



**Brambleside**  
Primary School



# Early Years Foundation Stage Guide

2022/23





**I am very proud to be  
Headteacher of such a  
warm and vibrant school  
community.**

We have been the highest performing school in Kettering for the last few years. We currently have approximately 413 children on roll and are oversubscribed.

We have been the highest performing school in Kettering for the last two years and are one of the highest performing in the County, according to the DFE Comparison tables. In April 2015, we converted to Academy Status; Brambleside Academy Trust. We are a 'stand-alone' Academy and work in partnership with the Ask Teaching Network, PiXL and Unity Schools Partnership.

We have amazing learning spaces. Our outdoor environment is well established and provides many learning opportunities.

We aim to develop successful partnerships so that we can learn and grow together. We work hard to ensure all of our children leave Brambleside 'secondary ready' and are well equipped for their future lives. We encourage children to be resilient, motivated and inquisitive learners.

The Brambleside Curriculum ensures that all children will achieve, perform, compete and contribute.

Above all else, we want our children to feel safe, work hard and be happy.

Drew Brown  
Headteacher



# Welcome to Foundation Stage

**Hello and a big warm welcome from all of the team in Foundation Stage.**



This guide aims to provide you with more information about our commitment to your child, our expectations of them and how you can help your child to succeed.

We are delighted to welcome you and your family to our school. Your child has a wonderful opportunity ahead of them.

## **EYFS / Reception terminology**

Our 'Reception' year at school is such an important one, we've named it in four different ways! To clarify, our two Reception classes (RSS and RSW) are sometimes referred to as 'Early Years Foundation Stage' or 'EYFS' for short. You might also hear us call it 'Foundation Stage' too. They all mean Reception.

## Meet the teachers



### **Class RSS**

**Sophie Smith, Phase Leader**

✉ [ssmith@bramblesideacademytrust.co.uk](mailto:ssmith@bramblesideacademytrust.co.uk)



### **Class RSW**

**Simon Wellard, Class Teacher**

✉ [swellard@bramblesideacademytrust.co.uk](mailto:swellard@bramblesideacademytrust.co.uk)



# Settling your child into school

**We absolutely know just how precious your child is to you. Our main priority is to ensure your child is happy and feels safe and secure at Brambleside.**

All members of staff in Foundation Stage work as a team to support, care for and teach your child during their time with us.

Over the next few weeks, your child will have various transition sessions to settle into school, meet new friends and get to know their teacher before starting full-time. This is also a great opportunity for you to meet your child's class teacher.

You recently received an information pack from us. The covering letter provided a date for you to come to school and have a tour of the indoor environment with your child's teacher. This is on either 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th or 27th June between 3:30pm - 4:30pm.

You will be given a date and a time for a 1-hour stay and play session, either

on the 29th June (RSS) or 6th July (RSW) between 10:00am - 11:00am.

During this hour session, you are invited to join your child in their new classroom. You will have a chance to meet other parents, play in the outdoor area of the Foundation Stage classrooms and your child will be able to meet some new friends.

Your child will then be invited to attend school without a parent on 11th July, 10:00am - 11:30am for Miss Smith's class (RSS) and 1:00pm - 2:30pm for Mr Wellard's class (RSW).

Your child will attend school full time from Monday 5th September. Parents are able to come into classrooms between 8:40am - 8:50am to help their child with their coats, bags and settle their child for the day ahead.





# Getting your child ready for school

**We want to make sure that all children settle as quickly as possible when they start in September. If you are excited about your child starting school, they will be excited too. Here are a few things that will help your child get off to a flying start:**

## Being independent

Please encourage your child to get themselves dressed in the morning. This will help them to change clothing when they have their PE lessons.

## Toileting

It would be very helpful if your child knows how to use the toilet independently, as well as remembering to always wash and dry their hands. It's always handy to have a spare pair of underwear packed in your child's bag - just in case of any little accidents!

## Eating

If your child is having hot dinners, they will be provided with a knife and fork. It would really help if you could allow them opportunities to have a go at cutting up their own food.

## Being considerate

Encourage your child to tidy up when they have finished playing.

