

Frequently Asked Questions



Reception Intake

Will I need to pay for school dinners?

- No, all children are entitled to free school meals during their time in Key Stage 1 (up until they leave Year 2).
- We offer a wide range of delicious meals for your child to have, please check the menu weekly and discuss the options with them. Please ensure they know what they are having for lunch each day.

Will I need to provide a morning snack for my child?

- No, the children are offered a piece of fruit everyday for their snack; we also offer a carton of milk (please let us know any allergies or dietary requirements).
Milk is free to children under the age of 5; there is an option to pay for the milk once they turn 5. Information about payment is available from the school office.

What should I include in their spare clothes bag?

- A set of spare uniform is vital; in the event that your child falls over, has a toileting accident or is having too much fun in our messy areas i.e. the mud kitchen or water area; it allows us to get them changed quickly. **Please make sure clothing is named.**
- Please remember to include underwear and socks/tights.

What else should my child come to school with?

- A pair of named wellies – during their time in EYFS your child will take part in lots of messy play and outdoor time. We will place the wellies on the rack outside the classroom.
- Book bag – a school book bag can be purchased from the school office. This should come to school daily so letters, information, pieces of work, homework and reading books can be sent home easily. **No rucksacks or large bags.**

How often does PE take place?

- The children will have PE once a week.
- A full PE kit must be kept in school – we will send this home half termly for clothes to be washed/replaced. It is important that children have a winter and summer PE kit so they can join in lessons despite the weather.
- Please check class pages on the website for class PE days.

If I want to speak to the class teacher, what should I do?

- You will see the class teacher every morning and afternoon, however a scheduled meeting makes it easier to discuss any concerns you may have. You can arrange this with the class teacher, send an email to our parents@ghyllgrove email or phone the school office.
- Depending on the nature of the meeting, you may then be introduced to our SEN, Pastoral or Senior Leadership Team.

How often are the children read with at school?

- Your child will read with a member of staff once a week. They will also receive a reading book to take home to share with an adult. They will also have a home school diary which can be signed to show they have read at home.
- Reading books are changed once week to allow time for children to practise their comprehension as well as phonic skills.
- Throughout the year we will hold parent workshops based around our curriculum and give you useful information to help support your child at home.

What is the Phonic Scheme at Ghyllgrove?

- We use a phonic scheme called Read, Write, Inc. Children will take place in daily sessions, starting at the end of September.
- Read, Write, Inc. sessions allow children to practise pronouncing sounds, reading words and writing words, and eventually sentences.
- Children are assessed at the end of every half term and their progress is tracked by the school reading leader.
- As the children progress, they will bring home words, reading sheets and then reading books that match their ability.
- A Read, Write, Inc. workshop will be held in the Spring term and will give you the key information you need to support your child at home.

How can I find out what my child is doing at school?

- In EYFS we use an online system called Tapestry which allows you to see photos and videos of what your child is doing throughout the day. You will also access homework tasks through the Tapestry app.
- At the beginning of the school year you will be sent an activation email which will allow you to log in and set your password. You can download the Tapestry app from the app store on your phone/tablet. It can also be accessed on a laptop or computer.
- You can also send us photos and videos of your child's home learning, or special weekend events such as a trip to the park, a holiday or spending time with family and friends. Please see the school website for a video demonstration on how to upload and send videos.

I am having issues with Tapestry, what can I do?

- All EYFS staff are trained to use the Tapestry software. If you are having difficulties with your Tapestry account, please speak to the class teacher who will be happy to assist you.
- Please note that we can resend the activation email, however parents are responsible for their log in and password.
- If you require help from a member of staff, we ask that you already have the app downloaded on your phone to make it easier and quicker for us to help you.
- You will also be given step by step instructions on how to upload photos and videos to Tapestry. There is also a demonstration video on the school website.

I want to support my child at home, what can I do?

- Your child will be given weekly homework tasks to complete at home. This tasks will link to our topics and themes in class. You will be able to access the homework using the Tapestry app. More information to follow.
- There are lots of wonderful websites and apps that can be used to support learning at home. At our termly workshops we will give out this information, as well as helpful tips to support learning at home.
- Please speak to the class teacher if you have any concerns about your child's learning.