



SPARSHOLT C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dig deep and flourish with courage, compassion and creativity.



YEAR R INFORMATION BOOKLET



SPARSHOLT.HANTS.SCH.UK

ADMINOFFICE@SPARSHOLT.HANTS.SCH.UK

01962 776 264

WOODMAN LANE
SPARSHOLT
WINCHESTER
SO21 2NR

WELCOME TO WILLOW CLASS



WELCOME

We are delighted to welcome you and your child as you join our school community and look forward to working together to support your child's happiness, learning and development. We understand that choosing a school for your child is one of the biggest decisions you will make. Early years education plays a vital role in a child's development, laying the foundations for future learning, behaviour, and wellbeing. During this stage, children develop key skills such as communication, social interaction, and problem-solving through play and exploration. A strong early education experience helps build confidence, curiosity, and a love of learning that can last a lifetime, supporting children to reach their full potential as they grow. At Sparsholt we are committed to creating a positive, nurturing environment where every child can thrive. Our core Christian values of Courage, Compassion and Creativity are at the centre of our school community. These values capture the true heart of everything we do.

We hope this booklet provides helpful information, and act as a useful guide to help you and your child settle in Sparsholt.

You will also find lots of useful information on our school website www.sparsholt.hants.sch.uk



MEET THE TEAM



WHO'S WHO



Mrs Kimberly Wollam
Early Years Lead/Class Teacher
(Monday - Wednesday)



Mrs Susie Wall
Class Teacher
Thursday and Friday



Mrs Gemma Culter
Head Teacher



Mrs Jane Gwilliam
Deputy Head Teacher/SENco



Powerful Partnerships

We believe strong partnerships between parents and teachers are essential in supporting a child's learning and development. Open communication helps build trust, ensures any concerns are addressed early, and creates a positive environment where children feel secure and encouraged to succeed. We pride ourselves on our parental partnerships and aim to involve you fully in your child's learning journey. This is achieved through:

- Tapestry (online learning Journal)
- Half termly curriculum overviews
- Weekly Mosaic Messenger
- Parents evenings in autumn and spring term
- Marvelous Monday and Thrilling Thursday events
- Willow class 'Mystery Reader'

Strong foundations

At our school, we are committed to giving every child the very best start to their learning journey by providing a nurturing, supportive, and inspiring environment. Rooted in our Christian values, we encourage children to show courage as they try new things, compassion as they care for others, and creativity as they explore and express their ideas. Through this approach, we help each child grow in confidence, character, and develop a love of learning.

Learning through play is a powerful and natural way for children to develop essential skills and understanding. Through play, children explore the world around them, build creativity, and develop important social, emotional, and problem-solving abilities. It encourages curiosity and independence while making learning enjoyable and meaningful. By engaging in playful experiences, children gain confidence and a strong foundation for lifelong learning.



The Early Years Curriculum

Our Early Years curriculum is carefully planned to support every aspect of children's development, ensuring a balance of learning across all areas. It is built around high-quality, carefully chosen texts that act as key drivers for learning, sparking curiosity, imagination, and meaningful discussion. These texts provide a rich foundation for developing language, understanding, and creativity, while ensuring that learning is engaging, purposeful, and tailored to meet the needs of every child.

All children in Reception year follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. This curriculum features three prime areas of learning and four specific areas as detailed below:

Prime areas are fundamental in providing children with the essential skills they need to engage successfully with all other areas of learning.

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

Specific areas

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





Communication and Language

Communication and language are at the heart of children's learning in the Early Years.. Through talking, listening, storytelling, and singing, children develop essential vocabulary, social skills, and the ability to communicate effectively. Strong communication and language skills not only support learning across all areas but also help children build positive relationships and grow in confidence.

Personal, Social and Emotional development

Personal, social, and emotional development helps children understand themselves, manage their feelings, and build positive relationships with others. In the Early Years, children learn to share, take turns, cooperate, and develop empathy and resilience. By supporting confidence, independence, and a sense of belonging, this area of learning lays the foundation for both academic success and lifelong well-being, helping children feel secure, valued, and ready to explore the world around them.

