



# EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE RECEPTION WELCOME PACK

AVANTI PARK SCHOOL

---

**Welcome to our School! Avanti Park School is part of the Avanti Schools Trust. We are pleased that you have chosen our school for your child. Here is some more information about our Reception classes, to help you know what to expect when your child starts in September.**

## **Reception Places**

Reception places are full time. School starts at 8:45am and finishes at 3.00pm. It is important that your child arrives on time and is collected promptly to ensure they get used to the new routine.

## **Home Visits considering Covid-19 (2021-22)\***

Before your child starts school in September the class team will endeavour to visit you and your child at your home if government and public health England social distancing guidelines allow. Home-Visits are a chance for us to meet you and your child and find out about their preferences and routines. This will support your child in settling into our school. It also allows your child to begin to get to know the staff in your home environment. During this visit practitioners would ask you about your child and their development.

In light of the current social distancing measures, we have created a '**All about me Passport**' which is to be completed by your child and yourself whilst at home so our Early Years team can find out similar information for which they would normally ascertain from a home-visit.

---

## **The Curriculum**

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. This has seven areas of learning including three prime areas: Communication and Language, Physical Development and Personal, Social and Emotional Development; and four specific areas: Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding of the World and Expressive Arts and Design.

These are taught through topics which have been carefully planned to engage and interest the children. We encourage parents to contribute to the planning too by letting us know what your children are interested in. The first concept of the Autumn Term is 'Identity' with a Learning Question centered around this. This really helps us to get to know your child in their first few weeks of school. We will provide you with further information about the curriculum through future opportunities to visit your child's setting in 'stay and play' sessions and other mediums (workshops, wow moments and parent observation forms).

## **What to bring to School:**

Please bring a spare set of clothes to school (labelled with your child's name) in a bag to hang on their peg. This is in case your child has an accident or takes part in some messy or wet activities.

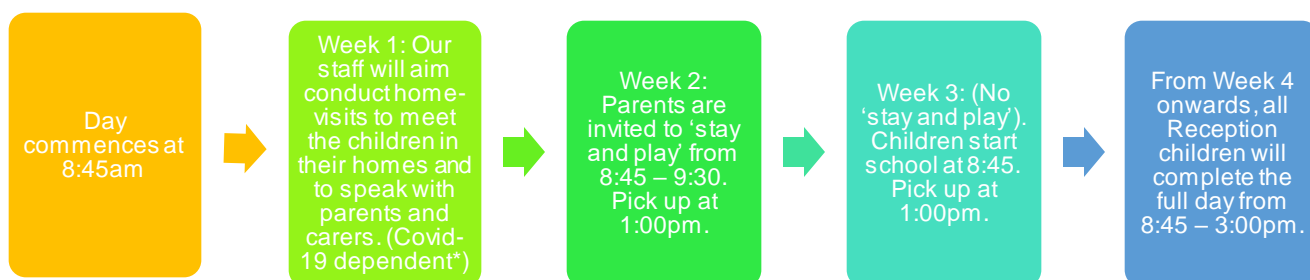
Make sure that your child has appropriate clothes for outdoor play- warm clothes for the winter, waterproof coats for the rain and a sunhat and sunglasses in the summer.

Please do NOT bring toys or games from home (unless asked by the teacher). Also please do NOT send your child with snacks or drinks (unless it is part of their packed lunch). As explained below they can access these throughout the day.

---

## Phased Start arrangements

### Reception



### The School Day

In the first week, we invite parents and carers to 'Stay and Play' from between 8:45-9.30am. During this time you will be able to play with your child at a range of activities. This is also a chance for you to share things with us that your child has been doing at home.

We recognise that many parents work and cannot stay every day, but we invite you to stay as often as you can. We want to work in partnership with parents and stay and play is one of our keyways of doing this. Please note that you cannot use your mobile phone during stay and play.

---

## **Group Sessions**

Throughout the day, the children will come together in groups for a short time. During this time they will be learning Phonics, Literacy, Numeracy or other areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

## **Focus Groups and Free Flow**

After the children have learned together, they will then can work in small groups with a teacher (focus groups) and to choose from a range of activities across the settings. Children can access activities from both classrooms and the shared creative area. These activities are important in helping children to develop their skills across the curriculum. During these activities, the teacher will make observations, take photos of key learning and record assessments. These are used to plan the next steps for each child.

## **Outdoor Play and Learning**

Outdoor play and learning are a key part of our provision. The children spend time everyday outside, whatever the weather! It is important that you send your child to school in appropriate clothing so that they can access the outdoor environment. It is also helpful if they have a pair of wellies for accessing the garden.

## **Phonics**

From 9:00-9:30, the children gather again in groups. At this point they will be beginning to learn their letters and sounds, to help them read and write. We use Read Write INC (the government recommended phonics programme) to teach children phonics. We will give you more information on phonics in future parent workshopsessions.

---

# EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE RECEPTION WELCOME PACK

AVANTI PARK SCHOOL

---

## **Lunchtime**

All Reception children are entitled to a free healthy school meal. We recommend that you take this up as our school dinners are healthy and tasty! Any additional healthy snacks can be brought into school in a named and sealable bag/lunchbox.

## **Afternoon Provision**

The provision in the afternoon follows the same pattern as the morning, with Group Sessions, Focus Groups and Free Flow activities. The children finish the day with a story.

## **Collection of Children at 3.00pm**

Children will only be released from class with an authorised person. Should you wish for anyone else to collect your child, we will require 24 hours notice (unless in an emergency). We do not allow anyone under the age of 16 to collect a child from Reception.

