opportunity and sanctions are only used if necessary. In Pre-school, the children have an individual reward chart with ten stickers and once that is full, they get to choose a small gift. In addition, there is a whole class reward system, whereby if all the class are good, they get a marble in their jar and, once full, they have a whole class treat. We also have a traffic light system where children go up and down for good and poor behaviour. Children whose behaviour does not meet our expectations will be warned, but persistent poor behaviour will lead to a short time out with their teacher.

## **Preparing your child to start Pre-school**

The enclosed document "What to expect When" gives an overview of what to do to support your child as they prepare to start school. As well as ensuring that they can go to the toilet independently, we would suggest you:

- Help your children to be independent and do not do everything for them
- Encourage your children to listen properly and talk in full sentences. If they, for example, answer you with one word, repeat their answer back using a full sentence.
- Help them to learn how to share
- Encourage them to pick things up after themselves and tidy away toys
- Try not to always solve their problems for them, try and get them to work it out first, particularly between friends
- Ask them to wait if they ask for something or want to say something
- Encourage them to say hello to your friends, have conversations with other adults and to be polite.

## **Equipment and homework**

The children do not need to bring any equipment into school such as pens or paper. Once your child is settled, we will send home a folder with a book for sharing with you. They will need their book bag and reading folder in pre-school every day. We encourage them not to bring in toys from home as they can find it difficult if another child takes it. We expect you to read to your child regularly – several times a week. The children who listen to/ read regularly at home, without exception, make better overall progress than those that do not.

## **Snack and lunches**

Children who are in for a full day will need a healthy packed lunch, please ensure it is a balanced meal. A sandwich, a yogurt and some fruit is plenty for a pre-school child. Please do not send them with lots of processed foods, no sweets or fizzy drinks.

A fruit snack is supplied free of charge for Early Years and Key Stage 1. Pre-school children also have free milk. We also provide a healthy snack additional snack each day as part of their personal and social development curriculum. There is charge of £1 per week for this snack if full time and 50p for part time.

All children should bring a named bottle of water in everyday – squash or juice is not allowed in class.



## **School uniform**

We encourage that your child wears a uniform. In Pre-school this consists of a pale blue polo shirt, a royal blue sweatshirt/ cardigan, with or without the school logo, along with grey skirt/pinafore or grey trousers (tracksuit bottoms that are black or grey may be easier for your child). Children are also encouraged to wear sensible shoes and have a pair of named wellington boots in school for wet weather and ideally, their coats should be waterproof for outdoor sessions. Please also send in some spare clothes, pants and socks in case your child has any accidents or gets wet.

## **PE uniform**

For P.E we go into the hall usually with bare feet. We encourage your child to take off and put on their own shoes and socks independently (please practice with them at home). During the summer term, we will change for P.E to get them ready for Reception. The P.E kit should consist of shorts, T-shirt and plimsoles/trainers.

**Please make sure that all school and PE uniform is named.**

## **Jewellery**

Children are not permitted to wear jewellery, other than one small pair/single stud earrings. Earrings should not be worn on PE days but if for any reason they are, the child must take out the earrings themselves. Nail varnish is not permitted.

## **Communication**

At the beginning and end of the session the members of the pre-school team will be on hand to address any queries. If you require a longer discussion, they would be happy to make an appointment at a convenient time.

Every half term a Pre-school newsletter will be e-mailed to you regarding what the plans are for the children for the next term. A weekly newsletter called Lings Line is e-mailed to parents every Friday with whole school updates. The school uses an online communication system called the school gateway for all newsletters, emergency closure notifications, reminders, payments etc. In addition, the school has Facebook and Twitter pages that give daily updates as appropriate

The Pre-school Team use an online Learning Journal called Tapestry on which pictures and a commentary is written on all aspects of the children's learning. We would really encourage you to use this facility, as it will show you what your child has been doing in school and how you can support them at home.

If you or your child have an issue at school, it is always best to talk to their key worker, in the first instance, to give us an opportunity to sort it out for you quickly.

## **Illness**

If your child is ill, please call the school office on 01604 410369 and leave a message with the office staff. If your child vomits or has diarrhoea, then they will have to stay off school for 48 hours to avoid infection.

## **Inclusion and Pastoral Support**

If your child has any special educational needs please contact our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator Joanne Whiting, before your child starts preschool, so that we can understand what extra support your child may need. We also have a Speech and Language Therapist in school, Sophie Howell, who works with the children in Preschool who need support with their speech. The school also works with a range of external professionals such as Educational Psychologists, a Play Therapist and Occupational Therapists to try to ensure that any special needs are supported.

The School's Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Emma Jacox who works closely with our two Family Support Workers – Nicola Mann and Helen Fox - to ensure the safeguarding of our children and families. Mrs Mann and Miss Fox also support families who need extra help, for example with housing issues, finances or children's

behaviour, as well as providing a varied programme of pastoral care and interventions for children and family learning opportunities for parents and carers.

### **Friends of Lings**

Friends of Lings are a dedicated group of parents and staff who work extremely hard to support the children and to raise money in order to provide exciting experiences and equipment to enhance our curriculum. If you would like to join the group or are able to support any event throughout the year, please let the office know.

### **Pupil Premium funding**

The school may be entitled to pupil premium funding if you receive one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Child Tax Credit Only (with income up to £16,190) with no element of Working Tax Credit
- National Asylum Seekers Support
- Guarantee Element of the State Pension Credit
- Employment and Support Allowance (income related)
- Universal Credit (income dependant)

The funding is paid directly to the school and is used to support your child's education and can also be used to subsidise a variety of items such as school trips or school uniform. Please let the school office know if you think you may be eligible.

### **Parking at school**

If you drive your child to school, please **do not** park in the school car park but on a nearby road. This is to both prevent traffic congestion but more importantly to ensure the safety of the children.