

Dear Parents / Carers,

Frequently Asked Questions

In addition to our school website, the school newsletter is also a source of information. The support that you give your child is crucial. Please tell us if there are any adjustments we need to make to help support your child, for example letters in large font, different languages; explaining things over the phone or a discussion with a school colleague of the same gender.

Although we try to give you all the information that you need, there are sometimes things about which you would like further information.

Mrs. Charlotte Lyons, parent governor, has been very busy consulting with parents and compiled this list of frequently asked questions!

Our aim is to update this termly, so if you have a question that you think should be included - please let Charlotte know by dropping her a note to school!

General School questions.

What do EFYS, KS 1 and KS 2 mean?

EFYS means Early Years Foundation Stage which starts at Pre School (for many of our children this is the Child Care Centre). At school this is the children's first year at school. KS1 stands for Key Stage 1 which includes year 1 and year 2. Key Stage 2 includes years 3- 6. EFYS and KS1 make up the Infants and Key Stage 2 forms the Junior part of the school.

How often do you have assembly?

Every day. We often have a class assembly on a Thursday to which parents of that class are invited.

Do you have an act of worship?

A daily act of worship is part of the assembly. We usually have four whole school assemblies and one Infant and Junior assembly. The lighting of a candle at the beginning of assembly is a sign that this is a special part of the day that we share together.

What's a class assembly?

Each class puts an assembly on for the school two or three times a year. Families and carers are invited to come and watch. It takes about half an hour including an opportunity for you to talk to your child and see the work they have shown in the assembly. The children have a drink and a biscuit - a favourite part of their class assembly!

When do children do outdoor PE and what do they do?

Children start outdoor PE in year one. You will be notified which day and you need to provide a tracksuit and trainers for this. They do a wide range of activities.

Do you have Christmas plays/ end of term productions etc?

Currently we have productions or concerts at Christmas. Year 6 children do an end of year production to celebrate their time at our school. Other performances may take place as they arise from what the children are learning.

Why are school trips so expensive?

Unfortunately one of the biggest costs of a trip is the coach. We do try to keep trips as affordable as possible but transport is always an issue. The school already pays the cost of extra staff cover at the school. We often try and invite visitors into school instead of arranging a visit. Although this is a cost which we ask parents to contribute, it is cheaper as there are no transport costs. An example of this is when we invite the theatre group into school.

What is golden time?

Golden time is usually at the end of the week and a reward for good behaviour and hard work by the children in each class. The children can help choose an activity for this thirty minutes.

How can I help out at the school?

We welcome parents help at school. It is a great way to get to know the school better and all the children benefit from the skills parents have. Some parents help us to run clubs - football, netball and knitting being current examples. We also have many parents, grandparents and other carers who come in and help in lessons by way of reading with children or supporting teachers in a familiar subject. Please contact the office for further details.

We have an active FRIENDS association who help raise money for the school by organising a variety of events such as school discos and summer fayres. Parents can also become parent governors when there is a vacancy.

Can my child bring in a toy?

We understand that a toy can enhance playtime so we provide our toy basket for lunchtime play. If a child wishes to bring a toy to school we ask that it can be a small hand held toy that is not too precious. The toy is kept in a box in the classroom that the children can access at playtime. Please remember that we can't be held responsible for lost or broken toys.

Academic

What do I write in the red book my child brings home?

There is some guidance on the first page about how you might write about your child's reading progress. However please feel free to write other comments for example about spelling or maths homework.

Do the teachers read the comments?

Yes they do, even if they don't write in them.

What phonics scheme do you use?

'Jolly Phonics' and 'Letters and Sounds'

My child is being taught maths in a very different way to me. How can I learn these methods to support my child?

If you talk to your child's teacher they will happily help you or point you in the right direction.

Does a child have to read all the books on a level to move up?

Your child's teacher will be assessing your child continually and change levels when they feel it is appropriate. We teach reading at school and reading at home with you is a great way to develop their skills. Your child's reading book will be the level below the book that is being read at school. Visits to the library or reading other books are also a great way of helping

develop a positive attitude to reading.

My child was on a blue table last week and is now on a green table. Why is this?

Children sit on different tables for different subjects and for different activities.

Do they do show and tell?

Some classes share interesting objects and events as a way of developing speaking and listening skills. We are always interested in what the children do out of school. Our Friday assembly celebrates the children's achievements both in school and out of school.

What is a WILF and a WALT?

WALT - We Are Learning Today. This is an objective that the children are learning about.

WILF: What I am Looking For. This gives the children top tips for success.

An example of this is:

WALT: How to write a newspaper report.

This is an objective that children can learn about all through the school at different levels. (They can do a degree in it later called Journalism!)

WILF: Alliteration in the headline.

Three key facts for the story.

My child found a bird's nest this weekend, is there a nature table?

We are very conscious of the children's health and safety. Children often bring things into school to share with the class. If you are not sure - drop us a line or ring us!

How often are there parent consultations and reports?

