FAQ: Foundation Stage 2021 - 2022

Can I come and visit the school before the summer holidays?

- Unfortunately due to Covid – 19 restrictions we are still not allowing any visitors into the school building. This is for the safety of you, the children and the staff at Sherrier. We are however offering an online virtual tour of our school and our Foundation Stage Environment. This is available to view on our school website.
  https://www.sherrierprimaryschool.co.uk/new-starters
- If current restrictions are reduced and when we feel that it is safe we will try and hold a meeting in school for you to look around Foundation Stage and tour the school. If this is not possible then we will video another tour (after the summer holidays). Thank you for understanding during these unprecedented times.

When does the school day start and end?

- For Foundation Stage our school day starts at 8.40am and ends at 3.20pm.

My child will be going to Nursery both before and after school. How is this managed?

- In the morning your child will be dropped off by their nursery and handed over to our care. Any messages can then be passed on. At the end of the day the staff take the Nursery children to the hall and hand over to the Nursery teachers. It is imperative that you let your child's class teacher know which days your child will be at Nursery and if there are any unexpected changes then please let the school office know as soon as possible.

My child has Special Educational Needs. Who can I talk to about this?

- Our SENDCo Mrs Ashby supports all of the children in our school with Special Educational Needs. You are more than welcome to email the school office and your message will be passed onto Mrs Ashby. We can then talk to you about any extra support your child may need.

Does my child need a mid-morning snack?

- We provide free fruit for all Foundation Stage children on a daily basis. The children are given a whole piece of fruit (we do not peel or cut the fruit for the children). You do not need to send a snack into school for your child.

What uniform do I need?

- Children can wear a plain green jumper or cardigan or alternatively a jumper with a school logo can be purchased. Please contact the office if you wish to purchase a school jumper with a logo on.
- Children can wear a white school top, blouse or shirt (with a collar).
- Children can wear black or grey trousers, skirts, pinafore dresses and shorts. In warmer weather children may wish to wear a green and white summer dress or skirt.
- Children can wear black, grey or white socks/tights.
- Children must wear black shoes (no laces).

Be prepared for your child to get messy as they explore a range of learning experiences indoors and outdoors. With this in mind please do not buy expensive uniform. Please label ALL items of school uniform as things are easily lost in a busy classroom!

What do I need to bring for outdoor learning?

- In Foundation Stage the children are outside come rain or shine! Therefore we need to be ready for all weathers. Please send into school a pair of wellies and a rain coat/or all in one waterproof for your child. These will stay at school.

Does my child need to bring a P.E kit to school?

- Currently we are allowing children to come to school dressed in their P.E kit on their specific P.E day. We will let you know this once your child has started school. Please send into school a pair of plimsolls that can be kept on your child's peg. This is to avoid lots of items being sent to and from school.

Can my child wear jewellery to school?

- Children may wear stud earrings to school but they must be covered by a parent or the child themselves or taken out before every P.E session.

How much does it cost for my child to have a school dinner and how do I apply for them?

- School dinners are **free** for EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 children. Your child can decide on a daily basis whether they would like a hot meal or a packed lunch (brought in from home). There are 2 meal options available each day. A meat option and a vegetarian option. Your child can choose on the day what they would like. All children are provided with water at lunchtime. All of the children will sit in the hall to eat together regardless of which meal they have.

Does my child need to bring a drink bottle to school?

Yes, please provide your child with a named water bottle.

Can my child bring juice to school?

We only allow the children to drink water throughout the school day.

Is my child entitled to milk at school?

All children (up to the age of 5) are entitled to free milk at school, however, you will need to register your child at www.coolmilk.com. If you wish for your child to still receive milk once they turn 5 then there will be a small charge to pay.

What can my child bring in her/his lunch box?

At Sherrier, we encourage healthy eating and expect parents to choose wisely when creating a packed lunch. An example of a healthy packed lunch may include items such as:

* A sandwich (no peanut butter or chocolate spread due to nut allergies)
* Yoghurt and a piece of fruit
* Dried fruit
* A biscuit or small cake
* Bottle of water or juice

We do not allow sweets, fizzy drinks or chocolate (unless covering a wafer/biscuit). We are a NO NUT school (this includes spreads such as Nutella) so we kindly ask that you do not send any nut products into school.

