Radley Primary School

A Church of England School

Foundation Stage Unit

Nursery

N1 & N2

Foundation Stage Unit

We look forward to welcoming your child to our Foundation Stage Unit or FSU. Children in their N2 year are rising 4 during the academic year, N1 children are rising 3 within that academic year. The academic year runs from September 1st to August 31st.

We believe that education is a partnership between home and school. Adults, children and parents must work together in an atmosphere of mutual respect. You have been your child's first teacher and we take great pleasure in joining with you now to further your child's development.

We want to make your child's entry into the FSU a happy one. There will be opportunities for you and your child to visit and spend some time in the setting with their assistants and the other adults and children.

Our aim at Radley CE Primary School and FSU is to develop the full potential of every child academically, creatively, socially and physically, whatever their ability, in a caring, Christian environment.

Please do approach any of us working at Radley with any questions you have. However small your question may seem, we are here to help. In your visit prior to starting you will have the opportunity to meet all of the staff in the FSU, as well as the Headteacher of the school and our administrator, Mrs Jackie Crook

We look forward to welcoming you in person to Radley Foundation Stage Unit; and to beginning the process that will help to ensure a happy, successful start to school life.

Grace Slater
Headteacher

Radley CE Primary School
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Term Dates

2016/2017

Autumn Term

Thursday 1st September	Staff Training Day (School closed)
Friday 2nd September	Staff Training Day (School closed)
Monday 5th September	Autumn Term begins
Thursday 20th October	End of Half Term (3.00pm)
Friday 21st October	Staff Training Day (School closed)
24th to 28th October	*Half Term Holiday*
Monday 31st October	Back to school
Friday 16th December	**End of Autumn Term (1.30pm)**

Spring Term

Tuesday 3rd January	Spring Term begins
Friday 10th February	End of Half Term (3.00pm)
13th to 17th February	*Half Term Holiday*
Monday 20th February	Back to school
Friday 7th April	**End of Spring Term (1.30pm)**

Summer Term

Monday 24th April	Summer Term begins
Monday 1st May	Bank Holiday: School closed
Thursday 25th May	End of Half Term (3.00pm)
Friday 26th May	Staff Training Day (School closed)
29th May to 2nd June	*Half Term Holiday*
Monday 5th June	Staff Training Day (School closed)
Tuesday 6th June	Back to school
Friday 21st July	**End of Summer Term (1.30pm)**

FSU Sessions

Nursery

Children in our Brook class attend for up to 5 sessions a week (arranged flexibly to include mornings and whole days). We provide three hours of activities with a balance between child-initiated play and adult-focused learning. The adult to child ratio is a maximum of 1:13.

Not all children attending the FSU for nursery education (N1 and N2) come to Radley Primary School, and we have excellent transition links with a number of local schools. This means that we can take more children on to our roll for the Nursery than will enter the school.

Fees

Children are funded from the long term after their 3rd birthday (September, January, April).

Emergency sessions can be arranged at 12 hours' notice for £24.00, if places are available in the FSU. Please contact the school office if you need to arrange this.

Extra Sessions

We offer extra sessions when places are available. These are chargeable at £15.00 per session and are invoiced monthly in advance.

We regret that we cannot refund extra session fees, as we plan staffing and provision carefully around the numbers we have.

A typical session for Brook would include:

8.45 am	Registration Phonics or Literacy
9.00am	Learning through play
10.00am	Snack – fruit, milk or water
10.15am	Learning through play
11.20am	Tidy time
11.30am	Story / Singing / Maths or topic
12.00pm	Home time (for children attending mornings only)

Areas of learning covered in the sessions are rotated to allow for all the children to access the whole curriculum.

FSU Staff

The FSU is led by Miss Caroline Luckraft. There are four other teaching assistants who work in the Foundation Stage Unit; Mrs Linzi Neal-Smith, Mrs Sonya Paige, Mrs Alison Arnold and Miss Alison Grimes.

Key Person Approach

Each child is assigned a key worker who will help to settle them into the FSU and familiarise them with routines. Your child's Key Worker will also be the first point of contact for communication with parents and will ensure that pertinent information is shared with other staff in the FSU. The key worker maintains the child's records and undertakes observations.

Communication

There is an FSU Newsletter which is given out on a termly basis. School Newsletters and letters from the Headteacher are also given to Brook children when appropriate. In addition, the Learning Overview is posted on the school website under 'Class News' and is displayed in the cloakroom. This enables parents to support current teaching at home. (Windrush children are in blue type, Brook children are in red type).

Parents are welcome to speak to staff at any convenient time. Mrs Jackie Crook is the school administrator and she works closely with Linzi Neal Smith to co-ordinate registration and admission details. Jackie Crook will be your first point of contact when you ring the school or FSU.

