



Lower Farm Academy

New Starter Information Pack



Contents

A Message from the Head Teacher	03
Our Curriculum	04
Governors	04
School Uniform	05
Friends of Lower Farm (PTA)	05
Home - School Communications	06
Nursery Provision	06
Behaviour	07
School Dinners	07
Attendance	08
Pupil Premium	08
Information Sharing	08
Wrap Around Care	09
Emergency Contact Details	09
Early Years	10
Preparing for Nursery and Reception	11

Welcome to Lower Farm Academy

A message from the Head Teacher

My name is Mr How and I am delighted to welcome you to our amazing school and I would like to thank you personally for choosing Lower Farm. Lower Farm is a state of the art primary school which welcomes children from age 3 in Nursery right through to Year 6.

At Lower Farm, we provide an exciting and challenging curriculum which is designed to engage and motivate all children. We want our children to become resilient, independent thinkers with a genuine love of learning. Whilst we strive for high academic standards, we are also fully committed to developing the creative, physical, emotional and social aspects of all of our children's lives.

We offer a safe, nurturing and stimulating learning environment, which enables us to ensure our children are supported, challenged, inspired and motivated through a breadth of learning experiences and opportunities. The school is committed to safeguarding and all staff will actively promote the welfare actively of all children.

Our aim is to establish our school at the heart of our new community and we will therefore endeavor to foster strong relationships between children, staff, parents, governors and the wider community. We welcome the opportunity to work with you to develop ambitious, confident and inquisitive children.

At Lower Farm, every child will be respected and treated as an individual, with no limits placed on their learning – just opportunities to continually improve. We believe in the potential of every individual and that every child in our care can achieve and enjoy their time at our school. We will give all children equal opportunities to challenge themselves through the range of learning journeys presented to them – empowering children to take ownership and responsibility for their own learning.

I look forward to meeting you and showing you what a fantastic place for learning Lower Farm Academy is.

Mr A. How
Head Teacher





Our Curriculum

Our inspiring and engaging curriculum is introduced to the children through a 'launch day' which brings the children's learning to life and engages them in their learning.

Each learning journey is carefully planned and sequenced to ensure a fluid curriculum design which builds on skills and knowledge to a clear end piece and celebration. Each classroom is a language rich environment reflecting the learning that is being absorbed and immerses the learning of a range of subjects within that learning journey.

Children are effectively scaffolded and challenged within their learning through carefully prepared and attractive resources. Our curriculum is centred around active learning, and quality resources which expose our pupils to new vocabulary which ensures every child is effectively supported and can flourish.



Governors

School governors are volunteers who help to run our school make up our 'Local Governing Body'.

Governors are involved in the strategic decisions of the school; for example, running buildings and budgets, ensuring health and safety measures are in place, supporting staff and setting standards of school discipline. They also contribute to the school's long-term goals. They support the Head Teacher and make sure the school is always heading in the right direction.

Suzannah Harris - Chair of Governors
chairofgovs@lowerfarmacademy.org

Teachers ask three questions as part of each journey to know that learning is secure and purposeful: What are we learning about? Why are we learning about it? How are we going to be successful? Pupils return back to these questions during the learning sessions to allow them to reflect on their learning.

Pupils at our school take on a role in their learning and become artists, geographers, scientists, historians, theologists and so many real-life roles. We believe it is important that children understand the real-life application of their learning and that a subject is not merely something we learn in school but it has implications all around us. For example; We Are Designers – with a focus on a design brief and an understanding that everything we use has been designed for a purpose. Children's books also reflect these roles.



Parent Governors

Are you interested in becoming a parent governor? If you would like more information about what the role involves then please contact Suzannah Harris or the school office. We look forward to hearing from you!



School Uniform

Uniform:

- Purple sweatshirt or cardigan
- White polo shirt
- Grey or black trousers/shorts/skirt
- Grey pinafore dress or purple/white summer dress
- Plain black school shoes (no heels).

PE Kit:

- Purple T-shirt/polo shirt
- Black shorts/leggings/tracksuit bottoms
- Purple sweatshirt/cardigan/fleece/hoodie
- Plain practical trainers, football boots or pumps.



(In Key Stage 2 pupils will go swimming and so will need a swimming costume/trunks and swimming hat.

Please ensure all school uniform and PE kit are clearly named.

Not every item of uniform has to have our logo on so parents can choose where they wish to buy it from. Our recommended supplier is: www.yourschooluniform.com



Friends of Lower Farm (PTA)

Our PTA group, Friends of Lower Farm, is a friendly group of parents, teachers and volunteers.

Over the past few years they have held many fun events to help raise extra funds for school including Summer and Christmas Fayres, school discos and Easter bingo.

The money raised is contributing towards our library, climbing equipment and road safety measures. Our PTFA are always on the lookout for new members and help so please come to one of their meetings to find out more.

Please contact them via email to find out more: friends@lowerfarmacademy.org



Home - School Communications

Pupils are greeted each morning on the gates and at external doors by staff members and messages can be passed on to relevant teachers.