What do I do if my child is late?

If you arrive at school and the entrances are closed, please bring your child to the main school gates, ring the buzzer and a member of the office staff will come to the gate to meet you.

How do I report my child's absence?

If your child is absent for any reason then please notify us by calling the school office and leaving a message.

Am I allowed to have a holiday booked in term time?

Holidays should be taken during school holidays, however, we do understand that sometimes there are exceptional circumstances. Therefore if you contact the school and complete a 'Leave of Absence' form then Miss Beckett will inform you of the outcome of your request.

What happens if my child has a doctor's appointment?

If your child has a pre-arranged appointment then please call the school office to inform them.

Where am I allowed to park at drop-off and collection times?

- At Sherrier, we try to encourage all families to walk to school but if this is not possible then you can park on New Street or the surrounding roads. However, please be aware that these are very busy areas at school drop-off and pick-up times.

How do you communicate to parents?

- Class Dojo is our main source of communication. Here we can post on our class stories page as well as messaging privately. Please be mindful that Class Dojo does have quiet hours. We are contactable between the hours of 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday. Please be aware we will aim to reply to your message as soon as we can but this will be in breaktime/lunchtime or after school as we will not reply to messages when we are teaching the children.
- ParentPay is another platform for communication that we use at Sherrier, which you will have the option to sign-up to once your child starts school.

Who do I inform if somebody different is collecting my child?

If somebody different is due to collect your child then please inform their class teacher via Class Dojo or contact the school office prior to your child being collected.

What clubs do you provide?

We provide a wide variety of clubs for the children to enjoy afterschool. Some of these are paid (run by outside agencies) and some are free (run by teachers in school). We do not offer any clubs for Foundation Stage until after Christmas. This is because children get very tired when they first come to school and many of them want to sleep as soon as they get home! Once the children have settled into school life we will then inform you which clubs are open to Foundation Stage.

Can my child bring a toy/comforter to school?

We normally discourage toys or collectables (e.g. football cards) being brought to school, unless the class teacher has specifically requested that they do so.
If your child has a favourite security toy or blanket, try to get them used to being without it during the day. Perhaps arrange a special place where your child's toy or blanket could be waiting for them when they get home from school.

What happens if my child has a toileting accident?

We encourage parents to send in spare clothes if they feel this is appropriate for their child. These can be in a named bag on kept on your child's peg. Children are encouraged to try and have a go at wiping themselves clean but if this proves too much or too difficult for them we make a phone call home to come in and assist. Due to safeguarding, we are not allowed to attend to children's personal needs so please do practise going to the toilet at home to build up their independence especially wiping after a poo.

How can I get my child ready for school? What do they need to know before starting school?

Starting school can be both an exciting and daunting time for children and parents. At Sherrier we recognise this and we are on hand to guide and support each step of the way. Your child **does not** need to be able to read and write before starting school – it is our job to teach them this. Instead there are some things you CAN do at home over the summer holidays to make sure that your child is ready for life at school.

- **Going to the toilet** - Support your child to be confident about getting to the toilet in time and wiping properly, using toilet paper rather than wet wipes.
- **Washing their hands** - Chat about the importance of good handwashing with soap and water and drying their hands properly. At Sherrier the children dry their hands using hand dryers and paper towels.
- **Dressing and undressing** - let your child practise putting on their school coat, jumper/cardigan as well as their school shoes.
- **Feeding Themselves** - Children having school dinners need to be able to use a full-sized knife and fork. If your child is taking a lunchbox, make sure they can open it as well as any containers and packets inside.
- **Using a tissue** - Introduce your child to the routine of 'catch it, bin it, kill it' – catching their sneeze or runny nose in a tissue, putting it in the bin straightaway, then washing hands to kill germs.
- **Tidying up** - Get your child into the habit of hanging their coat up, putting their toys away, clearing the table, and so on, to prepare them for doing these things at school.

I have a question. How can I contact the school?

- If you have a question that is not answered above then please contact your child's teacher through class dojo. Alternatively please email the school office on

office@sherrier.leics.sch.uk.

Your email will then be forwarded to a member of staff who will then get back to you. As you can imagine our phone lines are very busy throughout the school day and it is very difficult for our Foundation Stage team to get to the phone (as it means leaving the children). Email and Class Dojo is much faster for us!