Governors

There is an Early Years sub-committee of the Governing Body. This consists of Mrs Charlotte Mitchell (Chair), Mrs Grace Slater (Headteacher). Mr Dan Pullen and Mrs Elaine Walton. Miss Caroline Luckraft and Mrs Linzi Neal Smith are co-opted onto this committee and attends all meetings.

FSU Information

Uniform

Red FSU sweatshirts and t-shirts are available from the school office. Children should wear dark trousers, shorts or skirt and red checked summer dresses are welcome in the sunny weather! Children will also have unlimited access to the outside and so will also need wellies, a coat and a hat throughout the year. If the weather is hot, please apply sun cream to your child before their session. **All items of school wear should be named.**

Attendance

If you wish to apply for your child to be absent from school (even for a single day), please contact the head teacher.

Attendance is not statutory for Nursery children, but our safeguarding responsibilities require us to record when children are absent and the reason for this.

Medicine

If your child needs medication during the day we can administer it, but you will need to take the medicine to the school office and complete a consent form. If your child is taking antibiotics, then these should be given outside the school day. Please remember that if your child is ill, then they should not be in school and that their absence will be authorised as 'illness'.

We can also ensure that your child takes his or her inhaler. You will need to send a labelled inhaler in a bag to hand to a member of staff. Please make sure the inhaler is in date and complete the relevant Medicine in School form from the school office.

Please discuss any other medical conditions, such as allergies, that your child has as early as possible so that training may be undertaken if appropriate.

Equal Opportunities

All children are included irrespective of their race, culture or religion, home language, family background, special educational needs, disability, gender or ability.

How to Help your Child

You can help your child settle into the FSU by ensuring they get plenty of sleep, especially in the early stages when they are likely to be very tired when they come home. You can also encourage them to dress themselves independently, while reassuring them that they will be able to ask for help. It is normal for both children and their parents to feel anxious, but speaking to staff, other parents and befriending other children in the class can give children confidence.

We aim to support all children and parents in separating at the beginning of the session. We foster care and consideration of parent, child and teacher. **Your child will learn confidence from you.**

You are always welcome to come in with your child to talk briefly to the staff and say goodbye. Although it is hard, if your child is crying have the courage to leave. We will take great care to ensure your child is happy, and, following years of observations, most children develop confidence quicker if their carer is not around. They understand that you trust us to care for them. We will always ring you if there is a problem or to simply let you know that your child has settled.

At the end of the session, Nursery children will be brought out by an adult to the gate at the front of school where we will ensure that children are collected by a known carer.

Your child will:-

- Develop confidence
- Establish a good relationship with adults in the setting
- Develop relationships with other children
- Learn new routines
- Learn to listen to adults and each other
- Develop independence.

EYFS Curriculum

Children begin the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum from birth. The Reception Year (R) at school is the final year of this stage. The Foundation Stage Curriculum was revised in September 2012. It is broken down by the Characteristics of Effective Learning and the seven areas of learning, which include:

Prime Areas
Personal, Social and Emotional Development
Physical Development
Communication and Language

Specific Areas
Literacy
Mathematics
Understanding the World
Expressive Arts and Design

Characteristics of Effective Learning

Playing and exploring - engagement
Finding out and exploring
Playing with what they know
Being willing to 'have a go'

Active learning – motivation
Being involved and concentrating
Keeping trying
Enjoying and achieving what they set out to do

Creating and thinking critically – thinking
Having their own ideas
Making links
Choosing ways to do things

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This area of learning is about knowing who you are and feeling good about yourself. It is also about developing respect for others, social competence and a positive disposition to learn. Success in this area is critical for young children and gives them the best opportunity for success in all other areas of learning.

How can you help?

-You have already helped with the development of this area. You can continue to do so by encouraging and praising your child. You can encourage their independence and listen to their worries. You can help encourage their social relationships by inviting other children to play and by encouraging turn-taking games.

Physical Development

This area is about improving skills of co-ordination, control, manipulation and movement. It will help your child gain confidence in what he/she can do and also will enable him/her to feel the positive benefits of being healthy and active.

In the classroom you child will be using tools and construction materials as well as malleable materials such as play dough. Your child will use the hall and the field to run, jump, skip and find out about space and moving safely.

How can you help?

-You can encourage your child to develop these skills by encouraging and joining in with physical activities.

- Help your child to learn to throw and catch.

Communication, Language and Literacy

This area includes listening and attention, understanding and speaking.

Listening and Attention

Your child will learn about taking turns in a conversation and about negotiating with others. Listening skills will be developed and each child will be encouraged to respond to what he/she has heard by questioning or making comments. There will be stories, songs, rhymes and poems to listen to. Your child will be encouraged to speak clearly and audibly. The value of talk to help organise and clarify thinking, feelings and ideas will be modelled and encouraged. Your child will learn new words and find out about meanings of words. These skills are very important for the development of writing.

