MEERSBROOK BANK PRIMARY SCHOOL

PARENT INFORMATION BOOKLET

www.meersbrookbank.sheffield.sch.uk

Welcome!

Our highly skilled staff team work hard to make our school the friendly, caring place it is. We are deeply committed to high standards of education alongside an inclusive approach. We are fortunate to be working in the heart of a thriving and diverse community with many cultures and languages represented. We work together to ensure all our children achieve their best, both academically and socially.

We are proud of our:

- Strong commitment to raising attainment and ensuring all children achieve their full potential
- Creative, inclusive curriculum which embraces the diversity of our community
- Commitment to developing children's well-being
- Enthusiastic children who are confident and eager to learn
- Excellent team of friendly, dedicated and highly skilled professionals
- Positive, supportive parents and governing body
- Nurturing culture – This is a safe and happy place to learn

If you have any questions or wish to speak to us about specific issues, please do not hesitate to get in touch, and we will be happy to help.

Mrs Gemma Harvey
Headteacher

Shaping our future, improving our world

Our Three Core Values:

1. Be kind to everyone
2. Be kind to our world
3. Be the best you can be

We achieve these through:

- A broad, balanced and meaningful curriculum
- Celebrating our diversity, beliefs and cultures
- Developing links with our community and the wider world
- Providing an enriching programme of extra-curricular activities and memorable experiences
- Positive home-school partnerships
- A happy, safe and stimulating learning environment
- High quality teaching and learning tailored to meet the needs and strengths of each child
- Actively educating children on how to keep themselves safe in school, out of school and online
- Providing opportunities for learning about healthy lifestyles and well-being
- Developing children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness
- Ensuring the professional development of all staff to help us to be the best we can be

The Class Structure

The school currently is organised into seven classes and two part-time Nursery classes.

Early Years (Foundation Unit)	Key Stage 1 (Infants)	Key Stage 2 (Juniors)
Nursery (Foundation Stage 1) Reception (Foundation Stage 2)	Year 1 Year 2	Year 3 Year 4 Year 5 Year 6

The Foundation Unit

We offer part time places in the nursery - morning or afternoon sessions and request that your child attends at least 4 sessions each week. If you are eligible for 30 hours provision we do have some full time places available. Just call the school office for more information.
Reception and Nursery are taught in the same accommodation and share the outdoor space. They are taught in small groups and much of their learning is carried out through continuous play provision.

Our Staff Team

Mrs Gemma Harvey – Head Teacher

Mrs Clare Shaw & Mrs Clare Tierney – Deputy Head Teachers

Mrs Antonia Hopkins – School Office Manager

Mrs Denise De Marco – Clerical Assistant

<u>Teachers</u>

Miss Caroline Grant – Nursery
Mrs Kim Dyball – Reception Teacher & Senior Leader
Mrs Cathryn Corker
Mrs Beth Crawshaw
Mrs Beth Wood
Mr Oliver Basford
Mrs Nicola Williamson
Mrs Anna Clark
Miss Molly Barrett
Mrs Natalie Bayarri (PPA teacher in Foundation Unit))
Mrs Lisa Bussey – SENCO

<u>Teaching Assistants</u>

Miss Sarah Gunn
Mrs Kay Aspinall
Mrs Julie Rhoades
Mrs Yvonne Jenkins
Mr Nestor Martinez
Miss Claire Brammer
Mr David Wallis
Mrs Michaela Lowe
Miss Marie Baxter
Ms. Christie Young
Mrs Samantha Durkie
Ms E Sheppard (PPA HLTA)

Mr Steve Redman – Buildings Supervisor

Lunchtime Supervisor Team
Mrs Julie Wright
Mrs Pat Watson
Mrs Nadia Bi
Mrs Fatema Abdalla
Mrs Sarwat Zaman
Miss Megan Raynes

Cleaning Team
Mrs Julie Peters
Mrs Carol Hirst
Miss Megan Raynes

Governing Board

Emma Walkinshaw – Chair of Governors
Emilio Bayarri – Parent Governor
Richard Benson-Beigel – Parent Governor
Richard Barrett-Small – Community Governor
Jasmine Stevens – Community Governor
Simon Smith – Community Governor
Beth Wood – Staff Governor
Gemma Harvey – Head Teacher

The School Day

Foundation Unit

8.45 – 11.45 am	Morning session
12.30 – 3.30pm	Afternoon session

Main School (Y1-6)

8.40 am	School gates open
8:50 am	School starts
10.30am	Morning break
11.30 – 12.30	Nursery Lunch
11.45 – 12.45	Reception & Key Stage 1 Lunch
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Key Stage 2 Lunch
2.15pm	Afternoon Break
3:20pm	School ends - Key Stage 1
3:30pm	School ends – Foundation and Key Stage 2

