

Starting School

Summercourt Academy

September 2022



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Head of School Welcome

Welcome to Summercourt Academy.

My name is Louise Savage, and I feel very proud and privileged to be the Head of Summercourt Academy. On behalf of our amazing pupils, staff, parents and hub councillor I would like to welcome you to our school.

Our dedicated staff have the highest aspirations for all our children and are committed, in partnership with you, to nurturing and developing children's learning. Our aim is to promote a positive attitude towards learning and to provide a range of experiences through a broad and balanced curriculum. Each child is valued for their own talents, strengths and personality and we encourage the children to succeed and reach their potential, to have high self-esteem and a belief that they can achieve.

Our most recent OFSTED report carried out in July 2015 stated that the 'behaviour of the pupils, the role of the school in its community and the care, guidance and support of pupils, are outstanding'. We are a family school and we can only achieve our aims by working closely with you as parents. Your support is essential in your child's success at school, and we value your input and opinions. We consider ourselves at the 'heart of the community' and welcome visitors from the local area into school to work with the children and enhance their learning.

I hope that you find this booklet useful and we look forward to welcoming you to our school.

Louise Savage
Head of School



Aspire Academy Trust

Summercourt Academy is a member of The Aspire Academy Trust that comprises 28 primary academies across Cornwall. We have joined together in a unique and exciting partnership that will ensure better provision, richer resources, and higher standards for all our pupils.

For more information please visit our website <http://www.aspireacademytrust.org/>

Teachers and Support Staff in Class 1

The time your child spends in school up until the end of the Reception year is known as the Early Years Foundation Stage. All our Foundation stage children are in Class 1.

We have two teachers who job share throughout the week. Miss Keeley and Mrs Wykes are both experienced teachers with years of working within the Early Years Foundation Stage. We have 3 part time Teaching Assistants who are also very experienced in the Early Years: Miss Lowry, Miss Read and Miss Keeley is the Early Years Foundation Stage Leader at Summercourt Academy. Mrs Norton teaches Class 1 PE sessions every week.

What you need to know about the everyday routine

The gate will open at **8:45am** and the children will start their morning activities as soon as they arrive. The register is taken at **8:55am** promptly, after this time attendance is marked as late. Please be as prompt as you can in the mornings as it can be unsettling for your child and the class if there are late arrivals.

Class 1 have a snack time every morning and we will provide fruit and milk. Your child will need a water bottle everyday and a small additional healthy snack such as chopped or dry fruit, crackers, bread sticks, cheese or a cereal bar/pot. Please ensure that you pack only one snack per day as we encourage the children to also chose a piece of fruit from our fruit bowl.

Lunch is between **12:00pm – 1:00pm**.

Our school meals are supplied by Aspens catering service and everything is cooked on site by our chef Mrs Purdie. The menu operates on a 3 week rotation and provides a wide range of nutritious and healthy meal choices which always includes a vegetarian option. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to universal free school meals. Please see our school website for further information and menus.

For Class 1, the school day ends at **3.15pm but will open the gates for collection from 3:05pm**. It is also important for you to collect your child on time as children can become upset if they are ~~left~~picked up late. If you are late, please let the school know as soon as possible. Please collect younger children before older siblings.

***Please note: for the safety of your child we must know who is picking them up. If you cannot collect your child yourself, please let the teacher or office know who is coming in your place. This person must know your child's password (which you stated on your online application form) as they will be asked for it. We cannot let children go home with someone unless you have authorised us to do so.**

Attendance

If your child is unable to attend school, please phone and let us know as soon as possible. We now have attendance targets set by the Government. We do **not** authorise holidays during term time. A form requesting leave of absence must be completed for any exceptional circumstances.

Homework

We will provide the following for you to do at home to support your child's education:

- Initially a Picture book to share at home, then once your child is ready a phonetically decodable reading book for your child to read themselves (we advise reading a little

every evening). Key Word lists will also be attached inside the reading record as part of your daily reading practise.

- Letter formation practice or simple spelling sheets
- Maths activities half termly on Tapestry

What will my child be learning?

The Early Years Foundation Stage Education programme is organised into 7 areas of learning. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected.

There are 3 prime areas:

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

There are four specific areas:

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



Our timetable is organised to include all of these areas of learning to ensure a broad and varied curriculum. We begin each half term with an inquiry question and key text to begin each new topic/theme of learning. Children will learn through hands-on practical activities as studies show that this is the most effective way for young children to learn. Children will also have more structured times to the day which are often adult initiated, and adult led. Your child's time in school is carefully planned to ensure that they develop and progress across the curriculum.

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

One of the most important things that your child will learn at school is how to work with others. Before starting school, they will already have begun to share toys with siblings and friends. At school they will have to share not just toys and equipment but the attention of the teacher and other staff. This means developing sensitivity to others, learning to take turns, listening, following instructions and being able to express their own needs and thoughts to others. Children will learn how to identify and talk about their emotions and how to regulate their behaviour.

We encourage children to be considerate and caring towards others and towards the school environment. We expect them to develop responsibility for their own belongings and for classroom equipment. We encourage them to organise themselves and to tidy up after activities—just as they would at home. Please support your child by ensuring that their uniforms and belongings are all labelled with their name.

We also expect that when your child starts school, they will already have made steps towards being able to take care of their physical needs independently: be able to dress themselves,

go to the toilet, flush it and wash their hands and to be able to use a knife, fork and spoon.

Communication and Language

Children will learn how to listen attentively and respond to what they hear with relevant questions, comments and actions when being read to and during whole class discussions and small group interactions. Communication also involves making comments about what you have heard and ask questions to clarify understanding. We will be developing conversation skills by engaging in back-and-forth exchanges with teachers and peers.

