

EARLY YEARS AT FINLAY

Our Ethos

We aim to help our children be ready to meet the demands of the 21st century so that the skills they learn will be helpful for the rest of their lives!

We love story time!



Creativity inspires learning



Every class has a role play area



Maths



A maths and literacy rich environment is important to us and helps develop key skills

Every Reception class has an outdoor area where the learning can continue!



Continuous and enhanced provision creates more opportunities to learn



We encourage children to be inquisitive problem solvers

Our vision and values

At Finlay Community School, we really strive to make a difference.

We intend to teach a broad and balanced curriculum that is engaging, relevant and purposeful to all learners. We ensure that our curriculum meets national expectations in line with knowledge, skills and understanding set out in the National Curriculum and Early Years Framework. In addition to this, we also strive for our curriculum to enable our pupils to leave Finlay Community School with a SMILE.

Our SMILE values are

S: Social Awareness: an understanding of the world we live in and our place in the community

M: Mental and Physical health and well-being

I: Independence

L: Life Skills

E: Excellent Aspirations



Our Ethos in Early Years

EYFS is based upon four themes where each of these themes has a clear principle outlined below:

A Unique Child: At Finlay Community School, we believe every child is a competent learner from birth, who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.

Positive Relationships: We understand that children learn to be strong and independent when they build secure relationships with parents and/or a key person at school.

Enabling Environments: We know that the environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning.

Learning and Development: We recognise that children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates. All areas of Learning and Development are equally important and inter-connected. The EYFS is made up of seven areas of learning:

PSED - Personal, Social and Emotional Development

CL- Communication and Language

L - Literacy

M - Mathematics

UW - Understanding of the World

PD - Physical Development

EAD – Expressive Arts and Design

We ensure your child is given all of the opportunities to become an effective and motivated learner.



A typical day in Reception

A typical day in Reception:

Phonics and Literacy

At Finlay, Read Write Inc is used from Pre-school through to Year 2, with children accessing books linked to the sounds they've been taught.

Children are taught in small groups to ensure the phonics they're learning challenges them and enables accelerated progress.

The children are then provided with opportunities to explore and use taught skills independently during learning.

Writing lessons are taught in addition to phonics, and allow children to use and apply taught phonics.

Break and Snack

We believe snack should be a social time, whilst teaching manners and the social etiquette of eating together.

Maths

Maths again is taught in small groups to allow children to be appropriately challenged, with differentiated objectives taught to meet individual needs. Children are then given opportunities to consolidate this learning during continuous provision. We also believe a maths rich environment is important, to facilitate mathematical learning throughout the day.

Lunchtime

In EYFS and KS1, children are entitled to Universal Free School Meals. They can either order a school dinner or bring a lunchbox. Children eat together in our dinner hall.

Afternoon sessions:

PE once a week

Theme

Afternoon 'theme' lessons are linked to the development matters objectives and early learning goals and include WOW opportunities to engage the children.

Storytime

Home to School communication

At Finlay, creating strong, positive links with our community and families is of the upmost importance. We do this by:

Meeting the children through organised home visits.

Providing children with a thorough transition so they feel school-ready.

An 'open door' policy to allow parents to share important information and any queries they may have;

Offering a range of activities throughout the year that encourage collaboration between school and parents. For example, fund raising days, sports day, Harvest Festival, Nativity and Easter,

Providing parents with special vouchers called 'WOW vouchers' where parents can write down their child's achievements at home.

Two formal parents evenings per year (Autumn and Spring term) to discuss the child's progress and development;

An individual report sent out in the summer term;

Parent sessions on the teaching of phonics, reading and maths

Inviting parents and carers in to share a special persons lunch with their child;

Online assessment tool to share children's achievements in school and at home - Tapestry.



Ready for Reception

If your child is allocated a space to start with us in Reception in September 2021, we would like to invite them to participate in our Ready for Reception programme.

This is a new programme we are starting next year.

You should be allocated your child's Reception space on Friday 16th April 2021.

If your child is allocated a space at Finlay, we will contact you and look to offer your child a space on our Ready for Reception programme. These spaces will be offered in line with our admissions policy (available on our website).

What is the Ready for Reception programme?

This programme will run similarly to pre-school. The children will attend Finlay Community school for pre-school style sessions, where they will become familiar with school routines and their classroom environment. The theory is that this will aid transition in September. This will run from May - July.

More information will be provided nearer the time.



Want to know more..?

If you would like to find out more, please visit our school website on: www.finlayschool.co.uk.

Also, check out our School Facebook page to see what wonderful things the children get up to.

Useful contacts:

School office: admin@finlay.gloucs.sch.uk or call on 01452 530310

Rachel Lane (Executive Headteacher): head@finlay.gloucs.sch.uk

Heather Willis (Acting Head of School):
heather.willis@finlay.gloucs.sch.uk

Sasha Palmer (Assistant Headteacher):
sasha.palmer@finlay.gloucs.sch.uk

Michelle Bryce (Family Services Manager):
michelle.bryce@finlay.gloucs.sch.uk

Katie Kirby (SENDCo): katie.kirby@finlay.gloucs.sch.uk

We are also hosting two Zoom question and answer sessions on:

Wednesday 2nd December at 4.30pm

Wednesday 9th December at 10.30am

If you wish to attend, please confirm your attendance with the school office and we will send you the log in details.

