



Tudor Grange Primary Academy

**Meon Vale**

**Reception 2020**

**Little Oaks**



# A Warm Welcome

Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to Tudor Grange Primary Academy Meon Vale in what is an extremely important time in your child's development. For those children returning to us from 'Seedlings', our nursery class, welcome back!

For both child and parent, starting school in Reception is both an exciting and somewhat daunting experience. There are lots of new things to do, lots of new things to remember and perhaps lots of new faces to recognise. However, we know your child will flourish in our 'Little Oaks' class.

The importance of the first year in school cannot be underestimated. Working together, we aim to help your child grow in awareness and understanding of the world around them, to establish well balanced and good social relationships, find emotional security, self-confidence and to develop physically and intellectually so that they are able to reach their full potential. As all of these areas of development will set the foundations for the rest of their school lives it is important that we get it right.

This booklet has been written to help your child settle into school and gain the most from their experiences here. We hope that it will provide some of the answers to the many questions that you may have. However, if at any time you have a concern then please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Bolter or myself.

We are really looking forward to giving your child an excellent start to their school life. With your support we are confident that your child will achieve both success and happiness.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C. Cotton

Early Years Lead



## Our School Team

**Principal** – Mrs. Jodie Bolter

**Principal's PA** – Miss. Andrea Green

Seedlings (Nursery Class)

**Class Teacher** – Miss. Sarah Harris

**Play worker** – Miss. Vanessa Strachan

**Play worker** – Miss Emma Smith and Miss Jordanna Allen-Jones (currently on maternity leave)

Little Oaks (Reception Class)

**Class Teacher** – Ms Catherine Hood

**E.Y. Lead/Class Teacher** – Mrs. Claire Cotton

**Teaching Assistant** – Miss Jessica Watkins

Willows (Year 1)

