# Cannon Lane Primary School

# Welcome to Reception

## A handbook for parents and carers

## 2026-2027

## Welcome to Cannon Lane Primary School

We are delighted that you have chosen Cannon Lane for your child's first steps in school life. We look forward to working with you as your child grows, learns and develops confidence, curiosity and independence during their time with us. Cannon Lane is a highly regarded school with a strong commitment to high-quality teaching, care and inclusion. We believe that children thrive best when school and home work closely together, and we value the partnership we build with our families. This booklet aims to help you understand what to expect as your child starts Reception and to highlight how parents and teachers can work together to support every child's learning and wellbeing. When we work together, children are best placed to achieve their full potential and enjoy a positive and successful start to school.

## The Early Years Foundation Stage

*"Children are competent learners from birth and develop and learn in a wide variety of ways"*

The Early Years Foundation Stage has been established to determine the curriculum entitlement for children from birth to five years. Early Learning Goals within the Foundation Stage set out what the majority of children are expected to achieve by the end of their Reception year in school. At Cannon Lane we offer a bespoke curriculum which enables the children in our care to make maximum progress towards these goals.

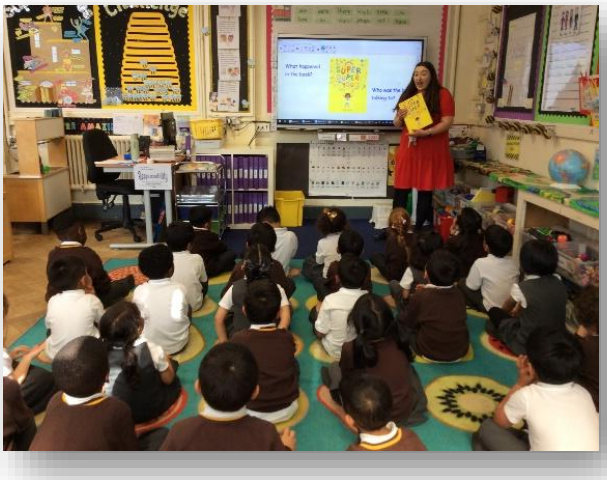
## The Learning Environment

Teaching and Learning in the Foundation Stage takes place both indoors and outdoors. All of the reception classrooms are divided into distinct areas of learning. Children are taught as a whole class, in small groups and individually. Adult led teaching and child-initiated activities allow children to learn through play, grow in confidence and have their chance to 'shine.'



## The Seven Areas of Learning and Development

The EYFS is made up of seven areas of Learning and Development. There are 3 Prime Areas and 4 Specific Areas. All areas of Learning and Development are equally important.





## The 3 Prime Areas of Learning

**Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

- Self-Regulation
- Managing Self
- Building Relationships

**Physical Development**

- Gross Motor Skills
- Fine Motor Skills

**Communication and Language**

- Listening, Attention & Understanding
- Speaking




## The 4 Specific Areas of Learning

**Literacy**

- Comprehension
- Word Reading
- Writing

**Mathematics**

- Number
- Numerical Patterns






**Understanding the World**

- Past & Present
- People, Culture & Communities
- The Natural World

**Expressive Arts and Design**

- Creating with Materials
- Being Imaginative & Expressive

## The Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning



At Cannon Lane our curriculum focuses on children becoming 'Learning Superheroes'. The Characteristics of Effective Learning and Teaching are a powerful key in helping children to become independent learners and having the skills to achieve their very best. We are going to teach them to hold information, focus their attention, regulate their behaviour, plan what to do next, and bounce back when things get difficult through our Learning Superheroes. We will introduce you to them very soon!

## The importance of play

Play engages children's bodies, minds and emotions. In play children learn to interact with others and to be a part of a community. It provides opportunities for exploration, investigation, problem solving, and creativity allowing children to develop their imaginations and language skills.



## Parent Workshops

Research suggests that children's achievement is influenced 80% by family and community and 20% by schools. Your influence on your child and their learning is absolutely vital for your child to achieve. For this reason, we offer many workshops and courses to you over the year to support you in helping your child at home with their learning. Watch out for these workshops and please do attend as it will show you how we teach your child at Cannon Lane and give you ideas of things you can do at home.



