



Welcome!



Thank you



Our school



Respect



Responsibility



Resilience



School Drivers

- Safety
 - Happiness
 - #Experiences4all
 - Community
 - Fun
 - Achievement
-
- #WorldBeyondHorncastle



Let's see this in action!



Horncastle Primary

777 posts



Following

Horncastle Primary

@HorncastlePri

Come and find out about all of the exciting things happening at Horncastle. Proud member of Wellspring Academy Trust [#WeMakeADifference](#) [#HorncastleHeroes](#)

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

- The Early Years Foundation Stage (E.Y.F.S.) is the stage of education for children from birth to the end of the Reception year.
- It is based on the recognition that children learn best through play and active learning.



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 achieving what they set out to do

Creating and thinking critically - thinking

- Having their own ideas
- Making links
- Choosing ways to do things



Early Years at Horncastle

- We put your child at the centre of everything we do!
- Play based approach to allow children to develop fundamental skills
- A curriculum designed around our children to expose them to different cultures, ethnicities, backgrounds and disabilities.
- Varieties of opportunities to visit and meet members of the local community and surrounding areas to teach the children about roles in society and celebrate where we come from.



PIC•COLLAGE

Within the theme of Learning and Development, there are seven areas. All areas are connected to one another and are equally important.

Prime Areas

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

Specific Areas

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





Horncastle
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Useful Information





What we need from you

- ❑ Visual on your child's birth certificate
- ❑ Google form filled out, including medical information, emergency contacts and other important information
- ❑ Permissions, including internet permission and local walk permissions
- ❑ Catering form completed - Handed to you tonight

Attendance

- If your child is ill, please let the school know by 9am that day, either by a voicemail (option 1) or an email to enquiries@horncastleprimary.co.uk
- A message should be sent every day, unless you know how long they are going to be off.
- If you take a holiday during term time, you may receive a fixed penalty notice from the local authority.

Useful Apps



Parent Hub App

This is our main way of communicating with families



Arbor

Arbor App

This is used to book meals, consent and pay for trips and book and pay for wrap-around care



evidence**me**

EvidenceMe App

This is how we document your child's progress

Cool Milk

Children under 5 are entitled to free milk. Once over 5, milk can be paid for at a subsidised rate. You can register for this through the Cool milk website.



The poster is split into two main sections. The left section has a blue background and features a cartoon character of a boy with dark skin and a white lab coat, and a photograph of a real boy in a yellow shirt drinking from a glass of milk. The right section has a dark blue background and features a cartoon character of a boy with blonde hair and a white lab coat.

Cool Milk
Free & Subsidised
SCHOOL MILK
Register your child today!
www.coolmilk.com

Is your child registered for SCHOOL MILK?

Child UNDER 5
Every child under the age of five is entitled to free school milk. Simply register your child online.

Child OVER 5
Every child over the age of five is entitled to milk at a subsidised cost of around £20 per term. Register your child and pay online.

Children in receipt of benefits-based free school meals are eligible for free school milk. Speak to the school for further information.
Free milk for under 5s is funded by the Department of Health and milk for over 5s is subsidised by DEFRA.

REGISTER YOUR CHILD TODAY

Register online
www.coolmilk.com



Need help?
Send us a message
at www.coolmilk.com/contact
or give us a call on 0800 321 3248

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA - SEARCH COOL MILK SCHEME

Times of the day

- The school day begins at **8.55am** and ends at **3:25pm**.
- The gates open at **8.40am** and our doors open at **8.45am** to allow a staggered start into the day.
- Your child will be dropped off at the cloakroom door where they will be greeted by an adult.
- Children will be provided with a healthy snack at snack time.
- Lunch is at 11.45am and ends at 12.45pm.
- The school day ends at **3.25pm** and the children will be released out of side doors.

Universal hot school meals

All EYFS and KS1 children are eligible to receive a cooked meal at school.

- Meals are provided by our Wellspring Academy Trust catering team, which are cooked on site.
- Meals are ordered via the Arbor app.
- Children can choose the days they would like to have a meal provided by school or bring in a packed lunch.
- Meal choices consist of a hot meal, vegetarian meal, jacket potato or sandwich.
- We are a nut free school. If you send your child with a packed lunch, please check the labels of items you send.

Please note this is separate to free school meals (Pupil Premium) which allocates further funding to the school to support your child's education. You can check if your child is eligible for this extra funding by applying online.

Happy Days - Wrap-around Care

Breakfast Club

- ❑ Open from 7.45am
- ❑ Children are provided with breakfast but must be in school by 8.15am to have breakfast
- ❑ Price £4.00 a session

Afterschool Club

- ❑ Provide two sessions.
- ❑ Short session runs until 4.30pm. Children are provided with a snack. Price £4.00
- ❑ Long session runs until 6.00pm. Children are provided with a hot meal.
- ❑ Price £9.00
- ❑ All enquiries go to Mrs Baker via email wraparoundcare@horncastleprimary.co.uk

PTA

- We have a fantastic group of people who run our Parent and Teachers Association (PTA)
- They support the children with funding for a variety of resources and experiences including school trips and books for school.
- They would love to gain some extra support whether that is helping at discos or wrapping presents at Christmas! Any help would be gratefully received.

Pop Up Shop

- We have a fantastic pop up shop which consists of pre loved school uniform and non school uniform.
- Items are not priced but a donation is appreciated (cash only).
- Money raised goes to the PTA which goes back into the school



Starting School



Our Amazing Reception Team



Mrs Withers



Mrs Clarke



Mrs Coomber



Mrs Blezard



Mrs Dickens



Ms Jackson

What does my child need?