## Good manners

We pride ourselves on having high expectations and will expect all children to demonstrate good manners such as saying please and thank you.

## Reading at home

Parents are encouraged to share a book regularly with their child - look at pictures together and talk about the story. This helps to develop their interest in reading.

## Bedtime routines

It may sound simple, but getting enough sleep is a vital factor in preparing your child for school. Please ensure you adopt an early enough bed time to allow plenty of sleep to help your child make the most of their school day.





## **Our school day runs from 8:40am - 3:15pm**

Our school day starts at 8:40am, when the children will enter through their classroom doors. These doors will close at 8:50am to begin morning registration.

Lunchtime begins at 12:05pm for the Reception children (a little earlier than the rest of the school) to give them extra time to settle into the routine.

Afternoon registration is at 1:10pm and the school day ends at 3:15pm. At the end of the day, the children and teaching staff will greet you from the classroom door.

Please ensure you tell a member of staff if someone different is collecting your child. Alternatively, you can advise the school office on 01536 310680.

# School uniform

**At Brambleside, we promote smart dressing and taking pride in our appearance.**

Our school uniform helps to encourage this pride, as well as helping to develop a sense of unity so that children understand they are part of our school community.

Our uniform is as follows:

- navy sweatshirt or cardigan embroidered with school logo
- white polo shirt (with or without logo)
- grey skirt, pinafore, school trousers/ shorts
- gingham summer school dress during warmer months
- black sensible shoes, no trainers
- appropriate sock/tights (e.g. white, navy, grey)
- book bag – provided free of charge during your stay and play session. This has kindly been funded by Friends of Brambleside (FOBs)
- PE t-shirt in your child's house colour
- navy sports hoody with school logo
- black PE shorts
- PE bag – ideally drawstring
- navy baseball cap or white sun hat for summer months

We strongly recommend that all items of clothing are named so that any misplaced items can safely be returned to you.

The items of uniform with a Brambleside logo on need to be ordered online. Please bear in mind that August is the busiest time to order so we advise ordering in July to be sure your uniform arrives in time. Please either follow the link on our school website or visit the following website to order:

**[www.yourschooluniform.com/schools/index/brambleside-communityprimaryschool](http://www.yourschooluniform.com/schools/index/brambleside-communityprimaryschool)**



# The Early Years Foundation Stage



## Personalised curriculum

In Foundation Stage, we teach through a mixture of both structured, whole class sessions and child-led, free flow sessions. During the whole class sessions, such as Phonics and Number Time, the children will learn the key knowledge and skills about Reading, Writing and Mathematics. During the free-flow sessions, the children are free to play indoors and outdoors in our learning environment and build on the key skills they have learnt, with adults on hand to support them and challenge their thinking in all areas of the curriculum.

## Basic life skills

We strongly believe that all the activities that the children carry out should be meaningful and important to them. This is why our learning environment is based around real-life activities, planned to challenge and inspire the children daily. Through these activities, your child will have the opportunities to regularly bake, buy and make their own snack, independently sew a range of materials, use real tools to design and carry out woodwork, gardening and growing their own vegetables.



## Performing

We have a permanent stage in our outdoor area which the children can access on a daily basis to perform shows with lots of singing, acting and instruments.

We also learn a new rhyme every week in 'Rhyme Time' and we have a performance every Friday.

The children also love to write 'Helicopter Stories'. Every day your child will have a chance to either write their own story or have their story scribed for them by an adult. At the end of the day the carpet space transforms into our very own stage where the children's stories come to life and are acted out by the children in the class.

At Christmas, your child will also have the opportunity to perform in our Christmas Carol concert at the local church with the Key Stage 1 children.

## TAPESTRY Online Learning Journal



While your child is with us in Foundation Stage, we will be using an online learning journal called 'Tapestry' to capture their amazing moments. It gives you the opportunity to see your child in lots of scenarios during the day.

They may be dressed up as a pirate, exploring the water tray or even making playdough cakes for their friends! We love to see the children's achievements at home too, and Tapestry gives you the opportunity to show us this by uploading your own observations.