School Uniform

Our children look smart and take pride in their appearance. Our uniform consists of:

- Plain white polo shirt (with a collar)
- A sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan in either: Bottle Green, Amber, Emerald Green, Red, Purple & Royal Blue
- Dark grey or black trousers, shorts or skirt
- Black shoes ar unbranded trainers
- No jewellery apart from small ear studs and watches
- Additional summer uniform - Gingham dress in any colour
- Long hair must be tied back (regardless of gender)

Our uniform provider is Logo Leisure wear: http://logoleisurewear.com

PE Kit

- White T-Shirt
- Black shorts and tracksuit bottoms/leggings
- Hooded top in either Bottle Green or Red

Our Curriculum

In the Foundation Stage the children follow the Early Years Curriculum (EYFS). We focus on the 'characteristics of effective learning' through playing, exploring, active learning, creating and thinking critically.

Prime Areas of Learning

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

Specific Areas of learning

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

In Year 1 to Year 6, the children are taught using the National Curriculum. Our ambition is that our curriculum is:

- Bold and adventurous
- Challenging, promoting problem solving and creativity
- Concept led
- Flexible, allowing children to take a lead in the shape of their learning.
- Relevant, for today's challenging and changing world

Key Concepts

Rich and deep subject **knowledge** based on prior learning

Developing new and existing **skills** built through a progressive framework

HOW DO WE ACHIEVE THIS? We refer to the 'hows' as 'The Big 5':

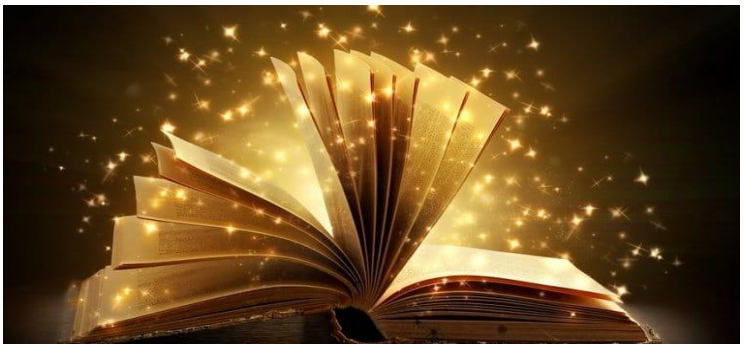
1. THE QUESTION: Excites, promotes and sustains children's interest.
2. THE HOOK: Inspiring curiosity and wonder; excitement and engagement
3. THE OUTCOME: Creating meaningful purpose for learning (Writing for real)
4. THE TEXT: Using high quality texts to lead children into new worlds (Cultural capital)
5. THE ENRICHMENT: Creating long-lasting experiences and memories (making learning 'stick')

In addition our curriculum will:

- Explicitly teach the importance of kindness, respect, sharing with and caring for others
- Not be bound by traditional timetabling
- Value the importance of physical fitness and well-being
- Value the importance of reflection, mental and emotional well-being
- Give opportunities for children to explore and reflect on their own spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) beliefs and experiences
- Give opportunities for children to develop the ability to communicate and debate effectively
- Offer as many opportunities as possible for children to learn outdoors and to value nature
- Value whole-school themed weeks and events
- Allow opportunities to engage with and learn from the strong local community.
- Allow children to think 'wider', and to discover and make useful connections and links between subjects and concepts.

Love of Reading

Reading is a hugely important skill and is given high priority in our school. We want to develop a love of reading with all children and our recently updated library offers a range of reading material for all ages. We have several reading volunteers in school who support individual children. We have booklets on supporting your child at home with reading. These are available on the school's website (learning-help for parents-top tips for reading).



Sport

We encourage children to develop a love of physical activity. We support them to acquire the skills and confidence to play sport competitively, whilst promoting the importance of co-operation and encourage a sense of fair play.

We teach:

- Team games (football, hockey, tag rugby, high fives etc)
- Dance/movement
- Gymnastics
- Outdoor education (orienteering etc)
- Swimming (Year 4, last half of the academic year)

We develop links with coaches and outside providers and offer a range of sports clubs.

Enrichment

The school recognises the value of out of school visits to support learning and we organise these alongside our curriculum offer. Visitors and experts are invited into school throughout the year, especially to provide additional drama, music and dance opportunities.

A highlight for Y6 children is the opportunity to take part in a residential visit.

Some of these activities cannot take place without a financial contribution from parents. The school can sometimes help if you find financial contributions difficult. Please speak in confidence to your child's Class Teacher or the Head Teacher.

We take pride in our music offer in school and ensure children experience a range of musical experiences. Ridgeway Music provides specialist music tuition for those interested. A charge is made by Ridgeway for this tuition. See our website for further information.

