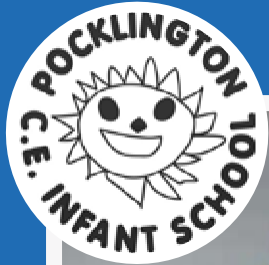


Reception at

Pocklington Church of England Infant School



Your guide to starting school



Now children, listen to me. If you follow my ways you will be happy too.

Proverbs 8:32

Respect

Compassion

Perseverance

Truth

Welcome to Pocklington Church of England Infant School



We are delighted that you have chosen Pocklington CE Infant School and look forward to getting to know you and your child over the coming years. Starting school is an exciting milestone, and we are committed to making this transition as smooth, positive and welcoming as possible for both children and families.

Before your child starts in Reception, you will receive a welcome pack with key information to support your child's transition into school. You will also be invited to a welcome meeting in June, where you will find out which class your child will be in and be able to meet their teacher and have a look around the classroom and speak to staff.

You and your child will also be invited into school in July for a Teddy Bears' Picnic where you will spend some time in the classroom environment as well as exploring our lovely woodland area. We find this helps children feel more confident and excited about starting school.

If your child attends another setting before joining us, we will work closely with that setting to gather information and ensure a smooth transition. We value the knowledge that previous settings and parents share with us, as this helps us to understand each child as an individual from the very beginning.

We recognise that all children begin school with different experiences, skills and interests. At Pocklington CE Infant School, we celebrate these differences and work closely with families to ensure every child settles happily and thrives. Our priority is to create a nurturing environment where children feel safe, confident and ready to learn.

Through our approach of Happy Children, Loving Learning, we aim to ensure that every child flourishes and develops a love of learning from their very first day with us.



“

The team at the nursery has been incredible ... We couldn't have asked for a better experience.

”



Welcome from the Headteacher

Welcome to Pocklington CE Infant School. We are a happy, caring school where children feel safe, valued and inspired to love learning.

Our mission is simple: **Happy Children, Loving Learning**. We believe that when children feel happy, secure and supported, they are able to flourish and achieve their very best.

Our vision is to create a nurturing and inclusive environment where every child is given the very best start to their learning journey. We are committed to providing high-quality learning experiences that enable all children to reach their full potential within a stimulating, safe and supportive Christian environment.

Alongside our strong focus on academic achievement, we place great importance on children's social and emotional development. We want every child to feel confident, resilient and ready to learn. Our skilled and caring staff work closely with children and families to support wellbeing, build self-esteem and develop positive relationships.

Our school values of **Trust, Perseverance, Compassion and Respect** underpin everything we do. These values guide our relationships, our learning and our behaviour, helping us to create a community where everyone feels supported, valued and encouraged to succeed.

Partnership is central to everything we do. We work closely with parents, carers and the wider community, particularly our strong links with All Saints Church in Pocklington. As a Church of England school, our Christian ethos and values are woven throughout school life and help shape the caring and inclusive environment we are proud of.

We strive to ensure that every child flourishes during their time with us. In a recent parent survey, families shared that one of our greatest strengths is that children love coming to school and feel safe and happy here. This is something we are incredibly proud of and are committed to continuing as we move forward together. We look forward to welcoming you to our school community.

Jenny Rogers, Headteacher

Readiness for School

You can get your child ready for school by helping them to:

Starting school is an exciting step, and children arrive with a wide range of experiences and skills. At Pocklington CE Infant School, we understand that every child develops at their own pace. Our nurturing and supportive approach helps children to settle in, build confidence and develop independence over time.

You can help your child prepare for school by encouraging them to:

- Sit and listen for a short period of time
- Enjoy being with other children and sharing experiences
- Begin to understand routines and gentle boundaries that help keep everyone safe
- Respond to simple instructions, such as "stop" or "wait", to support safety
- Sit at a table to eat meals and try new foods and use a knife and fork
- Speak to an adult to ask for help when needed
- Begin to develop independence, such as taking off their coat and putting on shoes
- Open and enjoy books and stories together

We know that children learn these skills gradually, and we will support them every step of the way. Our staff use a nurturing approach, helping children to feel safe, understood and ready to learn. We focus on building strong relationships, supporting emotional wellbeing and creating a calm, supportive environment where every child can thrive.