## Home Learning

Once settled, your child will get Home Learning every other week. This is a matrix of different activities that you can do at home. Your child can do all 4 activities or just choose one to do. It should be your child's work and not your own! This will be handed in via Google Classroom. There is also Phonics home learning set.

## Ways to help before your child starts school

There are many ways you can help to ease your child's transition from home to school. Some of these ways are listed below:

Get your child used to being with other people. Encourage them to stay with a trusted adult for a few hours, away from home.

- Have other children to play and let your child play in other children's homes. It will help them learn to socialise.
- Encourage your child to dress themselves independently as this is a skill that will be invaluable to help them develop that vital independence.
- Make sure that your child can feed themselves.
- Make sure your child can go to the toilet by themselves for the whole process. Encourage them to ask or say when there is a need to go.
- Let your child experience 'messy' activities e.g. play dough, water, paint.
- Let your child play with crayons and pencils. Help them to use scissors.
- Talk to your child about the world, and things that interest them in their own environment. Discuss with them the things you do at home and maybe talk about the things you see when you are out walking. Talk about books and stories. Chat about the size, shape and colour of things. All this will encourage your child to talk, question and listen to the ideas of others.
- Read stories to your child. Read and say nursery rhymes together and sing songs.
- Help your child to recognise their own name. If you want to teach them to write it, please use lower case letters except for the initial capital letter.
- Count objects e.g. stairs and sort things e.g. socks in washing.
- Encourage your child to clear away when they have finished playing.
- Please make sure that you only use the 'pure' sounds when reading and writing with your child. We will be doing workshops on phonics near the beginning of the year.



## Daily Reading with your child

At Cannon Lane we teach children to read through phonics. Our phonics scheme is Little Wandle and children will have a daily phonics session. Children will also have daily Little Wandle Reading Practice sessions. Over the week they will read their book 3 times with an adult. Your child will get a reading target and will get an electronic reading book allocated weekly. Your child will also get a reading diary; this diary is for you to record your child's responses to the book. Children will also have the opportunity to borrow a book from the school library. Learning to read is like learning to do anything else – you need someone to show you how it is done and to demonstrate the pleasure to be gained from reading. Children do not become readers overnight; they develop fluency gradually – some faster than others. If you would like to find out more about Little Wandle please look at the parent section of their website: https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/









## Assessment

At the end of the year children will be assessed against the Early Learning Goals as to whether they are 'emerging' or at the 'expected' level. Children will not be put in the position where they feel that they are tested. This information is taken through the staff knowing the children extremely well and basing it on their observations over time.

The children will have a Learning Journey which will contain observations, samples of children's work and photographs. We welcome parents' contributions to Learning Journeys and will send them home regularly to facilitate that.

## Daily Routines

- Please ensure that your child brings a coat, a water bottle and their book bag every day. If your child brings a packed lunch, a thermal lunch box is preferable.
- The children start each session with morning work and registration.
- Next, they have a Magical Maths input followed by Awesome Authors which then leads into a Wake up, Work out!
- Next, they have a Little Wandle Phonics session followed by Reading practice session.
- After these activities they choose whether they would like to learn indoors and outdoors with the challenges set out in the environments. During this time adults extend their learning and also work on personalised tasks with the children.



- They have a fruit snack and milk in the afternoons as part of their snack time.
- Before lunch they tidy and then have either a topic, PE, music session or a retrieval session.
- Lunch is eaten in the hall and is considered to be a social experience in which good manners are encouraged at all times.
- The afternoon starts with registration. After this the whole of Reception takes part in 'Funky Fingers' to develop their fine motor skills and muscles for writing.
- The children will have an adult led input on the carpet which might be a maths, literacy or topic focus.
- The children's learning continues for the afternoon.
- At the end of the day, we have story/rhyme time and singing.



## Lunchtime

Your child is entitled to a free hot school meal every day. Please see the school website for the menu and talk to your child about what they would like for lunch. Please chose your child's meals online for them. You can do this for a whole term. The meals are freshly cooked on site. There are vegetarian and halal options daily as well as jacket potato. There is also an extensive salad cart. Most children have a hot school meal but if your child wishes to have packed lunch then they can bring in a healthy lunch in a packed lunch box.





