

Kinoulton Primary School



Welcome to Hedgehogs



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Your child's first experience of school is very important and here, at Kinoultton, we recognise that settling into school is a really big step for all children (and all parents). We hope to make this transition a very happy one.

Our aim is to make school a happy, stimulating and rewarding environment for your child to discover, learn and play while experiencing a wide range of activities.

It is very important that home and school work together in developing an effective partnership. This booklet is designed to be the first step towards building a successful relationship. It contains information about some of the learning opportunities and experiences that your child will have. There is also a list of the key things we would like your child to be able to do when they start school and some practical advice on how to help your child achieve these things.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child's learning in school.

The Hedgehogs Team – Mrs Barker (Class Teacher), Mrs Richardson (Teaching Assistant) and Mrs Lowe (Teaching Assistant)



How can you help your child when they are at school?

- Listen and talk about school with your child. Every day in Hedgehogs is an extremely busy one and your child will come home with lots of new ideas and experiences they will want to share with you. We do lots of exciting and different things and it is important that you and your child talk about the things that we have done. On the Hedgehogs page of the Kinoulton Primary School website, you will find links to the learning that is taking place each term in the classroom and there are games and songs for the children to enjoy.
- Please read with your child as often as you can and record that you have read in their reading diary; ideally this should be every day. Every Monday, I will collect in and sign reading diaries. If your child has read 5 or more times in the week, they get a sticker in their diary. Reading books get changed every Friday. In school, we have a reading reward scheme for the children to work towards. When children have read 5 times a week for 5 weeks, they get their bronze award. Then, after 12 weeks, they get their silver award. After 20 weeks, they get their gold award and after 30 weeks, they get their platinum award which is a special pin badge.
- Please also use reading diaries if you wish to share any messages or achievements with me – I really enjoy hearing about what they have been doing!
- Keep us informed of any changes e.g personal (change of telephone numbers), medical and social changes which may have an effect on your child in school.
- Please help your child with any home learning tasks they bring home. I will be sending home weekly activities for the children to complete. Every week, they will bring home information about what they have learnt in phonics and in addition to this, a maths or phonics activity. Completing these activities will further support and consolidate their learning and development and will stand them in good stead as they move through school.
- Once the children have settled, I also send home Exciting Writing books and Magic moment cards. I will explain these in more detail during the first parent's evening in October.

We recognise that each child is different and this is reflected in the level of maturity, attainment and development reached. It is important to remember that by the end of the Reception year, every child will have developed a wide range of interests and skills. By working together we can ensure your child is a happy and confident child with a positive attitude to learning and who enjoys school life.

Preparing your child for school

There are some key skills we would like your child to have developed before coming into school. These are very simple things, used in everyday life, and will help make coming to school a smooth process.

- **Getting dressed:**

1. Putting on / taking off clothes in the correct order
2. Zips / buttons / shoe fastening
3. Turning a jumper the right way out
4. Putting on coats / gloves / hats

- **Going to the toilet by themselves** (and remembering to flush the toilet and wash their hands).

- **Being independent at home**

1. Tidying away their toys
2. Concentrating on an activity for a short period of time
3. Writing own name (in lower case letters)
4. Counting to 10 (and even writing these numbers as well)
5. Completing an activity (ask your child to work on a short activity and encourage them to keep going until they have finished it)

Your child will be very excited about starting school but may also feel a little apprehensive about what will happen each day. It will help them if you:

1. Speak to them enthusiastically about school
2. Read stories about going to school
3. Encourage reading, writing and number activities as part of your daily play
4. Play 'schools' at home – role play is a very effective way of helping your child to understand what will happen.



Reading Fridays

Every Friday you are invited to accompany your child into the classroom at 8:50 – 9:15. The idea is for you to visit the classroom and read with your child, either from their reading book or sharing the books from the library. This will also give you the opportunity to change your child's library books for the weekend. If you are unable to attend these sessions, your child's library books will be changed and they will be read with by one of the Hedgehogs team. Don't worry if you have younger children with you - they are welcome and this will give them a taste of what to expect when they start school.