We have included a leaflet in your Welcome Pack called **'Starting Reception... Your Child's Journey to School Starts at Home'**, which we hope you will find helpful.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child starting school, please contact the school office to arrange a conversation with the Headteacher. We are always happy to support you and your child as they begin their journey with us.

Toilet training

We recognise that children develop at different rates, and we understand that toilet training is an important milestone in a child's development. Ideally, children starting Reception will be toilet trained and able to manage their toileting needs independently, as this helps them to settle more quickly into school routines and supports their growing independence.

We encourage families to begin toilet training in advance of starting school and to send children in pants or pull-ups. However, we understand that some children may still be developing this skill, and we will work in partnership with you to support your child in becoming confident and independent. If your child has an identified medical, developmental or additional need which may impact toilet training, please let us know. We will work together with you to create an intimate care plan to ensure your child is supported in a respectful, safe and sensitive way.



How We Learn in Early Years

We know that children learn best if they feel safe, valued and special.

For us, each child in our care is unique; we want them to have the confidence and independence to follow their own fascinations and learn in a way which allows them to become totally absorbed in their purposeful play. We know from countless child development studies that children need sustained periods of time to explore and develop their ideas fully and that is why we have uninterrupted periods of purposeful play both in the morning and afternoon, along with carefully planned adult directed tasks.

Our learning environments provide multiple possibilities for challenge, creativity and investigation in each area of provision. We are passionate about quality outdoor learning and children have access to our outdoor area throughout the day as well as weekly Woodland Adventure sessions.

The adults in Early Years are highly skilled practitioners who have a deep understanding of child development and how children learn best. We interact with children when they are at their most receptive - when engaged in

their chosen play. We teach in a way which is completely tailored to the needs of the child; modelling language, asking key questions, making suggestions to add challenge and interest and enjoying the experience of playing together. We also have daily teaching inputs in areas such as phonics and maths where we introduce new knowledge and skills.

Collaboration between home and school is essential in making your child's/children's learning journey a successful one.

Together we can help your child to settle and thrive at school, make friendships, develop independence, learn to read and write and so much more!



Characteristics of Effective Learning

ENGAGEMENT	Playing and exploring • Finding out and exploring • Playing with what they know • Being willing to 'have a go'
MOTIVATION	Active learning • Being involved and concentrating • Keep trying • Enjoying achieving what they set out to do
THINKING	Creating and thinking critically • Having their own ideas • Making links • Choosing ways to do things

Starting school

The big day!

Our school gates open at 8.30am, ready for the classroom doors opening at 8.45am. School finishes at 3.15pm, gates are opened just after 3pm and locked again at 3.25pm.

All children have a named peg for their coats. Water bottles are kept in the classroom in order for children to access them. All children also have a drawer for their school book bag.

School Dinners or Packed Lunch

Lunches are funded by the government for all of your child's/children's time at our Infant school. Lunches are cooked by our own staff in the kitchen and we work with East Riding catering team to design our school menu and to ensure we comply with the School Food Standards. All dietary needs and any allergies will be able to be met.

Alternatively, your child can bring in a packed lunch. This should be a healthy balanced meal, and must not contain sweets or nuts (due to pupils allergies currently at school).

Communication

When your child/children begin/s school we will communicate with you in lots of ways

- Fortnightly e-newsletter
- Weduc App
- ParentPay
- School Website
- Parents Evenings and reports
- Teachers are always at the classroom door or they can be contacted via the office

Mrs Husband and Mrs Woodhouse in the office are always available to help with any general school enquiries.

Wrap-around care

Families lead busy lives, and depending on your circumstances you may not always be able to drop off your child/children at the start of the school day or collect them when school finishes.