**Class Teacher** – Miss. Jessica Middleton

**Teaching Assistant** – Miss Lucy Ogier and Mrs. Miranda Burroughs (currently on maternity leave)



# Little Oaks Team

Mrs. C. Cotton



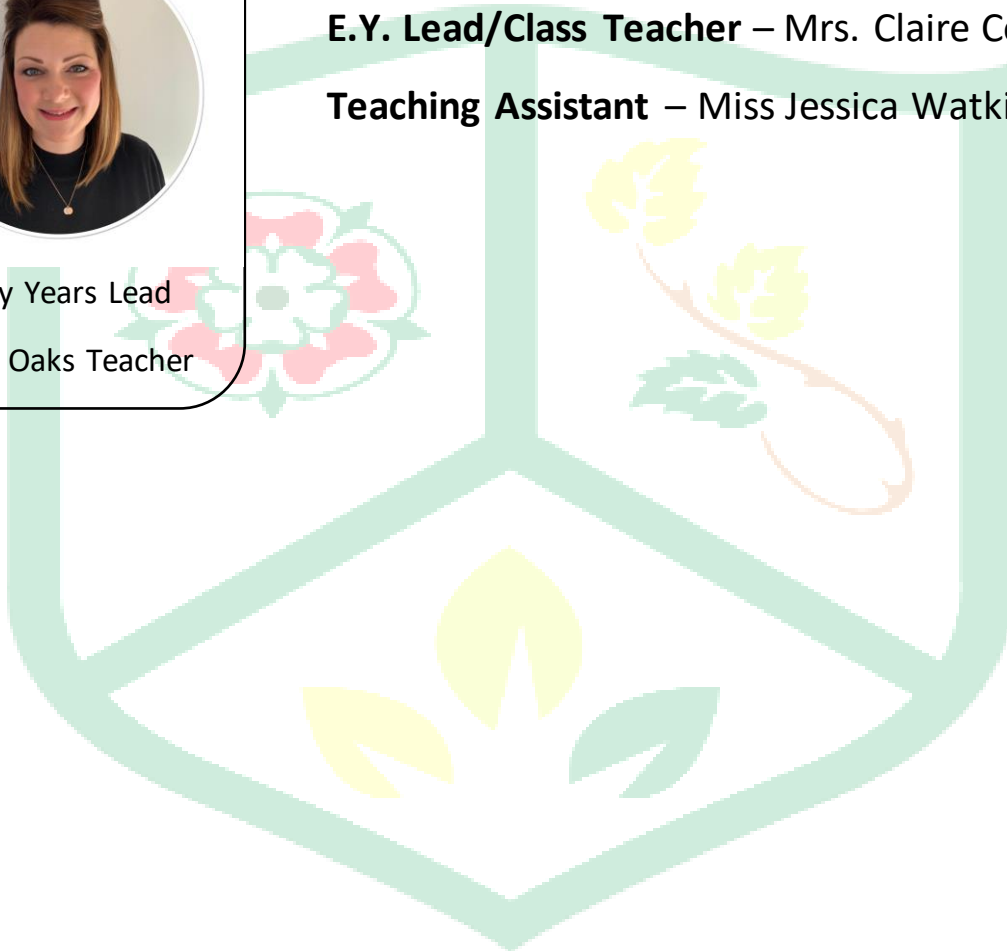
Early Years Lead  
Little Oaks Teacher

## Little Oaks (Reception Class)

**Class Teacher** – Ms Catherine Hood

**E.Y. Lead/Class Teacher** – Mrs. Claire Cotton

**Teaching Assistant** – Miss Jessica Watkins





# The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

The education of your child is a joint venture between yourselves as parents/carers and the staff at school. You have taught your child for the last four years the complex skills of walking, talking, playing, etc. and we are looking forward to extending this learning process.

In September we will give you a more detailed overview of what your child will be learning about in their first year of schooling and an introduction to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum. In the following weeks when the children learn the sounds that make up the English language (phonics), we will be holding a phonics and early reading meeting (which may be a remote presentation), in the hopes that this support will give you the best guidance on how to support your child at home with their learning.

When the children start school it is common for them to become tired (particularly at the start of their first term). Every aspect of their day will be a learning curve and a new experience, and they may find this exhausting.

Children also have different reactions to starting school. Some are eager to talk about everything that they have done during the day whilst others may prefer to keep it to themselves! Both are perfectly normal responses – some children need time to think through what they have done before they share it with others. If this is the case and you wish to know what your child has been doing please just ask a member of the Reception team.

**At TGPA Meon Vale all children are encouraged to fulfil their potential at their own pace. Our creative curriculum is tailored to the individual needs within the class and we plan certain activities based upon their current interests.**



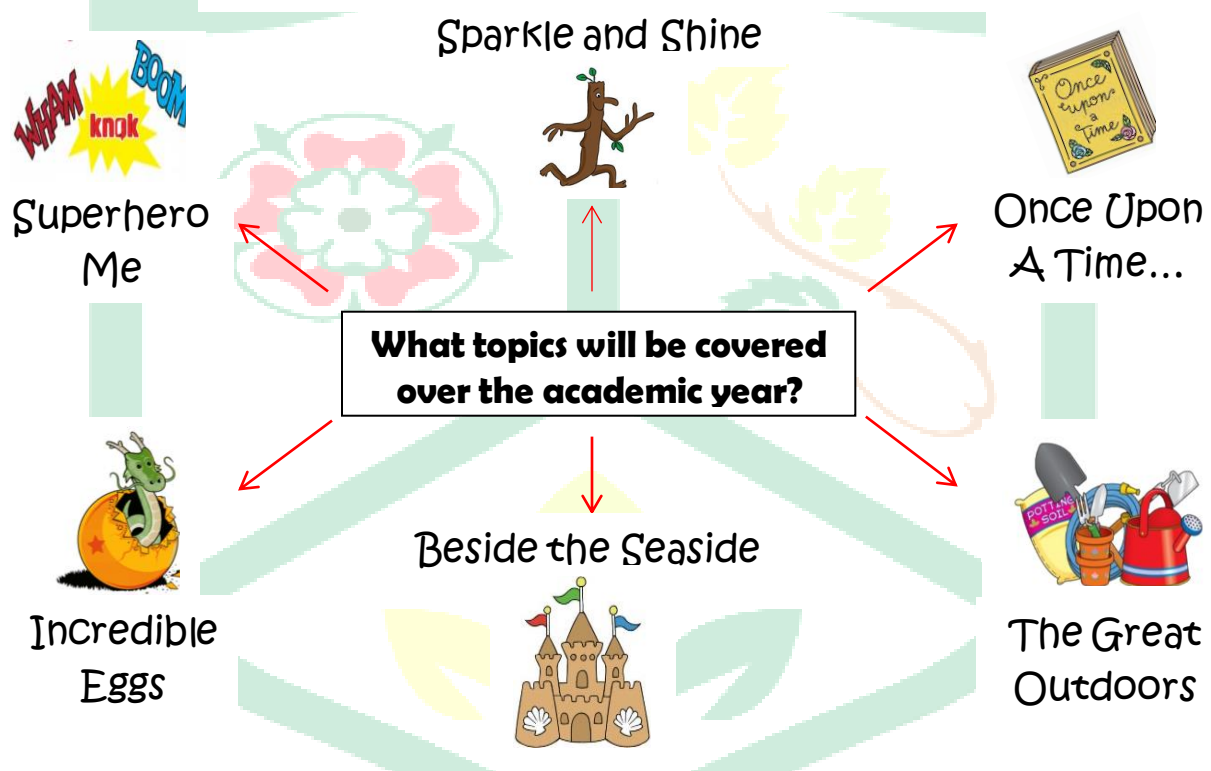
Please help your child by ensuring that they get lots of sleep and have a good breakfast. Even for those children who have attended Nursery full-time school can still be challenging to begin with.