---

## Settling In

We want children to feel stimulated, safe and happy in school and to feel secure and comfortable with all staff. It is a big step for children to start at a new school, particularly if they have never been to school before. It can take time for children to get used to new faces, surroundings and routines. 'Stay and Play' helps to support children settling in as well as the proposed home visit in September. All our staff are very experienced at helping children to settle. It is normal for some children to be distressed but as they get used to the routines and build relationships with staff they quickly settle. Please be prepared to spend a little time initially settling your child.

## Behaviour

At school, most children behave well and follow our rules and routines. We use a system of rewards to praise children for doing the right thing. They may talk about being a 'star' of the day or for their 'green' sitting and listening.

**These are our 'core values' that we follow at school:**

**We are ready to learn.**

**We try our best.**

**We are good listeners.**

**We are kind.**

**We are safe.**

---

## Supporting the Children

Each child in the setting is assigned a key person in line with the foundation stage guidance. At school, the class teacher is the overall key person for all children in their class with other support staff being co-key persons. In addition to this, we have several staff who help the children and can also provide support for parents

## Learning Journeys

Every time your child achieves something new it is recorded in their “Learning Journey” in their folder. The folders are updated by our members of staff and they will happily share these with you during any parent meeting times.

In the folders we will put examples of work, photos and record what the children say. The children’s progress is measured against stages of development in the early years foundation stage and we track this termly and analyse progress. When the children start school the first 2 weeks are a period of observation and assessment. This enables us to gain a picture of what children can already do and their personal interests.

It is for this reason, why we ask you to complete the document named: **All about Me Passport**. This will also give an extra insight into your child’s likes, dislikes and overall personality.

We will also ask you to use the document named: ‘Wow moments’ to record these wonderful learning moments happening outside of school. These can then be shared with your child’s class teacher and added to their folder.

---

## Home-Learning

We want to work in partnership with you. Children make more progress when their parents are working closely with the school. Please read with your child every night. We ask parents to complete a reading record book to show what they have been reading with their child. At this age it is important to read to them as well as encouraging them to talk about the story and begin to identify words.

## Sickness and Absence

At Avanti Park, we strive for our pupils to achieve 97% attendance. We want your child to attend school every day so that they do not miss out on their learning and social development. If your child is unwell and unable to attend, please telephone the school office, by 8:45 am to report their absence and send an email on every day of absence for our records [absence.ap@avanti.org.uk](mailto:absence.ap@avanti.org.uk) by 9:00 am. If you are unsure please send your child to school and let us know, we can call you if they feel worse during the day. Often children feel better when they get to school and see their friends.

## Holidays

We ask that you do not take holiday during term time. Absence for holidays outside of term-time may not be authorised. If you take your child on holiday during term without authorisation you may be liable for a fine as explained in the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence/legal-action-to-enforce-school-attendance>

## Parent Workshops

We will hold parent workshops to share information with you about the curriculum and how you can help at home. We hope you will be able to attend these. They will usually take place at 9.00 am after you have brought your child to school. More details on these re: timings etc will be confirmed in the 2021-22 academic year.

---



## How We Keep In Touch (see appendix 1 for communication flowchart):

About your child's development:

- Through 'Stay and Play' where you can discuss your child's progress and share your experiences.
- You can request to meet your child's teacher at a convenient time.
- Parents / carers are invited to Pupil and Parent Review Meetings three times a year where we will discuss your child's progress in depth. You will receive a letter about making an appointment nearer the time. Children are expected to attend with their parents.

## Allergies and Health

In the '**Starting School**' form we have asked you about any health conditions that your child has, such as asthma, as well as any food allergies and vaccinations your child may have had. Please keep us updated if this changes during the year. We are keen to support your child with their medical needs in school. If your child needs any medication at school, please provide the medicine in the original box labelled with your child's name, with the GP prescription instructions from the pharmacy on the box. You will also be required to fill in a '**Medicine at School**' form.

## First Aid at School

We always have a qualified first aider at school. If children have a serious accident or any type of bang to the head, we will inform you by telephone. Please make sure your contact information is kept up to date by letting a member of staff know. Please be aware that it is normal for children to have non-serious bumps and bangs during their playtimes etc but if you have any concerns please do talk to us.

---

### **Before Starting School**

There are lots of things you can do at home to help your child get ready for school. Read some books about starting school from the library. Show them how to hold a pencil. Show them their name and help them to recognise what it looks like. Count different objects with them so they are familiar with numbers.

Help your child to become as independent as is possible by encouraging and helping them to:

- Use the toilet and wash their hands
- Dress themselves
- Use a tissue to wipe their nose
- Share toys and take turns
- Put their toys away in the correct place.

### **Trips and Visits**

The children will go on planned trips involving public transport or a coach. When these take place we will ask for your written consent. We may also ask for a donation towards these trips. Sometimes we need parent volunteers for these trips. We will let you know if you can help with this and we will give you guidance on how you can help.

---



## Appendix 1 – Communication Flowchart



**Avanti Park School**  
Park Road, Frome, Somerset. BA11 1EU  
Phone 01373 832804

Email [avantipark@avanti.org.uk](mailto:avantipark@avanti.org.uk)  
Website [www.avanti.org.uk/avantipark](http://www.avanti.org.uk/avantipark)

**Avanti Fields School is part of the Avanti Schools Trust**  
**Avanti Schools Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales**  
**Registered No: 07506598 • Registered Office: Avanti Schools Trust, Wemborough Road, Stanmore, Middx, England, HA7 2EQ**