



# Langley Fitzurse New Parents' Guide

## September 2023



## **Welcome!**

Welcome to the Langley Fitzurse New Parents' Guide. In this short document we hope to help you settle into your new school by answering your questions and identifying useful information for you. If you think of additional information that would be useful to have in the guide, please let your teacher or class representative know. You will get lots of information when your child starts school, and once you have read this booklet it may be useful to keep it to refer to throughout the year.

## **School Communications**

Our main form of communications is via ParentMail, our school messaging system. All payments to school are made online using this system.

Termly newsletters plus a 'What's On at School Next Week' will also be sent out to parents via Parent Mail during term time.

Our School Website is kept up to date, and always has the latest school information listed on it. The address is [www.langleyfitzurse.wilts.sch.uk](http://www.langleyfitzurse.wilts.sch.uk)

We have a lively social media presence, so please follow us on Facebook @Langley Fitzurse C of E Primary School

You can contact the school by telephone on 01249 750 295, by email on [admin@lfssq.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@lfssq.wilts.sch.uk)

Parents' Consultation Evenings take place twice a year and are an opportunity to discuss your child's progress and targets with their teacher. You will also receive an annual report on your child's progress.

## **Classes**

We have four classes at Langley Fitzurse: Hercules, Pegasus, Phoenix and Chameleon, named by the children after star constellations.



## ***Working in Partnership***

Your child's learning journey at Langley Fitzurse is a partnership between school and yourself. There will be workshops, information sessions and times where we would love for you to come into school to work on special projects with your child.

## **Volunteering**

We do rely on your support for trips and so we regularly ask for volunteers. This can be on a weekly basis or 'one-off' activities. Any volunteer will be subject to safeguarding checks—DBS and invited to a safeguarding meeting prior to starting as a volunteer.

## **PTA**

Our PTA are a fantastic group of parents and staff who work timelessly to enhance learning experiences for children of Langley Fitzurse. It is a great way of getting involved in school life and making a difference. We urge all parents, especially of children joining the school, to become part of the PTA. Being part of the PTA also gives a representation for Hercules class.

## **Terms**

We operate a six-term year in Wiltshire. Term 1 runs from September to October, Term 2 from November to December, Term 3 from January to February, Term 4 from February to April, Term 5 from April to May and Term 6 from June to July. Term dates can be found on the school website.

## **Buddies**

Children in Year 6 (and sometimes year 5) are paired up with Reception children. Primarily the buddy system is there to offer support for our newest children. A new school can be a daunting place, our Year 6's act as wonderful tour guides and 'go-to people'. They read together and are a friendly face on the playground. The buddies form a good relationship and often swap Christmas cards etc. There are many opportunities during the school year where buddies can work together.





The children are encouraged to drink water throughout the day to hydrate their brains, and they should bring a water bottle into school each day. There is a water cooler in the foyer so the children can fill their bottles when they need to. Please ensure that the bottle is labelled clearly with your child's name.

## **Milk**

School milk is provided by an organisation called CoolMilk. School milk is free up until your child's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday and will be provided to all Reception children unless you opt out. After your child's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday, school milk will be available at a subsidised rate. You can contact Cool Milk on 0800 142 2972 or by email on [registrations@coolmilk.com](mailto:registrations@coolmilk.com)

## **Fruit**

The school is in the Government 'School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme' for KS1 children. The children are provided with a piece of fruit or veg daily. Fruit and vegetables are available for the children all day, and children are encouraged to eat this when they feel hungry as part of developing their independence.

## **School Dinners**

All infant children (those in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) are entitled to free school meals, so it's definitely worth giving our delicious lunches a try! Please see the letter attached from Sue Brady for more information on how to order.

If your child would have been entitled to free school meals under the old system because you are receiving qualifying benefits, the government will give the school a Pupil Premium of approx £1,300, which will be used to support learning at school. Details of how to claim a free school meal can be found on the Welcome Letter from Sue Brady inside your starter pack.



## **Welly Walks**

Hercules children wear wellies in their outdoor classroom and they also go on welly walks within close proximity of the school. We ask that a pair of wellies and waterproofs remain at school below your child's peg, so that these walks and outside play can be more spontaneous.

## **Field and Forest School**

Hercules children take part in outdoor activities in our Field and Forest School on Fridays. Children will need to come to school in their home clothes, with waterproof trousers and coat. Long sleeved t-shirts and long trousers should be worn.

## **School Houses**

Children are assigned to a School House when they join. These Houses are colour coded, the colour reflected by their reading folder and swimming hat when appropriate. They are: Red Rowan, Blue Chestnut, Yellow Maple and Green Oak. There are many opportunities to work in house teams throughout the year.

## **Birthdays**

The children are more than welcome to bring something in to share with their classmates, e.g. cake, but this is not obligatory! There may be children with food allergies/intolerances so please if you do send anything in, let your child's class teacher know of ingredients.