## Timetable

Once your child starts school, they will be very busy. We will lead an EYFS Curriculum Workshop for Parents, as soon as your child is full time, to explain everything your child gets up to over a week. At this workshop we will also show videos of each of the parts of the day so you can see some live action! Here is an example of one of our weekly timetables.

| Day / Time | 8.40 - 8.45 | 8.45 - 8.55 | 8.55 - 9.00 | 9.00 - 9.15 | 9.20-9.40 | 9.45-10.05 | 10.05-11.10 | 11.10 - 11.15 | 11.15-11.35 | 11.45 - 12.45 | 12.45 - 12.50 | 12.50-1pm | 1.-1.15 | 1.30-2.45 | 3-3.10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Monday | Registration/Reflection Time/Morning Work/Lunches | Magical Maths | Awesome Authors | Daily Mile / Wake Up Work Out | Little Wandle Phonics | Introduction to Key Text of the Week. | Introduction to Challenges and Enhanced Provision for the week/Child-Initiated learning | Tidy up time | Little Wandle Reading Practice | Lunchtime | Registration | Funky Fingers | Literacy Input 1 | Child-initiated Learning/Adult Led tasks | Story time |
| Tuesday | | | | | Little Wandle Phonics | TOPIC | Values Assembly 10.10-10.25am / Child-initiated Learning/Adult Led tasks | | Little Wandle Reading Practice | | | | Maths Input 2 | Child-initiated Learning/Adult Led tasks | |
| Wednesday | | | | | Little Wandle Phonics | What I've Learnt Wednesday | Child-initiated Learning/Adult Led tasks | | Little Wandle Reading Practice | | | | Literacy Input 2 | PE – Hazel Child-initiated Learning Beech and Maple / PE – Maple Jigsaw – Beech Child-initiated Learning - Hazel | |
| Thursday | | | | | Little Wandle Phonics | Little Wandle Reading Practice | Music 10.15-10.45am / Child-initiated Learning/Adult Led tasks | | Tidy up time | | | | Maths Input 1 | Child-initiated Learning/Adult Led tasks | |
| Friday | | | | | Little Wandle Phonics | Feedback Friday Maple and Hazel Beech-PE 10.15-10.45 | Child-initiated Learning/Adult Led tasks | Tidy up time | Little Wandle Reading Practice | | | | Feedback Friday – Beech Jigsaw - Maple and Hazel | Library / Child-initiated Learning / Achievement Assembly 2.45-3pm | |

We teach the children through carpet inputs, small group teaching, adult led tasks on a 1:1 level and through the enhancements within our inside and outside learning environments. The staff interact with the children to provide high quality interactions to enable their vocabulary to develop further.

The children have half termly 'Missions' to complete based on our bespoke EYFS curriculum. You can find out more about here: https://www.cannonlaneprimary.org/eyfs/




The children will also enjoy weekly 'Beehive Challenges' that we set and your child will gradually learn to challenge themselves further.





## Dates and Times



Your child will have a gradual entry to school over the first full two weeks. This is to support them as they start in a new environment and gives us time to get to know them in smaller groups. (Please see the induction process). When your child does start full time in the Reception Class the school day is from **8.40 am** to **3.10 pm**, with lunch between 11.45 am and 12.45 pm. It is best for children to arrive at 8.30 for the soft start. All of the school gates open at this time.

## Induction Process

On **Wednesday 1st July** there is a Stay and Play session for children. You need to come to the main entrance and drop your child off into their class. Parents will meet in the hall whilst your child is in class. There will be two sessions, your letter states what session you should attend.

**Session 1 - 9.15 – 10.15am** **Session 2 – 10.30-11.30am**

**Thursday 3rd September** you will have an opportunity to 'Meet the Teacher' by signing up for a slot at the Welcome Meeting. This is a slot for the teachers to go through any details and to check that you have all of your questions answered. Your child does not need to attend this session.

