



The Early Years Foundation Stage

Information for Parents and Carers





At
Halley Primary School
we see ourselves
as all learners
and what we strive
for all our children
is what we strive for everyone.

Learning for all
Challenge for all
Respect for all
Support for all

Welcome to the EYFS



Starting school is a very important milestone in a child's life, it is often the first time that your child may have left you and as a parent you may feel anxious about how best to support them on this exciting new stage of their life.

We want you and your child to feel happy, safe and supported with their start at Halley Primary School and we hope this booklet will answer any questions that you have, provide reassurance and share important information about our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) provision.

Shoshannah Thompson
Headteacher

Kathleen Jeffers
EYFS & KS1 Assistant Headteacher

Our EYFS Provision



*At Halley Primary School
we provide a safe and stimulating environment
where all children flourish.*

- ★ We believe that learning should be fun, exciting and engaging, building on children's interests and needs alongside teaching core skills.
- ★ We believe in developing happy, reflective and independent learners.
- ★ We believe that learning takes place in a range of environments both inside and outside.
- ★ We value the importance of relationships between home and School; from the very first point of contact with parents and carers, we aim to develop positive working relationships so that all children have the greatest opportunity to fulfil their potential.
- ★ We ensure by the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage children will be equipped and ready to continue their learning journey into KS1 and beyond.

The School Day

For full-time nursery and reception children, the School day starts at 8.50am and finishes at 3.15pm. It is really important children arrive on time and are collected promptly.

Our part-time nursery provision starts at 8.50am and finishes just before lunch-time at 11.50am.

Each class has a name linked to Sir Edmond Halley (the mathematician and astrologist Halley Primary School is name after). Nursery class is known as Ursa Minor (the little bear) and Reception class is known as Ursa Major (the great bear).

At the start of each day parents are invited into the classroom at 8.50am to join in with an early morning activity. The activity provided for your child will allow you to help settle them in for the School day and provide you with the opportunity to see their learning in action. The activity only lasts for 10 minutes - until 9.00am. At Halley, we want to ensure that all children have a calm, supportive and purposeful start to the day.

"Children engage in both reflective and active play, indoors and outdoors."

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During the day children are involved in a wide range of activities, either chosen by themselves or led by teachers and Early Years Educators. Each day is very different but there is a general structure:

- ★ Self-Registration task: parents support their child to find their photo or write their name. When completed they place their photo/name card onto the self-registration display.
- ★ As the children become settled into School they begin to attend assemblies (learning celebrations, singing and whole School).
- ★ Choosing time: both indoor and outdoor activities.
- ★ Snack time: water/milk/fruit are provided.
- ★ Choosing time: both indoor and outdoor activities.
- ★ A daily structured phonics lesson.
- ★ Lunchtime: Family Service.
- ★ Registration.
- ★ A daily oral maths lesson.
- ★ Choosing time: both indoor and outdoor activities.
- ★ Storytime or end of day song.
- ★ Once a week the children have dance, PE or a games lesson.

EYFS Environment



- ★ Reading Corners
- ★ Writing Stations
- ★ Maths area
- ★ Construction
- ★ Music
- ★ Role Play
- ★ Water play
- ★ Sand Play/Sand pit
- ★ Creative
- ★ Model making
- ★ Malleable area
- ★ Snack table
- ★ Mud kitchen
- ★ Allotment – gardening
- ★ Small woodland

These areas of learning are always reflected. Each area or table will be set up with either a challenge (in which the teacher has planned an activity) or left free for independent choice of resources.

Staff work alongside children to support and develop their play and to provide a source of high quality talk.

Throughout the day children will have the opportunity to take part in directed group teaching sessions and whole class learning sessions.

Children will participate in adult led activities across the different areas of learning.

Areas of learning

Within the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum there are seven areas of learning and three key characteristics of effective learning.

The seven areas of learning

Prime areas:

- ★ Communication & language: listening and attention, understanding, speaking.
- ★ Physical development: Moving and handling, health and self-care.
- ★ Personal, social and emotional development: making relationships, self-confidence and self-awareness, managing feelings and behavior.

These prime areas are the most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning.

Specific Areas:

- ★ Literacy: reading and writing.
- ★ Mathematics: numbers, shapes, space and measure.
- ★ Understanding the World: People and communities, the world, technology.
- ★ Expressive Arts & Design: Exploring and using media and materials, being imaginative.

The three characteristics of effective learning

- ★ Playing and Exploring - engagement
- ★ Active Learning - Motivation
- ★ Creating and Thinking critically - thinking

The curriculum is planned in a very practical way and is based around topics that are of interest and are relevant and meaningful to the children. Adult and child directed activities take place both in the classroom and outside. Both nursery and reception children have access to the outdoor area, which they use throughout the year. They are encouraged to decide where they work and learn.

"Activities in the early years encourage independent learning."

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Preparing your child for School

There are a number of ways in which you can help your child prepare for School so that they can begin with confidence and independence. It is important to note that children can get very tired while they start School and will need plenty of sleep and rest. They may also pick up bugs and minor illnesses as they come into contact with lots of other children.

The relationship we have with you as parents and carers is that of a partnership. If we have concerns about your child, we will always come and speak to you straight away - and we encourage you to do likewise. Please be honest and open about your child and any particular needs or issues they have; the more we know about your child, the more we can do to support you and them.