## Forest School

We love to explore outdoors in Foundation Stage. Your child will have regular access to Forest School with Miss Smith or Mr Wellard, trained Level 3 Forest School Leaders. During these sessions, your child will learn all about the world around them, learn to use tools, make dens and understand the wonder of nature.

## Keeping your child safe

Child safety is a key priority. We need to know about any allergies, medical conditions or any medication your child may take, including EPI-PENS and inhalers.

With your permission, medication prescribed by a doctor may be given to your child by a member of staff. Medicine should be handed into the school office and a form completed by a parent/carer.



## Reporting your child's absence

Regular attendance is key to success. Pupils are required to attend every day, unless they are ill or there is another genuine reason. If your child is unable to attend, you should let the school know by 8:50am on each day of absence, either in person or by telephoning the school office 01536 310680.

## Medical appointments

We understand that occasionally you may need to take your child to a medical appointment such as doctors, dentists or opticians during school hours. Please advise the school office in advance and provide their appointment letter which we will photocopy for their personal file.

## Contacting the school

The school office opening hours are 8:30am – 4:00pm. The school office staff are happy to help with any general queries you may have. The best way to contact your child's teacher is by email or you may call the school office on 01536 310680.

## Before and after school clubs (wraparound care)

We are able to offer before and after school clubs for your child. We use an independent sports and activity company called Premier Education, who provide Ofsted-registered wraparound care facilities.

Their programme has been crafted to provide a range of activities, delivered in a safe, secure and fun environment.

If required, you'll need to book this service online by visiting Premier Education's website. (If booked directly by the school, Premier charge an additional £5.00 per session – so it's definitely worthwhile you booking online!)

Childcare vouchers are accepted until 4:30pm.

For more information, visit [premier-education.com](http://premier-education.com)





## Snack & milk

In Foundation Stage, your child receives a free piece of fruit each day that we eat at snack time. All four year olds will receive a free carton of milk daily. If you would like your child to continue having milk from the age of 5 onwards, you will need to order and pay for your child's continued supply online at [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com) (Pupil Premium children may continue to receive free milk if desired, see page 16 for eligibility.)

## Drink bottles

Please can all children bring a named cup or drink bottle which they may use throughout their day.

## Trips

Throughout the year your child will have the opportunity for a trip out in the local area. They will visit the local park where they will get to play with a few friends, then stop off at the shop on the way back to buy ingredients for snack time, cooking and playdough, making sure they have written a list before they go.

At the end of the year, your children will go on an end of year trip, such as a visit to Wicksteed Park.

## Progress reports

Throughout their reception year, you will be invited to two parents evening meetings (online via Teams). There will also be a school report issued for your child at the end of the academic year. Your child's teacher will be available at the classroom door at the end of the day if you need to have a chat.

## House points

Brambleside runs a house point system. Each child will be designated a particular house that they belong to. We have four houses in the whole school. They compete against each other each week to win a trophy for their house. Our houses are Boughton (red), Rockingham (yellow), Lamport (blue) and Kirby (green). Your child will be asked to wear a PE t-shirt that corresponds with their house colour. Your child may be awarded house points for demonstrating our motto "Learning and growing together".

## Sports day

In the Summer term, we hold a traditional sports day and we invite parents and carers to come and watch their children on the school field. Children compete in races such as running, relay, bat and ball (otherwise known as egg and spoon!) and more. Winning teams and individuals are awarded house points. Feel free to bring your picnic blankets and chairs and fingers crossed for a lovely dry day!



## Brambleside Mile

At lunch times, the children may participate in our Brambleside Mile initiative. They can run or walk miles for their class. We award a Brambleside Mile class of the week to the class that have run the most miles that week. There are also individual certificates for Bronze, Silver and Gold once a child reaches a specific milestone.

## VIP & British values

Once a fortnight, the children will attend a VIP assembly where each teacher chooses a VIP from the class for doing something amazing linked to their learning. In these assemblies, the children are also awarded Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates linked to their house points and a class and pupil of the week are chosen for their achievements in PE.

Every Wednesday in Foundation Stage, 4 children are chosen as the 'British Values Superstars' who have gone the extra mile to follow our British values.