## **Show and Tell**

In turn in Hercules Class the children are asked to bring things in to show to their classmates eg. a special toy, book, feather, ornament etc. They stand at the front of the class and talk about what they have brought. The other children ask three questions about the "showing". This develops the children's oracy skills.



## Reading Books

The children all have access to the school library on a weekly basis. They can choose a book to bring home and share with their family. Please remember to send the book back in again for their next library session, so that the children can exchange them. Children will also bring home reading books linked to our phonics approach—Sounds Write. Our aim is that children read at home at least 4 times per week, so little and often will support consolidation of new skills and help towards developing your child as a fluent reader.

## Uniform

The Langley Fitzurse uniform consists of grey trousers/skirts/pinafore dresses/shorts with gold polo shirts, grey jumpers/cardigans and black shoes. Reception children may wear black jogging bottoms instead of trousers/skirts/shorts. Yellow summer dresses may be worn in warm weather. PE kit consists of a white, round neck tee shirt, black shorts and trainers. Children should also have a grey sweatshirt and *grey* jogging bottoms for outdoor PE in colder weather. *Children should come to school in PE kit on PE days. Uniform is not required on these days.*

There is a wide variety of uniform available to purchase through [www.schooltrends.co.uk](http://www.schooltrends.co.uk). Items such as trousers, joggers, skirts, pinafore dresses, shorts and summer dresses may be purchased from supermarkets or other retailers. There is no requirement for children to wear logoed uniform. The PTA also run regular second-hand uniform sales – if you're interested in second hand uniform, please get in touch with the office as they will be able to help you.

Please remember to name **ALL** items, and remove all old names from second hand uniform. We do have a lost property box in school, if you're missing an item of clothing, please see the office.





## School Clubs

Clubs are available for parents to book their children into using the ParentMail App. You will be able to view our wrap around care provisions in the 'Accounts' section of the app. If your child is eligible for any additional clubs, these will also be available to view and book. Each club will cut off 4 days prior to a specific day – this is so we can make sure there are enough coaches for the children. If you require last minute Early Morning Club or After School Club then please contact the office as there may still be space!

### Early Morning Club

7.45 – 8.45am every day, run by Grassroots Sports Academy. No food is provided but your child may bring a healthy snack to eat during the session.

### After School Club

Mon – Thurs in school from 3.15 – 5.25 pm, run by Grassroots Sports Academy. There are currently two sessions available: 3.15-4.30 pm @ £5, and 3.15-5.25 pm @ £10 per day.

### Other Clubs

KS2 Football Club on Tuesdays 3.15-4.30 pm run by Grassroots Sports Academy - £5.00 per session

KS1 Street Dance Club on Wednesdays 3.15 – 4.00 pm run by Jackie Shale - £5.00 per session

KS2 Street Dance Club on Thursdays 3.15 – 4.00 pm run by Jackie Shale - £5.00 per session

Multi Sports Club for all year groups run by Grassroots Sports Academy – Fri 3.15-4.30 pm - £5.00 per session



## **Music Lessons**

We currently offer private lessons in school time for drums, piano, violin and guitar. These teachers are self-employed, and parents liaise with them directly. There is no official starting age for these lessons, if you are interested, please contact the office.

We also provide First Access violin lessons for Year 3/4 children, who have a year's free violin lessons, taught as a year group. This is funded by Music Connect and an annual Music Quiz and charitable donations run through our PTA.

## ***School Events***

### **Services**

There are several church/school services during the year, e.g the Welcome Service and Barbeque, Harvest, Christmas, Christingle etc which are held at St Peter's Church in the village. Full details will be set out in the school newsletters/term calendars. You are most welcome to attend these services.

### **Christmas Play**

Each year, the Key Stage 1 children (Hercules and Pegasus Classes) will work together on a Christmas play on the theme of the Nativity. Every child is included and there will be lots of singing and dancing to learn within school time. Parents are sometimes asked to create themed costumes.





## Bag2School

This is a very useful fund-raiser for the PTA. Three times a year, a plastic bag will be sent home for you to fill with unwanted clothes, shoes, bedding etc. You will be asked to bring them into school by 9am on a specific day, when they will be collected by the Bag2School company. We will then receive a cheque based on the amount collected.

## Sports Day

During Term 6, the school will hold a Sports Day. As this event is held on the Village Playing Fields, it is subject to the weather and a reserve day is usually announced alongside the nominated day. Sports Day will consist of many races for each year group and parents are invited to attend and cheer on their children.

The children compete in their Houses in order to win the school cup. Children should wear a t-shirt in their House colour.

## TD Days

TD Days (Teacher Development Days) are days when the school is closed so that the teaching staff (and once a year the governing body) undertake training related to teaching and education according to the School Improvement Plan. On these days, the children will not be in school. Where possible TD days coincide with the start or end of a term and therefore flow into the normal holiday pattern. An emergency TD day can be declared if required. In all cases, advanced notice is given in the school newsletter

