



Lyngford Park Primary & Nursery School 2025 - 2026 A-Z of things you need to know...

Attendance

Good attendance (95%+) is directly linked to good progress – research confirms those with higher attendance make more progress, are socially better equipped to manage healthy relationships and have better attitudes to learning. Children who achieve 96%+ over a term will be awarded with a certificate. Classes compete for the attendance cup each week. For those children whose attendance falls below expected, parents will be encouraged to work with the school to improve the attendance.

Behaviour and Attitude to Learning

All children have a right to learn, without being distracted by others. Expectations of good behaviour is consistent, and children are enjoying making the right choices. We will continue to support and monitor behaviour in all aspects. Please support us as we work together to ensure your child makes the right choices and they learn good routines, boundaries and have high expectations for themselves. We want the best for all children. We will work together with families, but it is essential you trust our judgements, and work with us.

Budget

We operate within strict financial parameters. Appreciating we are trying to provide wonderful opportunities for learning for classes, it is vital we all contribute as requested. If you believe you may be entitled to join the Pupil Premium register, you are only 1 form away from school benefiting from additional funds – please contact the office for the simple online form. With budgets so tight, we can no longer subsidise as freely as in previous years. All schools are in the same position.

Bullying

Every form of bullying is intolerable. We do not pretend it cannot or does not happen and therefore we enjoy a growing referral culture from victims and from bystanders – who are the key to a culture of safety. Whilst we are tough on bullying, we are also tough on the causes of bullying and ask what is making that child feel so little empathy for others, or why they do not seek to do the right thing. We expect full support from families when addressing this.

Class Dojo

An essential method of communication for all parents to know what is happening. Staff will post information and news on this platform and if you have any minor issues, this can be used to ask questions. If you are not set up on Class Dojo, please speak with your child's class teacher who will invite you to join the group. Newsletters will be sent via Class Dojo as well as MCAS. **Whilst you can contact teachers on dojo, please do not expect an answer out of working hours.** We must protect staff well-being. Please ensure you have read Newsletters and other information before asking a question on dojo – the answer will probably already be in the letters.

Clubs

There will be a variety of clubs on offer for each term. There may be a charge for these after school clubs to cover the staff who provide the opportunities as well as for resources. We try to offer a range of clubs for different age groups, including sport, art, gymnastics and dance. Some clubs run during lunchtimes, like girls' football and cross country.

Curriculum - Mastery Learning.

We all continue to develop our skills to ensure children can learn in the most effective way. Maths and English are taught in a mastery way – accelerating progress. Science is taught with a more practical approach. Most classes operate as fortnightly timetable to ensure full coverage. Whilst English (reading, writing and phonics) and Maths (including mental maths) will be taught daily, some subjects may be taught on a 2-week cycle.

Diary Dates and Parent Attendance

A set of dates for the whole year will support your planning. Naturally, things happen and changes are sometimes necessary – we will always try to give as much notice as possible. Please ensure you attend all events relating to your child; your child **wants you** to be there for Parents Meetings and other events. Please support us.

Evacuations / Lockdown

Children are taught how to safely evacuate in the event of an emergency (fire). Children are taught how to hide out of sight in the event of a Lockdown. These are practised regularly. To avoid unnecessary anxiety, we will always tell the children before a Lockdown Drill.

Famly

A communication tool used in our Nursery and Reception class. Using Famly allows teachers to inform parents about essential information about their child, as well as school posting updates about progress.

Forest School

We are very proud of our Forest School and pleased how it has evolved. Every child will have an opportunity to use the Forest School as we continue to evolve and improve our wonderful provision, and our youngest children will be able to use this on a weekly basis. Your child will have great fun – **but children must be suitably dressed when taking part.**

Governors

Our Governors are a vital part of school development. There are 5 meetings per year as well as several monitoring visits carried out across the year.

Growth Mindset V Fixed Mindset

We are working to improve our Growth Mindset. For some of us, we have a Fixed Mindset which form barriers to develop in some aspects. By teaching staff and children how to develop a Growth Mindset, it will help improve the ability to manage our emotions when things are challenging, and to improve resilience.

Grounds

We work hard to ensure our grounds are maintained and in an outstanding condition. There are always improvement works taking place and we continue to improve. We are proud to host sporting events inviting other schools.