Teachers will be available to discuss anything with you at morning drop off from 08:35 to 08:45 and afternoon collection from 15:15. The Senior Leadership Team will also be available to discuss any concerns you may have. Please speak to the school office to arrange an appointment outside of these hours. Regular letters are sent via email, and our SeeSaw App.

SeeSaw APP

Our SeeSaw APP is our main form of communication. It includes regularly updated learning posts, message section and weekly news.

Class Dojo

Class Dojo is a positive praise system we use in school. Teachers use Class Dojo to recognize and celebrate children displaying our school values of Achievement, Care, Collaboration, Integrity, Resilience and Respect.

Tapestry

Nursery and Reception use Tapestry, an online journal recording all the learning and fun of your child's early years education. Please talk to your class teacher for more information and see the consent on the admission form.

Parent Pay

We are a cashless school. All booking for lunches, trips, breakfast club and nursery fees are done electronically through Parent Pay.



Nursery Provision

We are proud to offer our Nursery provision that starts from 3 years old.

You can apply for a place at our fantastic Nursery 'Acorns' the term after your child turns 3 years old. Please enquire at the school office and about funding available. We currently offer 15 hour and 30 hour funding depending on your eligibility.





Behaviour

At Lower Farm Academy, we have the highest expectations for our pupils so that they can all be the best that they can be.

Our Behaviour Policy clearly demonstrates how we nurture children and proactively work with our families at Lower Farm. We promote a high standard of behaviour and have a positive ethos where all members of the school community school are valued as individuals, we believe in encouraging the development of self-esteem, respect for others and self-discipline.



Emphasis is placed on positive reinforcement of behaviour through praise in accordance with our school values. Children's confidence and self-esteem are developed through encouragement and incentives, both verbal and written. Please read the full version of the Behaviour Policy on school's website for more detail.



School Dinners

Our school dinners are prepared and cooked on site using fresh ingredients. There is a wide selection of choices available. If you would like a menu please look on our website.

School dinners are charged at £2.34 daily. If you would like your child to have a school meal, booking and payment must be made in advance via Parent Pay.

Children eligible for Pupil Premium are entitled to a free school meal. Please complete the attached form if you think you are eligible.

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are eligible for Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) and will receive a school meal free of charge if requested.

Pupil Premium and UIFSM children can still select their meal choices in advance via Parent Pay.





Attendance

School attendance is vital for pupil's development physically, emotionally and socially.

It is important that your child attends every day and on time.

Children should only be kept at home if they have a serious illness or injury. If this is the case, parents must call the school by 08:45.

Pupils should miss as little time as possible—every learning opportunity matters!

The school will implement strategies in order to improve attendance for any child who's absence is falling below 96%, who has a pattern of erratic attendance, or persistent lateness. Our full policy can be found on the school website. We look forward to working in collaboration with you in order to ensure your child is present in school and can learn to their full potential.



Pupil Premium

Pupil premium is additional funding given to school for extra support and to help close the attainment gap between disadvantaged and non disadvantaged pupils.

Please read the information within the Pupil Premium statement on the website which gives details of our Pupil Premium Grant and how we allocate the funding. The Pupil Premium Grant is a sum of money that is allocated to school to

ensure that all children have an equal chance to succeed. Your child may qualify for Pupil Premium. If you qualify your child will receive free school meals, discounted school trips and classroom targeted interventions.

Please complete a Pupil Premium application form from the office if you think you are eligible to receive.



Information Sharing

Home Visits

For Nursery and Reception, we will organise home visits with yourselves so that we can again learn how we can best support your child(ren) when they start in September.

Current Setting Visits

We will contact your child's current setting, if they have one, to discuss their likes, dislikes, next steps and characteristics. This will help to ease the transitions as the teachers will know lots about them before they arrive.



Wrap Around Care

We are very proud to offer an extensive provision offer to support all of our families.

Breakfast Club

Our breakfast club starts every day from 07:45. The children will be provided with a selection of cereals, toast and fruit juices as well as a variety of fun activities. The cost of this is £3 a session.

Payment and Booking

For Breakfast Club, we require bookings and payment in advance for the purpose of staffing via Parent Pay. Booking will only be accepted with payment. Places are limited so will be allocated on a first come first served basis. The full terms and conditions will be provided within the Extended Services Policy which is provided upon booking. You can read the full policy on the website.

Afterschool Club

Our After School Club is run by an external provider 'Premier Education' and operates between 15:15 and 18:00. Children will be provided with a light healthy snack, a drink and there are lots of fun activities for them to enjoy. The club is open for the whole school year for pupils in Reception to Year 6

Early session - £4.50 per session

Time: 3.15 pm - 4.15 pm Price:

Late session - £7.00 per session

Time: 3:15 pm - 5.00 pm Price:

Full session - £8.50 per session

Time: 3.15 pm - 6.00 pm Price:

Siblings automatically receive a 15% discount when booking online! (7.5% per child).