-Talk with your child so that you are having a two way conversation.
-Listen to your child. Ask questions/make comments about what he/she says.
-Make eye contact with your child and encourage him/her to look at you when you are speaking to them.
-Get involved in your child's role play.

Understanding

Your child will learn to understand 'who', 'what', 'where' in simple questions and begin to understand 'why' and 'how' questions. They will respond to simple instructions, e.g to get or put away an object.

They will learn to follow a story without pictures or props.

Listen and respond to ideas expressed by others in conversation or discussion. As well as following instructions involving several ideas or actions.

How can you help?

-Join in imaginative play.

-Encourage your child to talk about what is happening in a story and to act out scenarios from the story.

Speaking

Speaking is a key component of learning.
Your child will learn to express themselves effectively, showing awareness of listeners' needs. They will use past and present and future tenses when talking about events that have happened or are to happen in the future.

How can you help?

- *Give thinking time for children to decide what they want to say and how they will say it.*

- *Provide opportunities for talking for a wide range of purposes.*

Literacy

Reading

Your child will be listening to stories and talking about books. He/she will talk about the cover of the book, including, for example, the title, the author and illustrator and the picture. Your child will learn about print and will track print from left to right and from the top to bottom of the page. There will opportunities to listen to rhyme.

How can you help?

-Look at the print all around – labels on the cereal packet, road sign etc

-Teach your child nursery rhymes

Writing

Children need to bring together a variety of skills in order to become writers. Your child will develop the skills needed for pencil control. There will be opportunities for using play dough, pouring in the sand, threading beads, using scissors, crawling and climbing – to improve upper body strength and develop key muscles groups and so on. They will be encourages to try out writing – for example, making a shopping list in the play house.

How can you help?

-Encourage activities such as play-dough, cutting and threading beads at home. They are fun and will help to develop hand/eye co-ordination, which is necessary for writing skills later.

Mathematics

This area includes **numbers and shape, space and measures.**

In this area your child will learn how to count and will develop maths vocabulary such as more, less, tall, short and so on. There will be plenty of opportunities to be involved in practical activities. There will be coins to sort and to use in role play. This area also includes learning about shapes, both 'flat shapes' – circles, squares, triangles, etc and 'solid' shapes – cones, cubes, spheres. Your child will also investigate patterns. We encourage children to solve a vast array of problems from simple addition problems to how to move water!

How can you help?

- *You can help by counting the stairs, asking your child to collect three big potatoes, laying the table for the family and counting how many that is.*

- *Sing Number rhymes – Ten Green Bottles, Five little ducks etc.*

Understanding of the World

This area develops the skills, knowledge and understanding that helps the child make sense of the world. It forms the foundation for later work in Science, History, Geography, Design and Technology and Information and Communication Technology. This area can be summarised under three main headings:

People and Communities

Your child will be learning about past and present events in their own lives and other peoples. They will learn about different peoples' cultural backgrounds, traditions and the community in which they live.

The World

Your child will be learning about the similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials and living things. We will talk about the features of the environment and how environments might vary from one another. As well as making observations of animals, and plants and talking about changes.

Technology

Your child will use the computer and other technology such as the Listening Centre. We also have programmable toys (e.g. shop till) for use in role play situations.

How can you help?

- *Let your child help with cooking and gardening. Water play and sand play provide good opportunities for talking and find out about floating and sinking, drying and so on.*

Expressive Arts and Design

This area is fundamental to successful learning. It helps your child make connections between one area of learning and another. It includes art, music, dance, role play and imaginary play. This area can be summarised under two headings

Exploring and using media and materials

Your child will sing songs, make music and dance and experiment with ways of changing them. They will safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture and form.

Being Imaginative

This area allows your child to represent their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through design and technology, art, music, dance, role play and stories.

Active Learning

At Radley Primary School and FSU, we recognise the importance of play in the Early Years curriculum. Young children learn by interacting with their environment – people, materials, information. They want to discover how and why things happen. They learn through 'doing'. PLAY is an essential part of this learning experience.

Children need to explore and play outdoors. They should have easy unlimited access to a secure outdoor area. All areas of the curriculum can be covered outdoors! Our classroom has outdoor access and we have worked hard to develop the space over the past two years.

We would like your help in enabling the children to use the outdoor environment at all times, by ensuring that they have appropriate clothing.

Your child will be continuing their learning journey at primary school. Be it Radley CE Primary School, or elsewhere, the journey will be exciting, enjoyable and at times, challenging. This journey will be strengthened and supported by the partnership between your child, you and the school.

Policies

The Policy for Admission to Radley FSU (including Attendance and Payment of Fees) is available from the office. Other school policies are available on the school website or are always available to parents as hard copy in the School Office. There are specific FSU policies for Assessment, Behaviour for Learning, and Curriculum.