

# Welcome to Thomas Fairchild Gruffalo's Picnic

Key Information for Starting Reception



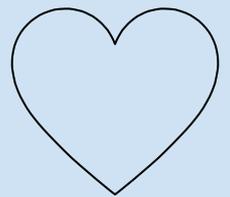
thomas  
fairchild  
community  
school





## Meet the Team

- Nicole Reid – Executive Head Teacher
- Rory McGrath – Headteacher
- Sarah Paxton – Assistant Head Teacher & Early Years Leader
- Hollie Wells – Reception Teacher
- Victoria Archer – Early Years Educator



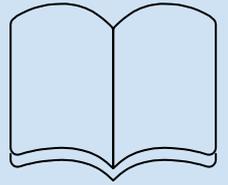
## Our Values

- Our school motto is “Excellence for All” and this underpins our approach to all aspects of school life. We are passionate about helping all of our children to achieve their potential.
- To help us do this, we also follow our 5 core values: Passion, Innovation, Kindness, Collaboration, Imagination.



## Our Curriculum

- ◉ **Successful:** Our curriculum is designed so that all pupils achieve, regardless of their starting point.
- ◉ **Thematic:** We organise children's learning into themes that we revisit over the course of the year, allowing children to build up their knowledge and understanding.
- ◉ **Representative:** We celebrate diversity and ensure all our children find themselves represented in the resources and books around them.
- ◉ **Book-based:** We use a range of carefully selected books to help children find out about the world around them, learn new vocabulary and develop a love of reading.
- ◉ **Hands-on:** Each theme includes opportunities for hands-on, exciting learning experiences as we strongly believe that children learn best when they are active.
- ◉ **Child-centred:** Our planning is flexible and responsive to allow our team to incorporate children's interests to make their learning meaningful.



## Phonics & Reading

- We are passionate about teaching all our children to read and to love books, as this is the key to their future success. We follow a phonics programme called Read Write Inc (RWI) which teaches children letters and sounds so they become confident readers and writers.
- The RWI website has a wealth of resources for families – scan the QR code to have a look. Alongside phonics, we also instil in our pupils a love of reading. We do this by reading a wide range of high quality fiction and non-fiction books.





## The School Day

- Our school day starts at 8.55am.
- A typical day starts with RWI, then a 20 minute break before maths.
- Lunch is at 11.45am and our afternoon starts again at 1.00pm.
- In the afternoon, the children learning through a mixture of play and adult-led activities.
- Every day ends with story time before pick-up time at 3.30pm.



## Positive Choices

- We believe that good behaviour comes from motivating our pupils with the best possible learning experiences and by giving our pupils lots of positive praise.
- Our motto “Say Yes to Success” is underpinned by four key learning behaviours:
  - We Are Resilient - We don't give up
  - We Are Focused - We work hard
  - We Are Inquisitive - We ask questions
  - We Are Creative - We are always imagining
- When they demonstrate these behaviours, children receive tokens that are saved up in a class jar that, when full, leads to a special reward for the whole class.
- If children sometimes find it hard to follow the class rules, they are given a chance to “Stop and Think” and an adult helps them understand why they are behaving in that way and what they can do to feel and behave better.



## Our Uniform

- Navy or black trousers/skirt
- Pale blue polo-shirts with the logo
- Navy jumper or cardigan with school logo
- Black, plain school shoes
- Blue checked dress in the summer
  
- PE Kit:
  - White t-shirt with school logo; navy shorts/tracksuit bottoms; black trainers/plimsolls
- Also:
  - Please ensure that all your child's clothes are clearly labelled with their name.
  - For health & safety reasons children are not able to wear any jewellery to school except appropriate watches and small stud earrings.



## Food At School

- Children are offered a piece of fruit and a snack at morning break.
- All food is prepared freshly on-site in our school kitchen.
- Alternatively, children can bring a healthy packed lunch.
- Teaching staff stay with children at the start of lunch to help them.
- We are an allergy-friendly school so please do not pack any nut or sesame products.
- All children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 are entitled to a free school lunch. However some families will be eligible for additional funding for the school, to support your child's education through the Pupil Premium Grant. Please can all families check their eligibility by scanning the QR code below:





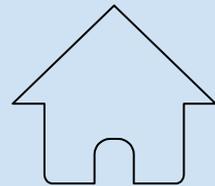
## Wraparound Care

- We have a breakfast club that is open from 7.30am and open to Reception children from September onwards.
- We will be running a wide range of exciting after school clubs including cooking, chess, ballet, circus skills and art clubs.
- Playcentre is open from 3.30pm – 6.00pm.
- Book your place in the school office.



## Injuries & Medicine

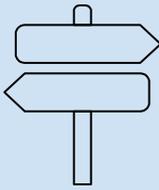
- ◉ We have a number of paediatric first aid trained staff.
- ◉ The school will contact you if your child is taken ill, has a serious injury or if they have a head injury, no matter how trivial.
- ◉ You will also receive an accident slip if your child has any other injury at school.
- ◉ It is school policy that medicine is not administered in school unless prescribed by a doctor.



## Home School Links

- ◉ Weekly online newsletters to start conversations.
- ◉ Weekly links to phonics videos to practise with your child.
- ◉ Suggestions for books to read, activities to do and websites to browse.
- ◉ If your child has done anything special at home, please bring it in - we'd love to see it!
- ◉ Daily reading - If you'd like some inspiration about which book to choose at the library or bookshop, we recommend Book Trust's fantastic website:

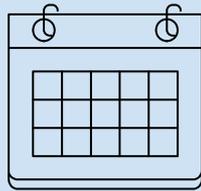




## Getting Ready for September

- Talk about school!
- Read every day and talk about the books that you read.
- Help your child become as independent as possible by encouraging them to do things such as getting dressed and eating on their own.
- Encourage your child to recognise and begin to write their name.
- We love the suggested activities from Hungry Little Minds:
- If you would like some more ideas and guidance, we also recommend Oxford Owl's Getting Ready for School page:





## Staggered Starts

- School will start for Reception children on Tuesday 7th September.
- Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th will be 10.00am – 2.00pm.
- Thursday 9th will be slightly longer: 9.00am – 2.00pm
- Friday 10th will be a normal school day: 8.55am – 3.30pm
- From Monday 13th, school will run as normal.