Day	Afterschool Club Activities
Monday	Music, Dance & Drama / Personal Development
Tuesday	Gymnastics / Creative Writing
Wednesday	Football / Arts and Crafts
Thursday	Sport & Games / Homework club
Friday	Fun Activities

Emergency Contact Details

When you fill in your application pack you will fill in the emergency contacts and collection form details. If somebody other than who is on your list of who can collect your child please inform the school office and use the password you have chosen.



Early Years

Preparation for Early Years

Understanding Spoken Instructions

Classroom instructions often contain several parts for children to remember. A simple game of 'Simon Says' during long car journeys this summer could really help. Give your child an instruction to do, like 'Simon says put your finger on your nose' and see if they can follow your instruction. You can challenge your child further by give them 3 instructions in one go.

Mathematical Development

One-to-one counting is of great benefit to your children and when completed in a practical 'real world' way can be a great source of confidence for your children too. It can also be done incidentally throughout the day, for example counting steps as your child climbs the stairs.

You can also help your child learn about colours by looking for different colours throughout the day. Learning about the position of objects will also ensure your child can tell us where certain items that they require are. We use White Rose Maths in Reception and there are lots of online resources to support you at home with this too.

Phonics Development

Children in Reception will start their RWInc journey within two weeks of starting with us. This will include learning sounds, blending and segmenting. We will host RWInc workshops to help develop parental understanding throughout the term. It would be fantastic if you could practise name writing at home too.



Early Years Curriculum

Communication and language focuses on developing speech and ensuring that children can use a variety of language in conversation. A focus on listening and attention ensures that children develop the skills needed to listen and respond appropriately.

Personal, social and emotional development focuses on ensuring that children are able to manage their behaviour in different situations and understand the complex social world that they live in.

Physical development focuses on both large movements and small movements. A big focus for the start of the year will be developing pencil grip and beginning to form letters correctly.

Literacy development focuses on developing your child's reading and writing skills by exploring a love for reading and developing a growing phonetical understanding.

Mathematics A focus on mathematical language ensures that children can discuss the world around them. We will also focus on recognising, ordering and counting to 10. Children will also learn about number bonds, odds and evens and number facts.

Understanding the world develops the children's understanding of the world around them through a variety of sources, technology, observations and experiments being a few.

Expressive arts and design develops the children's creative abilities and allows them to develop their own preferences using a variety of materials. The children will have the opportunity to explore messy play, instruments and using different media.





Preparation for Nursery

Social Skills

Being able to interact appropriately with other children and share resources is a key skill that will help your child when they start school. Play dates with other children will help to promote these skills and you could arrange these with future classmates if possible. During the play date, you can model useful social phrases such as 'my turn please' or 'let's share' and join in with pretend play to start the game off and then fade out as children get into character.

Communication and Language

Many parents worry if their child will be able to tell the teacher if they need something or if they will make friends. Good communication skills underpin these abilities.

Your child may be starting Reception with identified communication difficulties, or you may have concerns that have not yet been addressed. If this is something you are concerned about please speak with the Reception teachers so that can reassure, and work closely, with you.

Listening and Attention Skills

Your child will be given many spoken instructions throughout the school day and will need to be able to shift their attention from what they are doing to listening to what the teacher is saying. A lovely activity to promote this is to go on a 'listening walk' where your child listens for all the sounds around them in the park or town centre. You could also jot down all the sounds your child notices and talk about these back at home to retell the journey based on the sounds they heard.

Preparation for Reception

The period before a child starts Reception for some parents can be an anxious time. The following information is a simple guide to how you can best prepare your child for this exciting time in their lives!

Promoting Independence

Your child will really benefit from being as independent as possible when they start Reception. Of course teaching staff will always be on hand to help, but children feel a real sense of achievement when they can accomplish things by themselves! For example being able to go to the toilet independently, put on and take off their coats and gather their own belongings.

Children in Reception have access to an outdoor environment throughout the day, so being able to put their coat on and zip it up independently will really help them-as will being able to put on a pair of wellies and taking off their jumper.

Another important part of being independent at school is being able to use the toilet independently, including washing and drying their hands. Being able to eat their snack independently will be really helpful as children will be encouraged to get their own milk and fruit as much as possible.

Children in Reception will also take part in lunchtimes whilst in school and will need to be able to cut their own food and feed themselves. It would be fantastic if you could practise this at home too. An activity we like to use to practise this is to cut slices of bread into different shapes.





Part of **REAch2 Academy Trust**

Enhurst Ridge
Burton Upon Trent
DE13 9SZ

Contact Information

To stay up to date with information from school please visit our Lower Farm Academy Facebook and Twitter pages.

Find more information on our website
www.lowerfarmacademy.org

A member of the school team is always happy to help you. Mrs Padmore and Mrs Graham, our admin team look forward to hearing from you. You can contact us via the number or email below.

If you require any information that is related to Special Educational Needs, please contact our SENCo - Mrs Dale on the school number or email below.

Get In Touch

Lower FarmAcademy
Milking Lane
Nuneaton
CV10 0FG

Phone: 02475 267760

Email: office@lowerfarmacademy.org