Formal parent evenings take place in the autumn and spring term. Formal reports are given out at the end of the school year. We have an Open Afternoon at the end of the school year so that your child has an opportunity to share their work and show you where their new class will be in September.

That seems a long time away and I am a bit worried about my child's progress. . . .

You are very welcome to make an appointment to see a teacher at any point in the term.

Lunch and play times.

Can my child mix and match school dinners?

Yes we are very flexible regarding dinners, your child can have packed lunches or school dinners or a mix of both as and when they want. For example one week they might have all school dinners, the following week all packed lunches and then the next week packed lunches on Monday and Wednesday and school dinners on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

How do I pay for school dinners?

All infant children are entitled to free school meals. School dinners are £2.10 a day. You can pay by cash or cheque. Cheques should be made payable to 'NYCC Thorpe Willoughby' in an envelope marked with the days they are having the school dinners, your child's name and class. You can also pay at the office in person. You can pay a term at a time, lump sums as and when (eg £20 at a time), weekly or daily. It is up to you, we just ask that you pay before the meal is eaten! Occasionally children forget their packed lunch and if we are unable to contact you in time they will be provided with a school dinner. There will be a charge for the dinner.

What should not be in lunch box?

Please don't give your child fizzy drinks to be consumed at school. We do have a healthy school mark so hope that lunch boxes will be as healthy as possible.

Can they bring peanut butter sandwiches or other nut products?

If there are any particular allergy issues we will notify you. We would discourage the inclusion of nuts in packed lunches as children can have mild allergies.

Can my child come home for lunch?

Yes they can but please can they tell the office that they are leaving and when they have arrived back. Younger children should meet their parents at the school office. Older, with written permission, can walk home themselves. KS1 children should not return to school before 12:55, KS2 should not return before 1:10pm.

Can my child refill their water bottle?

Every child needs to bring a named water bottle to school. The children have access to fresh water all during the school day. There are facilities for them to fill them up or to access water should they forget their bottle.

Do the children play out in the rain?

Yes unless it is very heavy in which case they will stay indoors. Please equip your child with the necessary (named!) Coat and shoes.

Do they have snacks at break times?

Infant children have a fruit snack at playtime provided free of charge. Children are allowed to bring in a healthy snack such as fruit, fruit bars or raisins. Sweets, chocolate or crisps are not to be eaten at playtime.

My daughter said she was playing with a playground pal today - what did she mean?

Our year 6 children train to be play leaders and often play with the infants as playground pals. This helps confidence and relationship building across the school. It allows our younger children to see the older children as positive role models. They also help the youngest children with their shoes at lunchtime encouraging them to be more independent.

Health and Welfare

What happens if my child wets themselves?

They can either wear their PE kit or we have a stock of spare clothes which we would ask you to wash and return.

How do you deal with bullying?

We have a comprehensive bullying policy which we follow (you can ask to see a copy at the office) We are also a Rights Respecting School, which means that our children spend a lot of time thinking about how they can foster respecting for all within the school setting. We are also a 'Telling School'. This means that we encourage children to tell us if someone has been unkind to them so that it can be sorted out. Our school council have created a leaflet to explain how the children and the school have a positive approach to dealing with bullying.

When it's hot can my child bring in sun cream?

Yes we ask that children bring in their own labelled sun cream that they can put on themselves. Also please can you ensure that they have sunhats and their shoulders covered?

My child has had a stomach bug when should I send them back?

In the interests of infection control please wait 24 hours after the last incident of vomiting or diarrhea.

Should I send my child in to school with nits?

No but as soon as you have treated them, you may send your child to school.

Should I send my child to school with conjunctivitis?

If infected children come in contact with under 5s they should not come to school. If antibiotics are prescribed children should not come to school for the first 24 hours. If your child is uncomfortable you may decide that your child is not well enough to attend school. The School Nurse can be contacted for advice on 01904 721367.

What do you do if my child is ill at school?

We will call you as soon as possible and look after them until you collect them.

Can my child refill their water bottle?

Every child needs to bring a named water bottle to school. However, there are facilities for them to fill them up or to access water should they forget their bottle.

What do I do if my child is too ill to come to school?

Please contact the office first thing in the morning so they can inform the teacher of your child's absence and ensure the correct reason for absence is recorded. There is a facility to leave a message on our answer phone so you do not have to wait until school is open. Please make sure that the office knows how long your child will be absent for even if this means phoning in everyday until they are better.

I had a text saying that my child is not at school, why is this?

It may seem strange, especially if you know where your child is, but we are either reminding

you that you need to tell us they are absent or notifying you that for some reason your child has not arrived at school. We don't know where they are unless we have been told.

Will the school give my child some medication?

As a general rule, the taking of medicines in school is discouraged. If vital, please contact the Head teacher. A letter is available from the school office requesting administering of medicines, which must be completed and sanctioned by the Head teacher.

Medicines **must** be left and administered in the School Office. Only prescribed medication can be administered.