# The Learning Environment

The Reception classroom is the middle classroom in the temporary school building. A welcoming, exciting and stimulating classroom is crucial to ensure that children settle quickly into their new learning environment. They will have access to a wide range of high quality experiences/resources that will challenge and extend their learning, whilst enhancing all areas of the curriculum. The children will learn to become confident and independent decision makers, ready for the next stage of their primary education.

## The Creative Curriculum



## Working in Partnership with Parents

At TGPA Meon Vale we aim to develop an honest and friendly relationship that will encourage, recognise and support home and school as part of your child's everyday experience. The key to any successful partnership is effective communication between yourselves and the school. We believe that by the parents and the school working together, this support will enable your child to really enjoy coming to school and this in turn will aid your child in their learning development.

If at any time you have any concerns or issues then please talk them through with Ms Hood or Mrs Cotton. Please be mindful of the fact that it is often difficult for a teacher to talk at the beginning of the morning session, or when they have a roomful of children who are in need of the teacher's attention. We recommend that you arrange an appointment at the end of the school day.



# The School Routines



If your child is being collected by a relative, family friend or is going for a playdate, please can you confirm this in writing. Can you also please ensure that you are on time to collect your child, as it can be upsetting for them if they feel that they have been 'left behind'.

The school day starts at 8:45am. Children arrive and come in through the gates from 8:30am onwards and they wait on the playground. This is the place where, at break times and lunchtimes, the children can play with their friends and the outdoor equipment. There will always be a member of the leadership team on the school gate to greet them and the class teachers will be on the playground.

The school day ends at 3:00pm. When you come to collect your child at the end of the day, please stand on the infant playground in a place where your child will be able to see you. Miss Wright or Mrs Cotton will bring the class out and they will form a line on the ramp outside the school building. The children will be given clear instructions that they must raise their hand when they see their parent. Once we have seen you, your child will be dismissed. If the teacher has any concerns or things about the school day that they wish to discuss this is when they will communicate with you.

## The Class Timetable

Each day the children take part in a variety of formal teacher sessions on the carpet where key skills are taught, followed by a range of structured and child-initiated play activities across different areas, including role-play and free-flow outdoor learning. We plan for purposeful and open-ended play that gives opportunities for self-chosen challenges, offering limitless possibilities and endless interpretations. Phonics, Literacy and Maths are taught daily and your child will bring home phonics and reading homework towards the end of the first half term.

The afternoon mirrors the morning with a short input followed by independent and focus play activities in which children are given the time to delve into deep play and become absorbed in their own learning. We finish the day with circle times, celebration sessions, music or storytelling.

The children take part in a P.E. session once a week. Due to limited space in the current school building this either takes place in the sports hall next door or on the playground.

There are many opportunities offered to the children to support our Creative Curriculum throughout the academic year such as school trips, topic celebrations and dressing up days, to name just a few.





# School Uniform

**PLEASE NAME LABEL ALL COATS, SHOES AND ALL ITEMS OF SCHOOL UNIFORM INCLUDING P.E. KIT**



## GIRLS

Winter uniform:

- Bottle green sweatshirts with school logo
- White polo shirt with school logo
- Grey school pinafores/skirts
- Grey tights
- Black shoes

Summer uniform

- Green striped dress
- White socks
- Black shoes (no sandals)



## BOYS

Winter uniform

- Bottle green sweatshirts with school logo
- White polo shirt with school logo
- Grey school trousers
- Grey socks
- Black shoes

Summer uniform

- White polo shirt
- Grey shorts
- Grey socks
- Black shoes (no sandals)

Black shoes - Should be lace-up, buckle or Velcro shoes with low heels (no open toe shoes, trainers or boots in school). Please bear in mind when buying shoes your child will have to change them during the school day so it is a good idea to practise prior to starting school if they have a more difficult fastening.

Ensure your child has a coat that matches the weather. In winter it is vital that they bring a waterproof coat with a hood which they are able to fasten themselves.

In summer they must bring a sun hat and have sun cream applied before school.



## P.E. KIT

- A named drawstring green shoe bag or school logo backpack.
- Black slip-on pumps
- Green t-shirt
- Black shorts

Jewellery should not be worn because of the risk associated with accidents. Girls may wear tiny ear studs provided they are able to remove them or tape over them for P.E. Long hair should always be tied back as appropriate.