Assessment

During your child's first few weeks in school, he/she will be assessed in a range of basic skills. This is to enable us to establish your child's level of knowledge and understanding. This information is then used to inform planning so that tasks are matched to your child's ability in order for them to build on strengths and support any areas in need of development. Throughout the year, regular observations and assessments are carried out and all of this information is recorded on the Foundation Stage Profile. At the end of the Reception year, all Reception children are assessed against the 17 Early Learning Goals and this will be shared with you as part of their end of year report.



A Typical School Day

- **Door opens at 8.50am and our morning session starts at 9 am.**

Please let us know by 9.30am if your child is going to be absent due to illness. New children are encouraged to hang up their own coat and to put their lunch boxes and book bag

away by themselves. We really encourage the children to be as independent as possible when starting school, therefore, after the children's first week at school, Hedgehogs is a parent free zone.

- **Snack time is at 10:15am and morning break for all children is at 11:10am** – all of our infant children in school are given a piece of fruit every day to eat during snack time. Milk is also given out at snack time. Please visit the 'Cool Milk' website to register your child to receive their 1/3 pint per day. Children under 5 are free; over 5 usually cost around £15 per term. Please do not send in any additional snack for your child; if your child has a dietary requirement, please let me know.
- **Water** – Pupils are encouraged to drink water throughout the day and a plastic sports type drink bottle may be brought into class. Children should not bring juice to school. Please make sure that these bottles are named.
- **Lunchtime is from 12.15 to 1.30 pm.** Children eat their lunch in the dining hall and are supervised by midday supervisors. There is time to play outside after lunch. Children should speak to an adult if they are worried, hurt or upset about anything. We operate a variety of clubs for pupils to attend at lunchtimes. These change every term and you are notified of them via school newsletters.

All EYFS and Key Stage 1 children are entitled to a free school meal.

- **The school day finishes at 3.30pm**

We ask parents to wait behind the gate to Hedgehogs garden. The children will only be dismissed when a known adult is there to meet them. If a new family member is collecting your child or they are going home with another child, please let me know. Bus children will be taken to the bus queue by a member of staff and After School club children will be collected by the ASC team from the classroom.

House Points:

At Kinoulton Primary School the children are grouped into houses. These houses are Rowan, Birch, Cherry, Chestnut and Oak to match the leaves on our school badge. They can then earn house points throughout the week for good behaviour, good work, having a good attitude etc. At the end of each half term, the house with the most points gets a treat.

Book bags:

AR signs provide all our uniform and they sell Kinoulton Primary School book bags; we recommend that you buy one of these for your child. Every child has a tray in the classroom where they can store their book bag and we use them to send home reading books, letters and important notes (i.e. accident notes). It is also handy to keep a spare pair of pants and socks in there in case of accidents as well. These bags should be checked each night and brought to school each day. **Please do not send your child to school with a backpack as we have limited cloakroom space.**

Our Outdoor Environment:

We have a wonderful outdoor garden which the children have access to every day. It is a great space for the children to explore the sand and water trays and to also let their imaginations run wild. The children in Hedgehogs also take part in Forest School sessions which are led by me. For these sessions, children will need wellies and a puddle suit which they can bring to school in September and leave on their pegs.



General Information for September

Admissions to Kinoulton Primary School are made in September and all Reception children start at the same time.

All of the children can start full time from day one and the first day of term is Wednesday 3rd September 2026.

School Uniform

Our school uniform is:

EYFS and Key Stage 1	Blue logo sweatshirt/cardigan White polo shirt Grey trousers/pinafore/shorts/skirt Summer: Navy blue checked dress
Key Stage 2	Blue logo knitted jumper/cardigan Long/short sleeved white shirt Tie Grey trousers/shorts/skirt Summer: As Key Stage 1

AR signs are our suppliers. Uniform orders can be placed directly with AR signs at any time of the year. For more information, there is a link to the AR signs website on our school website. Please click on the key information tab and then uniform. You will also be able to order uniform on the transition morning.

P.E.

