



Sheepscombe Primary School
Far End
Sheepscombe
Gloucestershire
GL6 7RL
01452 813852

admin@sheepscombe.gloucs.sch.uk
rgardner@sheepscombe.gloucs.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mr Rob Gardner BSc (Hons) PGCE, NPQH

Welcome to Little Lambs & Merlin Class!

A very warm welcome to all our new and returning children and families! I am really looking forward to getting to know your children and sharing a happy, busy and exciting year with them.

The class team will be myself, Miss Phelps and Mrs Preston.

Morning Drop-Off

Children can be dropped off at the classroom between 8:30-8:45am. There will be a range of calm activities available, such as colouring, puzzles and reading.

We encourage the children to be as independent as possible, including hanging up their coat and bag and putting away their snack, lunchbox and water bottle.

Registration begins at 8:45am. If you arrive after this time, please take your child to Reception to sign in and order their lunch.

'Busy Learning'

You will probably hear the phrase 'Busy Learning' quite a lot this year! This is our approach to play-based learning and builds on the experiences children have already had in Little Lambs and Reception.

Busy Learning gives children opportunities to make choices, follow their interests, explore, experiment and develop their independence. Rather than moving quickly between short activities, children have time to become absorbed in their learning, revisit skills and develop their ideas.

Adults will carefully plan and provide challenging, open-ended experiences, while observing, modelling, questioning and supporting children to extend their learning.

Our learning environment is divided into three main areas:

Main Classroom - role play, construction, small world, reading, maths, phonics and creative learning.

Conservatory - painting, junk modelling, sand, playdough, clay and other messy and sensory experiences.

Outdoors - water and mud play, den building, large-scale construction, physical development and outdoor exploration.

Children will be able to choose where they would like to learn and play. There will also be weekly independent challenges linked to current and previous learning, alongside daily focused small-group activities led by adults.

Rolling Snack Time



SUPPORTING
CONNECTING
INFLUENCING





To maximise uninterrupted learning time, we will have a rolling snack time from 10:00-10:40am.

Children can choose when they would like to have their snack and will be encouraged to manage this independently. A member of staff will always be present, and a five-minute warning will be given before the snack table closes.

Please provide a healthy snack, preferably fruit or vegetables. Children should take their snack out of their bag and place it in their drawer each morning.

We are a nut-free school, so please check ingredients carefully.

If your child forgets their snack, we can offer a piece of fruit or vegetable from the limited selection available.

Children should also bring a named water bottle each day. This can be left on top of the drawer unit each morning. These will be refilled as needed and children will be encouraged to drink regularly. Milk is also offered at snack time; please speak to a member of staff if you would prefer your child not to have milk.

Reading Books

Children will bring new reading books home on Fridays. Please read with your child and record your reading in their reading record books at least 3 times a week. Certificates will be awarded to children in assembly for frequent reading.

Free-Flow Outdoor Learning

As part of Busy Learning, children will have free-flow access to the outdoors throughout the morning. This means we will no longer have a separate formal morning playtime, as children will have regular opportunities to access outdoor learning and play throughout the morning.

We will be embracing outdoor learning whatever the weather, so please send your child with a raincoat every day, even when the morning looks dry. We have very limited spare coats available.

Clothing & Forest School

Please provide a named change of clothes for your child, as there will be frequent opportunities for messy, water and outdoor play. Although aprons are provided, enthusiastic play can sometimes result in very muddy or wet clothes!

We have a small supply of spare clothes, so if your child borrows anything, please wash and return it promptly.

Forest School takes place on alternate Thursday afternoons, with outdoor learning taking place on the other Thursdays. Children can wear non-school uniform on these days — ideally something comfortable that you don't mind getting muddy — along with suitable outdoor footwear such as wellies or outdoor trainers when the weather is dry. It would support our ability to do as much outdoor learning as possible if the children could keep a pair of named wellies in school which they could use whenever needed.

Toothbrushing

As part of our EYFS provision, we participate in the Big Brush Club, a supervised toothbrushing programme funded by the NHS.



Children brush their teeth after lunch using the toothbrushes and toothpaste provided, supported by a fun two-minute song. New families will receive an information pack and consent form. For returning children, existing consent will continue unless you tell us otherwise.

Please speak to a member of staff if you have any questions.

Toys from Home

We ask that children do not bring toys from home as these can sometimes become lost, broken or swapped, which can cause upset.

If your child needs a special toy for emotional support, please speak to us first. We can agree on an appropriate arrangement for it to be kept safely in their bag or drawer.

Communication

We will shortly share details of an information session for Reception parents about how we teach phonics at Sheepscombe School.

If you would like a longer conversation about your child, please arrange this with us in advance where possible, as drop-off and collection times are often very busy.

Thank you for your support in helping us make the year a happy, successful and positive one for your children.

I am really looking forward to a busy, fun-filled year of learning, exploring and growing together!

Sheepscombe Bears

As a welcome to Sheepscombe school for their first official year of learning, we like to present Reception children with a special teddy bear. This will be done in celebration assembly this Friday at 2.30. All parents are always invited and welcome to celebration assemblies.

Meet the Team and see the classroom

The Merlin team would love to invite you into the class this Friday (11th September) from 3.15-3.45 for an informal visit. It would be lovely for your children to be able to show you around their classroom and would be an opportunity to talk and meet with staff.

Best wishes,

Mrs White, Mrs Preston and Miss Phelps



SUPPORTING
CONNECTING
INFLUENCING