Ideas for developing independence:

- ★ Playing with other children.
- ★ Encourage sharing toys and take turns.
- ★ Putting toys away in the correct place.
- ★ Teach them to dress and undress themselves – putting shoes on the correct feet and fastening up a coat.
- ★ Visit the park.
- ★ Go on a trip to the supermarket, talk about all the different shapes and things they can see.
- ★ Allow them to cut out and stick pictures from old magazines.
- ★ Let them ask for help when they need it.
- ★ Share books/nursery rhymes together – look at pictures and ask what might be happening, point to the words as you read them.
- ★ Play games, matching games, snap – jigsaw puzzles.
- ★ Cook and bake together.
- ★ Talk Time - take time to talk to and listen to your child, encourage them to take turns in conversations.
- ★ Talk about the weather, rain, puddles, snow and wind.
- ★ Use a tissue to wipe their nose.
- ★ Use the toilet and wash their hands.

Visiting the EYFS



Open Mornings

During the autumn term the School runs a number of regular Open Morning tours where parents and carers are provided with the opportunity to see the Early Years Foundation Stage and the rest of the School in action.

It is very important for you to attend these sessions to ensure you choose the right setting for you and your child.

Application information

We follow the Tower Hamlets Admissions policy and guidance. All applications for our Nursery and Reception will need to be made online at www.eadmissions.org.uk. If you are not able to make an online application, or you are not a resident of Tower Hamlets and wish for either Nursery or Reception place, contact Pupil Services on 020 7364 5006.

During our Open Morning tours, we will make sure you have all the information needed to make an application - otherwise please speak to a member of the School Business Management Team in the School Office for information of how to apply and for the deadline dates.

Starting at our School

Stay and Play sessions

During the summer term we provide 'Stay and Play' sessions to help familiarise your child with our setting. During these sessions you will be able to play with your children at a range of activities. This will also allow both you and the EYFS teaching team to share what your child has been learning, the sorts of things that interest them and allow them to become familiar with the School environment. We do encourage parents and carers to attend as many sessions as possible and this provides a great foundation for both School and home working in partnership.

Home visits

Prior to starting our School, all children new to Halley will be offered a home visit. The purpose of these sessions is to ensure that you have the opportunity to meet your child's class teacher and to share any relevant information that you feel will be beneficial in enabling us to support your child's needs and interests when they start School.

In this session you will be asked to complete a 'Learning Passport' with the class teacher. This will be brought back to School, so the team can become familiar with your child's individual likes, interests and needs before the September start.



Settling in

The settling process varies from child to child but we expect parents to be prepared to support their child when starting at our setting.

On starting Reception most children are comfortable to be left on the first day.

In Nursery the process often takes a while longer. On your home visit, the class teacher will explain the expectations of each day.

On your child's first day, please be prepared to stay with your child in the School. The class teacher will then discuss with you what is right for your child and when they will be ready to be left for a full session.



Listed below are the items children will need to bring with them to School:

- ★ Suitable coat with a hood - as the children will be working outside as well as inside.
- ★ Lunch box (if having packed lunch) with a healthy meal and a drink.
- ★ Bottle of water with their name on - to keep in the classroom to drink throughout the day .
- ★ Break time snack - the School participates in the free fruit for school scheme and a selection of fruit is offered each day. If you would prefer your child to have their own break time snack, it must be fresh or dried fruit or vegetables.
- ★ Wellington boots - would be very useful to have; named and in a bag to be kept on their peg.
- ★ PE bag - with black plimsoll, School T-shirt and shorts or leggings.
- ★ Book Bag - can be purchased from the School office.

Please ensure that all belonging are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Health, Well-being & Safety



Much thought has been given to ensuring that your child is as safe as possible within the EYFS setting. We encourage children to explore and be adventurous but also to be aware of how they can keep themselves safe.

At the start of each day children will be greeted by a member of staff at the classroom door and will be handed over to a responsible adult at the end of the day. If named parents or carers are unable to collect their child, we request they inform the School office as soon as possible, stating who will be the named adult collecting your child.

We have a number of trained first aiders at School and within the EYFS setting. If a child has a serious accident which injures their body, or any type of bang to the head which requires first aid attention, this will be recorded in the School accident book and parents will be

informed by a telephone call. It is the School policy to call parents for any head bumps or bangs. These bangs are not always serious but it is important you are informed. Your child will also be given an accident sticker and slip. Similarly, if your child has an accident at home which leaves a mark or injury, please inform a member of staff in the morning.

In class we will also keep a toileting and intimate care log. In this we will record any personal care or toileting accidents that have occurred. We ask all parents to provide a change of clothes so that your child can be changed into their own clean clothes should they have an accident.

In the event of any concerns about child safety, in the interest of the child, staff will follow the School and Local Authority policy and procedures - both available on our website.

Assessment in the EYFS



Assessment plays an important part in helping parents, carers and practitioners (teachers and teaching assistants) to recognise children's progress, understand their needs and to plan activities and support.

Assessment begins on entry in the EYFS and involves practitioners observing children whilst they are working and playing. We assess and show progress in children's learning through learning journeys. Each child has their own book where work, observations and photographs are collected and recorded.

At the end of the EYFS a profile is completed for each child and outcomes are reported to parents and carers. This profile provides a picture of a child's knowledge, understanding and abilities and their progress.

"The school's early years setting is a safe, secure and highly engaging learning environment."

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Helping your child



To help your child make good progress, it is important to show an interest in their work - and this begins when your child first starts School.


All of your child's work is celebrated in the form of a learning journey. We encourage parents to contribute learning from home. We also have a Learning Celebration in class on the last Friday of the month where parents are invited.

You can help your child at home by extending their independence and learning by encouraging your them to help with activities, such as tidying, washing, shopping, cooking, washing up and cleaning. At home is the time to establish clear expectations in terms of behaviour.

We look forward to working in partnership with you, helping us to give your child the best possible start in life.

*"Children are confident
and they display
resilience in their learning."*

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Including
all learners,
achieving
their best