Friends of Meersbrook Bank School (FMBS)

This group meet regularly to support the school and raise money to support and enhance the children's experiences at school. FMBS organise a host of fabulous social activities and are always keen for new members to get involved. If you would like more information, please ask the office staff.

SEND and Equal Opportunities

Although all children have individual needs that we address through differentiated planning and target setting, there will inevitably be times when some children will need specialised help with some areas of learning because they have additional education needs or a disability. Some children with particular learning needs may receive individual or small group support. This can take place within the classroom or outside. Parents will always be informed if this occurs.

Every term we meet parents to discuss the needs, targets and progress of SEND children.

We have a SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) who works two days a week who oversees our SEND provision.

We are committed to equal opportunities for all children regardless of gender, ethnicity, social background – the list goes on. We proactively strive to ensure that children are exposed to a wide range of diversity through images, books covered and curriculum content.

Behaviour & Well-Being

Our school has a strong reputation for being caring and friendly. Children are encouraged to be considerate to others and from the earliest age are expected to exert the fullest degree of self-discipline. We use praise and encouragement to motivate and our core values run through everything that we do. These ensure the happiness and security of all our children and the calm, purposeful atmosphere in school that is essential for good teaching and learning to take place.

We love to celebrate learning and each week a child will be nominated for "Star of the Week". They will receive this award in a celebration assembly on Friday where their achievements will be acknowledged. Children are also chosen in each class for a 'Daily Dazzler' award.

We are committed to ensuring that children are not only taught well, but are nurtured during their time with us. We teach the children how to look after themselves mentally and emotionally; a skill much needed.

Safeguarding

It is crucial that all of our children are safe in school and at home. As such all of our staff are fully trained in Child Protection and Safeguarding. We have a duty to report any concerns that we may have to the Authority. Safeguarding covers a huge range of issues which might be experienced at home, in school and when out of the home. This also covers online safety.

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Caroline Grant
Designated Safeguarding Deputies: Mrs Gemma Harvey & Mrs Clare Shaw
The Governor responsible for Safeguarding is Simon Smith

Attendance

Regular and punctual attendance is vital if your child is to progress at school. It is our responsibility to provide the best education possible and we can only do this if children attend regularly.

Wherever possible, please make appointments outside of the school day. Holidays taken during term time cannot be authorised, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

If your child is ill, please let the school office know before 9.20am when the registers close.

We monitor individual children's attendance regularly and work alongside parents/carers to ensure good attendance. If there are particular reasons for poor attendance we would appreciate it if you could arrange to meet the Head Teacher in order to discuss these.

School Meals

Hot school dinners are cooked on site by the provider 'Taylor-Shaw'. They can cater for a huge range of dietary requirements and allergies, in consultation with your paediatrician.

Meals currently cost £2.85 per day for main school and £2.55 for nursery. School lunches are paid for in advance via a cash-free online payment system called ParentPay. These charges are currently being reviewed and are likely to increase soon.

All Reception and KS1 children are entitled to a universal free school meal, funded by the government.

Pupil Premium

Some families in receipt of Child Tax Credit, Job Seekers Allowance or Income Support are entitled to Pupil Premium funding. This money comes into the school budget and can be spent on additional staff and resources in order to directly benefit your child. In addition, they will also be entitled to free school meals. This information is treated in the strictest of confidence.

If you think your child might be entitled to Pupil Premium/free school meals, please collect an application form from the school office. If you need help with the form please ask and we will be happy to assist you.

Milk & Snacks

We encourage healthy eating and as such, children in Reception and Key Stage 1 are provided with a piece of fruit each day free of charge. Older children are encouraged to bring in fruit and vegetables for snacks.

Thanks to government subsidies, school milk is free for all under-fives and is subsided at around £15 a term for children aged five or older. If your child is 5 years or older and would like milk this can be paid for via ParentPay each half term.

Admissions

Entry into Nursery - Children are admitted to our 21 place Nursery throughout the year. Information about Nursery admissions can be requested from the office or the nursery staff. Meersbrook Bank School's Admission Policy is consistent with the Local Authority's Admission Policy.

Entry into Primary School – Please note that it is necessary to complete a separate application form for entry into Meersbrook Bank Primary School even if your child attends our Nursery.

The autumn before your child is due to start school you will receive a letter from the Local Authority, inviting you to collect "A Guide for Parents", which includes an application form, from any school office.

If you choose Meersbrook Bank for your child, more detailed information will be given to you prior to their start, including a school-readiness check list for the younger children.

We work hard to ensure that your child has a smooth transition into our school, whether it be their first school, or a transfer from another school. Currently things are a little more challenging than usual but we will still endeavour to ensure they get the best possible start with us here at Meersbrook Bank.