- ❑ A name on everything!
- ❑ School uniform
- ❑ PE Kit
- ❑ A named water bottle
- ❑ In the winter, children need a hat, scarves and gloves and a waterproof coat.
- ❑ In the summer, children will need a sun hat and sun cream applied at home.
- ❑ A pair of wellies to stay in school
- ❑ We will provide a reading folder in the first week of term.



School Uniform

We are pleased to announce that you will receive a **£20 voucher** to spend at Nationwide School Uniforms.

Please note the uniform voucher expires 31.12.2026

Uniform consists of:

- ❑ Grey trouser/shorts/skirt/dress
 - ❑ White/purple polo t-shirt
 - ❑ Purple jumper/cardigan
 - ❑ Plain black shoes/trainers
- PE Kit
- ❑ Black jogger/shorts
 - ❑ White t-shirt
 - ❑ Black trainers
 - ❑ Purple jumper/cardigan/fleece



Outside Classroom

Reception will be outside learning every day.
They will need to bring a coat in for adverse weather.

They also need a named pair of wellies from the first day.



Before coming to school

Encourage your child to:-

- ❑ dress and undress themselves all on their own.
- ❑ go to the toilet alone.
- ❑ hold a pencil properly.
- ❑ enjoy colouring and name colours.
- ❑ develop confidence using scissors.
- ❑ look at books.
- ❑ count things around them.
- ❑ listen to you reading and telling stories.
- ❑ share and take turns.



4 & 5-year-olds: how you can help me with my learning

Communication & Language

- Play games with me where I have to listen to your instructions such as a treasure hunt.
- Share a wide range of books and stories with me, including non-fiction and poetry.
- Talk out aloud, commenting on your actions and mine. This helps me hear clear, well-formed sentences.
- Encourage me to have lots of back and forth conversations with other children and adults.

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

- Listen carefully to me. Encourage me to express my feelings using words.
- Help me solve problems by talking them through with me. This will help me keep going even when I find it really hard.

Physical Development

- Give me time and space to be highly active and get out of breath every day.
- Encourage me to crawl on all fours, climb, pull myself up on a rope and hang on monkey bars. These activities will help me develop the strength I need for writing.
- Let me use one-handed tools like peelers and knives.



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There are lots of resources on our website that you can access to support your child before starting school.

4 & 5-year-olds: how you can help me with my learning

Mathematics

- [Name small groups of things, this helps me to 'subitise'](#) (instantly seeing how many without counting) e.g. "There are 3 slices of pizza left."
- Ask me to count out a number of things from a group, e.g. "Could you get me 6 eggs?"
- Make number snap or bingo with numerals and pictures. Match the numerals with the right amount.
- Make patterns with objects, e.g. buttons or shells. Such as 'big, small, big...' Make a mistake and talk with me about how to fix it.

Literacy

- Keep reading with me everyday. Share books that let me see people of different races, cultures, gender and religion.
- Play games where you give me an instruction like "Can you h-o-p?" I have to put the sounds of the word together.
- Let me make up stories – you could write them down for me and we could act them out.
- Make a photo book of our family or when we went to the park and let me write my own words in it.

Understanding the World

- Share photos and tell stories about my family, both past and present.
- Take me to places of worship and places of local importance in my community.
- Let me help you cook. Talk about changes such as 'melting' or 'boiling'.

Expressive Arts & Design

- Sing and dance with me when we hear our favourite songs. Encourage me to make up my own routine.
- Give me string, scissors, glue, sticky tape and boxes to make a model.



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Transitions into School

We believe that transitions into school are highly important for a smooth transition into Reception.

At Horncastle, transitions consist of:

- Two afterschool stay and play sessions for your child and their grown up to meet the teachers and enjoy the Reception environment. These are **Monday 22nd June** and **Thursday 25th June** at 3.45pm.
- Moving up day session where you can choose an AM or PM session where your child will visit school without their grown up. This is **Monday 13th July**. More information to follow.
- We are also in discussions with the local nurseries about additional transitions and we will have opportunities for our own preschool to visit Reception throughout this term.

The first few weeks

Baseline assessment

- We will find out what the children already know and can do. This information to help us plan a programme that will encourage the children to take their learning on.
- Teachers undertake daily observations of children in the class to build up a picture of their abilities through observations of their interactions, play and independent work.
- We value any contributions you would like to make in helping us get to know your child's needs.

The first few weeks

Government baseline

- Every child takes part in the Government baseline assessment.
- This will be conducted by a familiar adult.
- It is a tool that the government use to analyse progress from Reception to Year 6 when your child takes their SATs.
- More information about this will be sent via Parent Hub on the first week of term.

Reading

- Children will be introduced to reading through the Read, Write, Inc scheme where individual sounds are taught initially, before blending is introduced. Sounds will be sent home with your child to practise.
- Initially they are sent home with a non-word book to get your child to build up their own stories, vocabulary and comprehension.
- When ready, your child will be given sound books and story books with simple decodable words.
- Children will also have a weekly visit to the school library to choose either a 'story book' or a 'find a fact book', which can be shared with an adult at home.
- Quality texts will be read to the children every day.

Nearly the end

- School days are long and tiring, so establishing a clear bedtime routine before starting school will help your child to cope with the changing routines and long days.
- Encourage your child to speak about the change to ensure that they understand that things are going to change and look a little different.



Finally

- If at any time you have any questions, please don't hesitate to come and talk to Mrs Withers or one of our lovely team.
- We want your child's first experience of school to be a happy one and we look forward to working with you to make it just that.



Thank you!

We look forward to
welcoming your child to
our Reception classes.