- **PE Kit.** Our PE kit consists of black/navy sports shorts, a blue school PE t-shirt (which can be ordered from AR signs) and black/navy jogging bottoms in winter. They will also need a PE hoody and **black** trainers. On our PE days, the children need to come to school wearing their PE kit (Monday and Friday).
- Please make sure that all items of clothing (and PE kit) are clearly marked with your child's name.
- We strongly discourage children from wearing jewellery – it is potentially dangerous for themselves and for other children. We cannot be held responsible for the loss or damage to expensive items which really are best left at home. Where jewellery, such as earrings, are worn at school, we insist they are removed for all physical education lessons; children will not be allowed to tape over earrings.

Accidents and injuries in school time

- We will always let you know if your child has had a minor accident via e-mail. If your child gets a head bump while at school, they will also be given a green wristband to wear, which informs other adults that they have bumped their heads.

Medication

- Children who are unwell should not be sent to school. However, sometimes doctors advise children to attend whilst completing a course of prescribed medicine. If the prescribed medicine is instructed to be taken 3 x a day, it is fair to assume that this can be managed without the school being involved. (i.e. administered before school, after school and before bedtime.) Our policy is to only administer prescribed medicines that are instructed to be taken four or more times a day or 'as required' such as antihistamines.
- If it is necessary for the school to supervise the administering of medication, parents must provide written authorisation or must fill out the 'consent form for the administration of medicine' (available from the school office or on the school website). Any member of staff who gives medicine to a pupil will check:
 - The pupil's name
 - Written instructions provided by the parent or doctor
 - Prescribed dose
 - Expiry date
- The medicine will be self-administered, if possible (under supervision) at break or lunchtime. No medicine is to be kept in the child's possession – consent forms and medicines should be handed in to the school office at the same time.
- Medicines will generally be kept in a secure place, not accessible to pupils, but arrangements are in place so that any medication that a pupil might need in an emergency is readily available. For example, spare inhalers are kept in the classroom.

These are kept by the class teacher and taken on offsite school visits such as swimming lessons, trips and residentials. Such medications (inhalers/Epi pens) are sent home at Christmas and at the end of the summer term to enable parents to check expiry dates and to ensure a replacement is sent back to school if necessary. General medicines are kept in the medicine cabinet on the wall of the school office. This also applies to Epi-pens.

- If your child has any medical or social history that you feel we should know about and which would help us to understand their difficulties, then please include this on the admission form. This should also be mentioned to the class teacher.



And finally.....

Please give your child time to settle in school – there will be many new things for them to get used to. There will be new and unfamiliar routines and experiences.

Please let the class teacher know straight away if you or your child have any worries or concerns; the sooner we know about problems, the quicker we can sort them out!

And finally, let them relax at home – starting school is very tiring at first.

Ways to get in touch

- ❖ Pop in and have a chat. I am usually available from 8.30am or straight after school at 3.30pm. Please refrain from 'catching me on the door' as I welcome the children into school – as you can imagine, this is a very busy time and messages may get missed.
- ❖ Email/pop in to the office to notify them of any changes/updates (e.g. someone new collecting your child from school).
- ❖ Write us a note – either in your child's reading record or a separate letter.
- ❖ Contact the headteacher. Appointments can be arranged through our office manager (Mrs Evers) Telephone 01949 81203.

Getting Involved

The school has a very active Parent Teacher and Friends Association called The Friends of Kinoulton Primary who are always looking for parents to help organise events of both an educational and social nature. Please enquire at the school office should you be interested in getting involved.

Parent helpers are welcome in school following appropriate checks.

We are sure your child will be happy at Kinoulton Primary School and we look forward to a successful partnership working together to achieve your child's potential.

Here are some pictures to help you get to know your new classroom and teachers before you start school.

The Classroom

The Hedgehogs classroom is a lovely bright and inviting space for you to learn and play. In the classroom, we have lots of different areas for you to play and explore. We have a role play area, a home corner, a small world area, a creative area, a maths area, a writing area, a construction area and a book corner. Here are some photos of the different parts of the room.



The Outdoor Classroom

We have a wonderful outdoor area too. Here are some pictures of it at different times throughout the year.





Forest School

We also have a great Forest School site which we visit regularly. We have a fire pit too!



Other important areas

This is the cloakroom where you will have your own peg. The toilets are in here too.



This is the hall. In the hall we have our lunch, we do PE and we have our school assemblies.



We have a shared area which is also our library. This is where we keep all our reading books and it is where you will get to change your library books during Reading Friday.