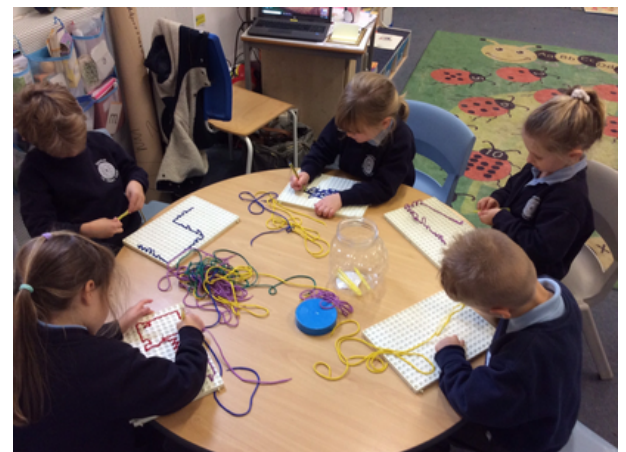


EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE



Physical Development

Physical development is a key part of the Early Years curriculum, helping children grow strong, healthy, and confident in using their bodies. This area focuses on developing both fine motor skills, such as holding a pencil or using scissors, and gross motor skills, like running, climbing, and balancing. Through play, movement, and everyday activities, children build coordination, control, and confidence, which not only supports their physical well-being but also lays the foundation for learning across all areas.



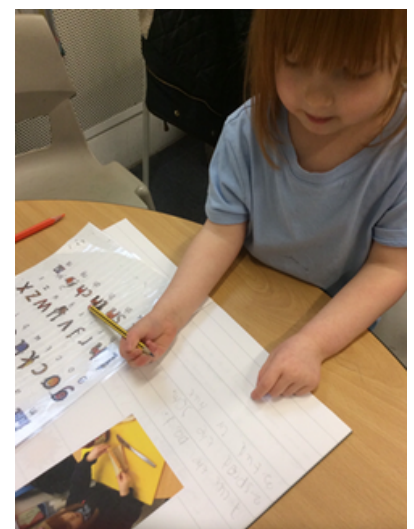


Literacy: Reading

Reading is made up of both word reading and comprehension. Word reading focuses on children learning to recognise letters and sounds through phonics and blending them to read simple words, as well as beginning to identify some familiar words by sight. Comprehension, on the other hand, involves understanding what has been read or heard, including talking about stories, answering questions, and making connections to their own experiences. Together, these skills help children not only read words but also understand and enjoy what they are reading, building a strong foundation for future learning.

Literacy: Writing

Writing focuses on helping children develop the skills needed to communicate through marks, symbols, and eventually words and sentences. This begins with early mark-making and drawing, which gradually develops into forming recognisable letters and simple words, often using their knowledge of phonics. Children are encouraged to write for different purposes, such as making lists, labelling, or storytelling, while developing fine motor control and confidence. The emphasis is on making writing meaningful and enjoyable, supporting children to express their ideas and build the foundations for later writing skills.



Mathematics

Mathematics focuses on developing children's understanding of number, shape, space, and measure through practical, hands-on experiences. Children learn to count reliably, recognise numerals, and understand the relationship between numbers and quantities, including beginning addition and subtraction through real-life contexts. They also explore patterns, compare sizes, weights, and capacities, and develop an awareness of shapes and spatial relationships. Through play, stories, songs, and everyday problem-solving, children are encouraged to use mathematical language and explain their thinking.





Understanding the World

Understanding the World focuses on helping children make sense of their physical surroundings and their community. This includes learning about people and relationships, exploring different cultures and traditions, and recognising similarities and differences between themselves and others. Children also investigate the natural world, observing plants, animals, and changes over time, as well as using simple technology to support their learning. Through hands-on experiences and discussion children develop curiosity, ask questions, and begin to understand how the world around them works.