## Stretching high attainers

At Brambleside, we ensure that all our pupils are appropriately challenged and supported. Careful assessment allows us to identify those children who need additional stretch and extension because they are already achieving high levels.



# The areas of learning of EYFS and their associated Early Learning Goals

**The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework is for all children from birth to five years.**

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) consists of learning and development areas that shape the educational provision. These are divided into 'prime' and 'specific' areas.

## **Prime areas:**

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development

## **Specific areas:**

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive Arts and Design

In each area, there are Early Learning Goals (ELGs) for most children to reach by the end of the EYFS.

Alongside the ELGs, there are Characteristics of Effective Learning. These show us how the children need to be learning in order to achieve their ELGs.

The Characteristics of Effective Learning are:

- **Playing and exploring**
- **Active learning**
- **Creating and thinking critically**

From this, our curriculum is very child-led and open-ended to promote independence and learning through play, building on the skills taught in whole class sessions such as Phonics.



## Who are Friends of Brambleside? (FOBs)

'Friends of Brambleside' are parents who volunteer to help the school and are a real asset to us. All parents are invited to get involved, even if only for a small amount of time at a school event, such as serving squash at a school disco! It's a fun way to bring staff, parents and friends together socially in support of the school.

FOBs work hard to raise money for us by hosting fun events. The FOBs organised events have raised thousands of pounds which have been spent on equipment and resources to enhance our children's education, experience and school facilities.

 Friends of Brambleside



# What support is available?



## Do you qualify for extra support?

You can apply for free school meals for older children in KS2 (years 3 - 6) if you are in receipt of one of the benefits listed below.

- Universal Credit (providing your household income is less than £7,400 a year after tax, excluding any benefits you may receive)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

## Free School Meals

Free meals are automatically available to all EYFS and Key Stage 1 (this includes Reception, year 1 and year 2) children under the Universal Infant Free School Meals Scheme.

Some children decide to bring a packed lunch in from home as an alternative. Our school meals are cooked on site and are provided by an independent catering company. A fresh, healthy online daily menu is available from which to make a selection. You will receive an email with your login details to book school lunches before full time schooling starts.

If you receive any of these benefits, it is very important that you register for Free School Meals via the North Northamptonshire Council website at [www.freeschoolmeals.ncc@northants.gov.uk](mailto:www.freeschoolmeals.ncc@northants.gov.uk)



## Pupil Premium

If you are in receipt of any of the benefits listed on page 16, your child will also be eligible for Pupil Premium.

Pupil Premium is additional funding that is received by schools to help raise the attainment of, what the Department for Education refer to as, disadvantaged pupils.

The Pupil Premium grant enables all children to access the same provision, opportunities and enrichment as those pupils not eligible for this grant. We use the grant to help ensure that these pupils achieve in line with their peers.

This includes £100.00 per academic year for school uniform and funded school trips.

Please contact the school office if you have any questions and we will be happy to help you.

## English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Pupils for whom English is an additional language benefit from our emphasis on the core curriculum and gain extra support. They will work in small groups, playing games and reading stories to reinforce basic vocabulary and develop confidence in speaking.

## Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Our aim at Brambleside is to ensure that children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are identified and given support as early as possible. These children may need extra help to enable them to develop their full potential. Parents are involved throughout this process. We follow the SEND Code of Practice (2014) to identify, assess and support pupils with SEND and provide tailored support.

Support is delivered through differentiated learning in whole class sessions, small groups, 1:1 with teachers and teaching assistants or therapeutic interventions from outside agencies (Occupational Therapy etc). Children with SEND will be supported by our school SENDCo, Mrs Eaton Brown as well as the class teacher.



**Mrs Eaton Brown,  
SENDCo**





# Academic Calendar

## 2022/2023

September 2022						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

October 2022						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

November 2022						
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28	29	30				

December 2022						
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January 2023						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

February 2023						
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28					

March 2023						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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April 2023						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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31						

May 2023						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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29	30	31				

June 2023						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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July 2023						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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31						

August 2023						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



Bank Holiday



Teacher Training Day



School Holidays





**Brambleside Primary School**  
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🖱️ [www.brambleside.northants.sch.uk](http://www.brambleside.northants.sch.uk)

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