Uniform containing the school logo is available to purchase online from:

Schoolwear Solutions

<http://www.schoolwearsolutions.com/>





# Snacks and School Lunches

Before going out for morning play the children are offered a free fruit or vegetable snack as part of the funded 'School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme'. This provides 1 of their 5 a day portions and supports the healthy living work studied in class. Our snack times are sociable times and encourage the children share, take turns, demonstrate their great manners and take part in circle time discussions.

The children and staff all enjoy lunch together currently in the classroom, but eventually this will take place in our new school dining area. Your child may opt for one of the freshly made, home cooked school dinners. You choose from a selection of three meals per day in advance so you can ensure your child has something you know they will enjoy, otherwise they can bring their own healthy packed lunch. The food provided in school is healthy, high quality and meets the nutritional needs for a range of dietary requirements.

## What your child needs to bring to school

- A suitable waterproof coat with a hood.
- A named water bottle for the classroom. Please only send still drinking water, no squash, sparkling water, juice or fizzy drinks are allowed. Please do not put your child's drink in their book bag.
- School logo Rucksack containing sports kit – as listed previously. The bag will be sent home at the end of each half term to be washed and returned the following term. During term time these will remain on your child's peg.
- Named wellingtons.
- Book bag – your child must bring this daily. They will bring home all of their letters and homework in it. Please note, once reading homework starts reading books and diaries must remain in book bag and be brought to school daily.



## First day of school

- Arrive on time at the front door into school, but not too early. You don't want to build anxiety.
- Leave cheerfully
- Settle your child and leave quickly. The longer you linger the harder the process will be.

## Preparation for School

At Tudor Grange Primary Academy we go to great lengths to help your child prepare for their next stage of learning, as well as develop the confidence and skills to be an independent learner. In practical terms this may mean practising at home over the summer holidays ways of giving them greater independence. This may include practising dressing and undressing school uniform and P.E. kit (particularly when it comes to tights). Putting on and taking off gloves, hats and coats and hanging them up. Sharing toys, being prepared to take

our child is bringing a packed lunch then this goes underneath their peg. Your child is bringing a packed lunch then this goes underneath their peg. Your child is bringing a packed lunch then this goes underneath their peg.



## PRIME AREAS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Provide opportunities for your child to mix with other children. (Outside in the current climate)
- Encourage sharing, turn taking and tidying up.
- Ensure your child can use the toilet independently and correctly; wiping their bottom, flushing the toilet and washing their hands.
- Encourage them to clearly express their personal needs, e.g. asking for the toilet.
- Play competitive games, where they begin to understand that they cannot always be the winner.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- Teach your child to dress/undress themselves in preparation for P.E.
- Encourage them put their shoes on the correct feet, fasten them and put on and do up own coat.
- Provide opportunities to mark make on a small and large scale, e.g. using biro, chunky crayons, chalks on the patio or paintbrushes and water on the fence.
- Play aiming games, e.g. skittles, hoopla, Frisbee.
- Develop their fine motor control by threading beads/buttons or completing jigsaw puzzles.
- Gross motor play – Playing on

### COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE

- Pronounce words correctly and speak in full sentences.
- Engage in discussions with your child and allow them time to respond without being interrupted.
- Respond to what they are saying; ask questions and for their opinions.
- Discuss events that have happened.
- Listen to and encourage your child to reenact events/stories thro



## Preparation for School

### LITERACY

- Share a variety of books together. Look the pictures, ask them to predict what may happen next and retell familiar stories.
- Point to the word as you read to

### SPECIFIC AREAS



### UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

- Talk out the world around them and encourage them to answer questions.
- Use everyday language related to time and sequence events and stories.
- Look at photographs and explore and ask questions about past events and people. Explore stories and objects to understand the concept of old and new.
- Sequence familiar journey routes and talk about features of different environments.
- Become familiar with a computer – how to turn the computer on, log on and use mouse.

### MATHEMATICS

- Play counting games and sing number songs and rhymes.
- Count objects and actions whenever the opportunity arises, e.g. counting out the cutlery needed for dinner or the stairs up to bed.
- Spot numbers and see if your child can identify them, e.g. a house number on a door.
- Let them help with the tidying and sorting. Can they sort the DVDs by colour; make a repeating pattern, etc.
- Encourage your child to help with

### EXPRESSIVE ARTS & DESIGN

- Encourage use of pencils, crayons, paintbrushes, and in particular scissors.
- Experiment mixing colours and combining materials, e.g. junk modelling.
- Use and introduce different vocabulary linked to textures, colour and materials.
- Encourage imaginative role play, and singing favourite songs and

**Finally...**

We hope that this booklet has answered some of the questions you may have about your child starting school. Children's education is a partnership between the teachers and the parents/carers. We value your support, as we hope that you will value our hard work and professional judgements.