Expressive art and design

Expressive Arts and Design focuses on encouraging children to explore and express their ideas, feelings, and creativity in a variety of ways. This includes using different materials, tools, and techniques for art, as well as engaging in music, dance, role play, and imaginative activities. Children are supported to experiment, create, and share their own ideas, while also developing confidence and communication skills. The emphasis is on the process of creativity rather than the final product, helping children to enjoy self-expression and build a strong foundation for creative thinking.





Phonics - Read Write Inc.

At Sparsholt we use Read Write Inc. (RWI) Phonics to support children in learning to read and write with confidence. Through this programme, children learn the sounds that letters make and how to blend them together to read words, as well as segmenting sounds to help with spelling. Lessons are fun, engaging, and build on regular practice to help children become fluent readers. As your child progresses, they will bring home books that closely match the sounds they have learned, allowing them to practice and grow in confidence at their own pace.

Handwriting- Kinetic Letters

We teach handwriting using Kinetic Letters, an approach that helps children develop the physical skills needed for writing. It focuses on posture, pencil grip, and building muscle strength before forming letters. Children learn simple, memorable movements that support correct letter formation and improve control and fluency. By developing these foundations early, Kinetic Letters helps children become confident and independent writers.





Baseline

The Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA) is a short, practical assessment that takes place within the first few weeks of your child starting Reception. It is carried out one-to-one with the teacher in a relaxed and supportive environment, using simple activities and games to understand your child's early skills in areas such as language, communication, literacy, and maths. The purpose of the assessment is to help teachers understand each child's starting point so they can provide the right support and track progress throughout their time at school.

Tapestry learning journals

At our school we use Tapestry, a secure online learning journal, to record and share your child's learning and experiences in Reception. We capture key moments through photos, videos, and written observations, which are linked to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) areas of development. This allows you to see what your child has been doing in school and how they are progressing over time. You are also encouraged to contribute by adding your own observations from home, helping us to build a complete picture of your child's learning journey and strengthen the partnership between home and school.



Hula hooping workshop

9 Mar 2026, 13:28 by Kim Wollam In journal

The children enjoyed their workshop with Hula Hannah this morning. They used different parts of their body and different sized hoops to copy Hannah's movements. Great listening and some good hula skills! Well done Willow class!



Supporting your child to be ready

Starting school is an enormously exciting time for most children and it is helpful to prepare your child for this event by practising these skills with them during the long summer holiday break before they start in Reception.

I can put on and take off my own coat or jumper.	I am happy to say goodbye to my parent/carer	I can use the toilet and wash my hands on my own.	I can listen to an adult and follow simple instructions
I can talk about the things I like or am good at.	I can share toys and take turns with other children.	I can talk about my feelings and ask for help if it need it.	I can recognise my name.
I can tidy up after myself when asked.	I can feed myself using a knife, fork and spoon.	I can sit and listen to a story.	I can choose an activity I would like to do.
I can play simple board games.	I can use pencils, paintbrushes and scissors.	I can ask and answer questions.	I can identify initial sounds in words.

USEFUL INFORMATION



- The school day starts at **9am**. Children are welcomed into the class from 8.50. Lunch time is between 12.00 - 1.00pm. School finishes at **3.30pm**.
- Children are greeted at the **front gate** by the class teacher each morning. Parents will collect their children in the same location at the end of the day.
- Children have P.E lessons twice a week. On their P.E days they need to come to school wearing their P.E. kit and trainers. They will wear these all day.
- All children in Year R are entitled to a **free** hot school meal. These are provided by **ABM Catering**. Each day a meat and vegetarian option will be available as well as a choice of either jacket potato or pasta.
- All uniform, coats, book bags and water bottles need to be clearly named. Uniform can be purchased directly from direct4logos at <https://www.direct4logos.com/sparsholt-primary-school-145-c.asp>.
- We offer a school run breakfast club between **8:00am and 8:40am**. The cost for each session is £4.50 per pupil payable directly to the school in advance. This cost includes breakfast which is a choice of cereals and juices.
- As wraparound childcare, **Toast and Tea** run an after-school provision for Yr R through to Yr 6 pupils during term time. Toast and Tea after school club is £13 per session and runs until 6pm.

Email Contact: **toastandteasps@gmail.com**