**Friday 4th to Wed 9th September (inclusive)** children will begin the part-time settling-in period. Your letter states which session your child should be attending.

**AM session -9.00am – 11.00am** **PM session 1.00pm – 3.00pm**

Each class is divided in two so that 15 children attend each session. This ensures children have a chance to settle in their environment and form relationships with their teachers more quickly than if there were 30 children altogether.

**Thursday 10th – Friday 11th September** is when all children will start in the morning together and begin to get to know all the other children in their class.
**Session 9.00am – 11.30am**

**Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th September** is when the children will stay for lunch and finish school at 1.30pm.
**Session 9.00am – 1.30pm**

During the induction time the Reception children can be bought to their classrooms at 9am and 1pm via the gate to the right side of the main office. Mrs Waldron will collect you from there at these times. You will collect the children from the classroom doors at the end of each session once the gates have been opened.

**Wednesday 16th September** all children need to be in their classroom by **8.40am for register** and remain all day until **3.10pm**. Once children are full-time, they can be dropped at any of the gates and collected from the classroom as we don't have parents on the playground in the mornings.

| September 2026 – Reception Transition Period | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Monday 31st August**<br>School Closed | **Tuesday 1st September**<br>School Closed | **Wednesday 2nd Sept**<br>INSET day<br>School Closed | **Thurs 3rd Sept**<br>**Meet the Teacher Sessions for Parents**<br>**9-12am**<br>**1-3pm** | **Fri 4th Sept**<br>15 Children<br>9-11am<br>15 children<br>1-3pm |
| **Monday 7th Sept**<br>15 Children<br>9-11am<br>15 children<br>1-3pm | **Tuesday 8th Sept**<br>15 Children<br>9-11am<br>15 children<br>1-3pm | **Wednesday 9th Sept**<br>15 Children<br>9-11am<br>15 children<br>1-3pm | **Thursday 10th Sept**<br>**Morning Altogether**<br>30 children<br>9am-11.30am | **Friday 11th Sept**<br>**Morning Altogether**<br>30 children<br>9am-11.30am |
| **Monday 14th Sept**<br>**Stay for Lunch**<br>30 children<br>9am-1.30pm | **Tuesday 15th Sept**<br>**Stay for Lunch**<br>30 children<br>9am-1.30pm | **Wed 16th Sept**<br>**Full Time!**<br>**8.40-3.10** | **Full Time!** | **Full Time!** |

## Uniform

All children must come to school wearing Cannon Lane school uniform unless informed of a special event such as a non-uniform day. The uniform consists of grey trousers, grey skirt or pinafore dress, white polo shirt, brown jumper or cardigan with school logo.

Jewellery should not be worn to school at all as it has the potential to injure the wearer and others.

<u>All items should be clearly marked with your child's name.</u>

As much of the Early Years curriculum is delivered outdoors, your child will also need appropriate wet weather clothing (wellingtons and waterproof jacket with hood).





## A few reminders

- The children are encouraged to eat a snack daily in the afternoon. Fruit is provided by the School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme.
- All children should bring a named water bottle into school each day and take it home at the end of the day to be cleaned and re-filled. Children will be given access to drinking water throughout the school day.
- Please observe the parking regulations outside the school. Please do not park on the zig-zag lines outside the main entrance. We ask that you park away from school if possible or walk to and from school with your child. Parking on the school site is strictly for staff only and we would request that parents make every effort not to drive into school as this presents unnecessary hazards for children.
- Dogs are not permitted on the school site.
- If your child is absent from school a telephone call (before 8.30am) on each day of absence is required.
- If your child has a sickness or diarrhoea bug, they should be kept off school for 48 hours after the last bout.
- If your child needs to use an inhaler, we ask that a named one is brought into school. Please note that it is the parent's responsibility to ensure that the inhaler is in date. If your child has any specific medical needs, you may like to discuss these with our School Welfare Officers.
- If at any point your (or your child's) circumstances change, please keep the school office informed.







## Contact

| | |
|---|---|
| School Office | 020 8866 3536 |
| School Office email | office@cannonlane.harrow.sch.uk |
| School website | www.cannonlane.org |
| Assistant Head of Early Years | Mrs Waldron |