Children will participate in small group, class and one-to-one discussions, offering their own ideas, using recently introduced vocabulary. We will encourage children to express their ideas and feelings about their experiences using full sentences, including use of past, present and future tenses and making use on conjunctions, with modelling and support from their teacher.

Physical Development

Fine motor skills are the small, fiddly movements with the hands, which are needed to manipulate tools such as pencils, scissors and paintbrushes. Children will develop these skills through a variety of activities which include construction toys, playdough, threading and tracing. Gross motor skills are the movements that our whole body makes such as jumping, running, crawling and hopping. These develop the children's spatial awareness, agility and helps to keep them healthy.

Literacy

Children will be taught to use new vocabulary and to be able to retell stories and narratives in their own words. We will explore stories, rhymes, songs and poems and use these to develop our own oracy skills. In Phonics we will learn to read and write simple words using phonetical sounds and blending skills. We will teach correct letter formation and develop pencil control. The children will gradually develop these skills to be able to write sentences that are phonetically decodable that can be read by others.

Mathematics

The children will develop a deep understanding of numbers to 10, including the composition of numbers. We will teach children to subitise numbers and to automatically recall number facts and bonds quickly. Children will practise verbally counting beyond 10 and recognising patterns within the number system. We will compare quantities and use language such as more than/less than and equal to. We look at doubling and halving facts and learn to how to use simple calculation to solve number problems.

Understanding the World

This aspect encompasses Science, History, Geography and R.E. It starts with the child's own experience of the world and aims to gradually broaden their view. For example, they may be searching for mini-beasts, melting ice-cubes, playing with Victorian toys, making soup or designing boats for the water tray. Children will be exploring similarities, differences, growth and changes through the natural world and living things. They will talk about some similarities and differences between different religions and cultural communities in this country, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class.

Expressive artsArts and designDesign

This aspect of the curriculum includes Dance, Music, Art, and imaginary play activities. Children will be listening and moving to music, singing, exploring musical instruments, painting, drawing and modelling. They will also be playing imaginatively with their friends and using new vocabulary and narratives within their play. The children will learn to use tools and techniques to create and make following their own designs.

How will I know how my child is doing?

- As soon as your child starts school, we will keep a Learning Journey. This records what they can do in relation to each of the seven areas of learning (listed above).
- Your child will have a Tapestry Account which will be available for you to access online and we encourage you to contribute to these by commenting on things your child does at home. This gives us a complete picture of what your child can do.
- We will continue to assess your child, through everyday class activities and interactions observed. Their progress will be assessed and next steps in their development will be planned for carefully.
- During the year there will be opportunities for you to meet with the class teachers to discuss your child's progress.
- You will also receive a written report at the end of the Reception year (Early Years Foundation Stage). If you have any concerns about your child, please let the class teachers know.
- Class 1 also has a page on the school website with regular updates on learning.
- Social Media feeds will also update you on weekly learning in Class 1.

What does my child need to wear and bring to school?

All children are expected to wear a school uniform. Your child will need:

- White polo shirt
- Red sweatshirt/jumper/cardigan with school logo
- Grey or black trousers (boys) - Grey or black skirt/trousers (girls) or red and white check dress in the summer months
- Black or grey socks/tights
- Black shoes—with Velcro/strap (**no laces**)
- Wellies (to remain at school)
- Waterproof coat (we have puddle suits, no need to bring these)

NB: Children must **NOT** wear trainers, open-toed sandals, flip flops or laced shoes etc.

Your child will need a P.E. Kit that stays in school in a drawstring bag, we will send home kits for a wash during holidays only. Your child will need:

- black shorts and a red polo shirt
- Trainers and socks (not plimsolls).

Your child will also need a red school **book bag** that comes to school with them every day. It must be a book bag rather than a back pack as your child's reading book and homework folder will need to be kept flat and secure.

Finally, your child will need to bring a water bottle to school everyday with fresh water in. It is essential for children's health and wellbeing that they keep hydrated throughout the day.

All clothing must be name labelled.

All uniform items are available online at www.PMGschoolwear.co.uk. You can also order by post or phone. All items are posted free of charge.

It is very helpful if your child is able to dress and undress themselves for P.E. lessons.

All About Me Book

We will be sending you a video via email, of the Class 1 Staff introducing themselves through an "All About Me Book". We will provide you with a Starting school pack which includes a book to make your own "All about Me Book" with your child prior to them starting school in September. This will help us to get to know your child and support the settling in process. This is a great Summer project for you and your child to put together ready to show their new class.

What can I do to help my child?

Your child is learning every day, no matter how young they are. It is vital to a child's development that you share books, talk with your children and count together during everyday activities at home and whilst out and about.

You can prepare your child for reading by sharing books, reading to them, talking about what might happen next etc. Draw attention to the words so they begin to realise that the print tells the story to accompany the pictures. Reading is one of the most valuable activities you can do to help your child. Children must practice the skills that they are learning at school. Reading needs to happen as often as possible.

If your child is used to handling mark making tools such as pens, crayons and pencils, you may wish to start writing their name with them (Capital letter followed by all lowercase letters). At first your child can trace or copy and then move on to writing alone.

Just a few last things:

When your child starts school, they will need to be able to use the toilet independently, wipe, and wash their own hands. You can also help by ensuring that your child can fasten and unfasten the clothes that they are wearing.

Head lice can be a real problem in any school. They spread very easily among young children. We ask all parents to check their child's hair regularly. (We all check our hair at least once a week!) If your child has long hair, please ensure that it is tied up for school. From time to time when we notice that someone in the class have head lice, we will text all parents or send home a letter asking everyone to check the whole family's hair. The letter also gives advice on how to deal with head lice if you do find them.



We hope you have found the information in this booklet useful.

If you have any further queries, please do contact us via the school email address.



