

EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

RECEPTION WELCOME PACK



AVANTI PARK
SCHOOL

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 Reception 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 3.10pm. It is important that your child arrives on time, and is collected promptly to ensure they get used to their new routine.

Home Visits

Before your child starts school in September the class team will endeavour to visit you and your child at your home. Home visits are a chance for us to meet you and your child, and find out more about them. This will support your child in settling into our school, and get to know the staff in their home environment. During this visit practitioners will ask you about your child and their development.

Should a home visit not be possible, we have created a document for parents/carers to complete. Some families have an initial meeting at school, or by phone and online if an in-person visit is not possible.

The Curriculum

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. This has seven areas of learning comprising three Prime areas: Communication and Language, Physical Development, and Personal, Social and Emotional Development. There are four further Specific areas: Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding 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 by letting us know what their children are interested in. Our first terms topic is 'All About Me' and it is a wonderful opportunity for the children to draw upon their own experiences.

What to bring to School:

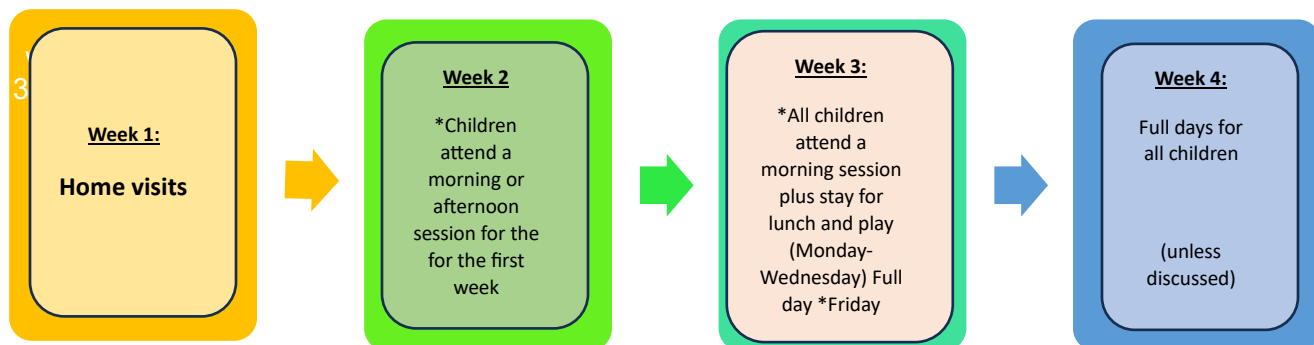
Please bring a spare set of clothes (labelled with your child's name) in a bag to hang on their peg. This is in case your child has an accident or takes part in some messy or wet activities.

Make sure that your child has appropriate clothes for outdoor play: warm clothes for the winter, waterproof coats for the rain, and a sunhat in the summer. Please do NOT bring toys or games from home (unless asked by the teacher).

We provide free fresh fruit or a vegetable snack each day. You may however provide an extra small, healthy nut free snack. Please send your child in with a bottle of fresh water. Please remember we are a nut free school.

Phased Start arrangements

Reception The School Day



In the first three sessions, we invite parents and carers to 'Stay and Play' from between 8:45 - 9.15am. During this time you will be able to play with your child at a range of activities to help settle them.

Please note that you cannot use your mobile phone during stay and play or on school premises.

Group Sessions

Throughout the day, children come together in groups for a short time to learn phonics, literacy, mathematics and other areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

Focus Work and Free Flow

After the children have learned together, they can work in small groups with a teacher or teaching assistant (focus work) 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 may make observations, take photos for our floor books 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 Reception Outdoor Area.

Phonics

From 9:00 - 9:30, the children gather 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 (a DfE recommended phonics programme) to teach children phonics. We will give you more information on phonics in future parent workshop sessions. We begin Phonics sessions at the end of our first week of 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!



Afternoon Provision

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

Collection of Children is between 3.10-3.15pm

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.

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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 one 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. 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 for your child to take a little bit of time to settle. Parents and Carers are invited to spend the first few sessions staying for 15 / 20 minutes to help with this transition as previously mentioned.

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 week or receiving a sticker or certificate for extra effort.

Supporting the Children

At school, Teachers and support staff will do focus activities, observations, group work or interventions. We encourage the children to initiate learning activities alongside our planning.

Learning Journeys

We use a programme called 'Tiny Tracker' to assess the children's progress.

The children have ring binder folders into which we can put examples of work, photos, and quotes from them on what they have learnt. We will share next steps with the children, and work collaboratively with families on how to support their learning. We track this termly and analyse progress. Class teachers also conduct Baseline Assessments in your child's first 6 weeks of school. These assessments help provide a snapshot of where they are as they arrive in a new school setting. Along with the baseline Assessment, your Class Teacher and Teaching Assistant conduct informal observations and assessments based on all 7 areas of learning. This along with the RBA gives your class teacher an overall understanding of their key starting points.

We will also ask you to use the document named: 'Wow moments' to record 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 / carers are working closely with the school. Please read with your child every night, talking about the text. We ask parents / carers 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 learning and social development. If your child is unwell and unable to attend, please telephone the school office by 8:45am to report their absence and send an email for every day of absence for our records to: absence.ap@avanti.org.uk by 9:00 am. We have a policy of 48 hour enforced absence where a child has vomited or has had diarrhoea.

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 to pay a fine as explained in the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence/legal-action-to-enforceschool-attendance>

Parent Workshops

We will hold parent workshops to share information with you about the curriculum and how you can help children at home. These usually take place after school.

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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 twice a year where we discuss their progress in depth. You will receive an email about making an appointment nearer the time.
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Allergies and Health

In the '**Starting School**' form we have asked you about any health conditions that your child has, as well as any food allergies and vaccinations they 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, 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. Please note, we are a nut free school.

First Aid at School

We 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 contacting the admin team. Please be aware that it is normal for children to have non-serious bumps and bangs during their playtimes, but if you have any concerns please do talk to us.

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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. Play turn taking games, roleplay their favourite stories. Use writing and mark making materials to help them develop their confidence with writing. Show them their name and help them to recognise what it looks like. Count different objects with them so they are familiar with numbers. Explore the outdoors and go on a nature walk and listening hunt.

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
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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 consent. We may also ask for a donation towards these trips. Sometimes we need parent volunteers. We will let you know if you can help with this, and we will give you guidance on how you can help.

School leaders will go on a site visit prior to the trip to carry out a risk assessment.

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Appendix 1 – Communication Flowchart



Avanti Park School

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Avanti Fields School is part of the Avanti Schools Trust

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