At Pocklington CE Infant School we offer a before school club for children in Reception classes, and above, from 7:45am each morning. Children are offered a morning snack (fruit, yoghurt and a drink) and are supervised by school staff.

First Steps (a third party provider) offers after school care on our site, this is booked directly with them. Sessions are offered until either a 4.15pm collection, or 5.15pm collection. The children take part in a variety of fun activities inside and on the playground.

Clubs

We also offer a range of clubs at lunch time or after school - some are run by school staff, others are run by third party providers. After school clubs usually run until 4:15pm and are open to different age groups. Clubs change each half term and booking is made via ParentPay.



“ Our daughter is having a wonderful time in Early Years.
All the staff are so kind and experienced.

”



Woodland Adventures

At Pocklington CE Infants we are very fortunate to have lovely grounds. We have an established woodland area which offers our Reception children regular opportunities to develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a natural environment.

Our Woodland Adventure complements the experiences they have in our outdoor courtyards. Sessions in the woodland help children develop a love of nature, an awareness of safety and sensible risk taking, teamwork, independent thought and problem solving. Children learn to appreciate the natural world and learn to identify trees, plants and wildlife.

Outdoor learning improves children's health, engages them in their learning and leads to a greater connection to nature. At Pocklington CE Infants we enjoy taking learning outdoors enabling our children to learn whilst immersed in an exciting outdoor environment.



Pocklington Infants Handy Hints

Every day children need to have a:

Water bottle	Named water bottle - please send to school empty - we will fill it. The water bottle is kept in the classroom and children are regularly encouraged to get a drink.
Book bag	For any work your child chooses to bring home plus their reading book (phonics or choice book).
Outdoor clothing	Please send your child to school with a drawstring bag containing wellies, waterproof trousers and a waterproof jacket or puddle suit. Please also send a change of clothes - spare underwear, socks, trousers/skirt, shirt and jumper!
A packed lunch (if they are not staying for a school lunch)	We encourage children to stay for a school lunch as they are free (for children from Reception upwards) and are cooked on site. As well as meeting the School Food Standards they are delicious.

We provide (funded free by government schemes)

Milk	Milk is provided free of charge for Reception pupils during snack time.
Fruit	1 of your child's 5-a-day which we have available daily during snack time.
For Reception to Year 2 children only	School meals are free of charge for pupils in Reception to Year 2 as part of the Universal Infant Free School Meal scheme (funded by the government). Your child has a daily choice of a hot meal, jacket potato or sandwich. Menus are available from the website and also from the school office.

Pupil Premium (PP)

If you are in receipt of benefits please complete the form in your welcome pack for Free School Meals, as this provides your child with Pupil Premium funding for the school to use to ensure they meet their potential.

We are also able offer PP children a uniform voucher, free places on school trips, free places at clubs and other benefits. This funding will stay with your child all the way through their education and you do not need to reapply. Please apply if you think you may be eligible.

Friends of Pocklington CE Infants

The Friends help develop links between the school, pupils, parents, staff and the local community. The main aim of the Friends is to raise funds for the school. They are a registered charity. All pupils, parents and staff are automatically Friends of Pocklington CE Infants.

Please visit our website



Useful Information

Visit us

If you would like to visit the school please call [01759 302 699](tel:01759302699) or email office@pocklington-infants.org.uk to arrange an appointment.



School Street Scheme	Maxwell Road is part of the School Street Scheme which limits cars driving up the street at pick up and drop off time. Please see our school website for more information.
Pocklington Church School	Pocklington CE Infants is part of the Diocese of York school family, and has close links with All Saints Church in Pocklington. Incumbents from All Saints and other local Christian churches support our daily Collective Worship.
Governors	The Governors of Pocklington CE Infants can be contacted via the school office. The Governors are made up of parents, foundation governors (appointed by the Church) and local community representatives, as well as a staff Governor.



Pocklington CE VC Infant School
Maxwell Road
Pocklington YO42 2HE

T: 01759 302 699
E: office@pocklington-infants.org.uk
W: www.pocklington-infants.org.uk