Healthy Lunchbox & Playtime Snacks

At playtimes, children are allowed to have a fruit snack or something healthy. Crisps, chocolate bars or the like are not allowed at playtime, but they are allowed in their lunchboxes. We strongly encourage children to be provided with healthy lunch if they are bringing a packed lunch. There needs to be fresh fruit and healthy food. Foods with high levels of sugar must be minimised. We do not allow fizzy drinks. When children consume a high level of sugary foods at lunchtime, there is often a negative impact on their focus and behaviour. Thank you for your support. [Lunchbox ideas and recipes – Healthier Families - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/healthierfamilies/healthy-lunchbox-ideas-recipes)

Hot School Meals

These must be ordered within the deadline. The deadline is always midnight on the Monday for the *following* week. (Always ordering a week in advance). Anyone who misses the deadline will have to provide a packed lunch / be given a packed lunch (depending on Free School Meals arrangements) for that coming week. Our meals are prepared and cooked on site in our newly refurbished kitchen. Meals are £2.90 per meal for KS2 children.

Jewellery / Make Up

Watches are permitted to be worn, **but rings and necklaces are not permitted.** If your child has their ears pierced, only studs are allowed in school. Please no make-up, false nails or eye lashes.

MCAS

Our method of signing up for clubs and making payments for trips and clubs. If you need any support, our office team will help you. We are a cashless school.

Mobile phones - Children

Mobiles phones are not allowed in the classrooms during the school day. Year 5/6 are permitted to bring mobiles to school but must be handed to the classroom teacher at the beginning of the day and collected at the end of the day.

Naming Clothes

Please name all items of your child's clothing. Our lost property becomes trickier if items are unnamed! We are also now selling pre-loved (nearly new) uniform from time to time, so this will hopefully help reduce the stockpile.

Nursery

Our fabulous Nursery runs all-year-round (49 weeks of the year) from 8am-6pm through the week. There is a growing waiting list so please call the office if you wish to reserve your place. The Nursery Department uses our Forest School and has use of amazing outside and inside learning areas. Why not come and see for yourself? It has recently undergone a huge transformation and looks stunning.

Online Safety

Online safety is essential for all. We all need to ensure we remain as safe online as we can. Children have regular safety advice sessions and there are also monitoring programmes within our firewall which will detect if anyone is trying to access inappropriate information. Any malicious activity may result in it being passed to the police.

Playtime Arrangements

We stagger playtimes and lunchtimes to reduce accidents. However, there are many opportunities for children to mix with others throughout the school.

PTFA (Parent, Teacher, Friends, Association)

We have a thriving PTFA who work hard to raise funds for our school. Please do your bit and either join us on the committee or help during events. 100% funds raised go back into the school so we can buy resources!

Pupil Premium Grant

If you believe your family income might trigger a Pupil Premium Grant please talk to the office. By completing ONE online form, school may receive further funding to allow us to provide more opportunities for your child. It is surely worth trying if you think it might be you?

Reading

"The more that you read, the more things you'll know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go" (Dr Seuss)
All children need to develop a love of reading, and this takes time. To do this, children need to read at least 5 times a week at home, and this will continue in school as well. This activity needs to become a daily routine, and it will help you to spend special time with your child and develop their love of reading as well. Please support their reading.

Richard Huish Trust

We are fortunate to be a part of an excellent Academy Trust. Lead by John Abbott (CEO); Richard Huish College, Lyngford Park, North Town, Nerrols, North Curry and West Buckland. Collectively we work to provide the best possible provision for all pupils across our Huish Trust.

School times – Please be prompt.

Our gates open at 8.40am and close again at 8.50. Please be on time to allow your child to settle to their essential morning tasks! School ends at 3.15pm. KS2 children come and go via Luxhay Close. All other children come and go via Bircham Road gates.

Senior Mental Health Lead

We are so lucky to have a brilliant Mental Health and Pastoral Lead. Kim Barratt is essential to our school, and she works hard to support parents, families and staff. If you need any support, or signposting for some specific support, please call Kim and she will try to help – Call school and choose option 2.

Swimming

Children in Year 4 and 5 will swim for half a year each. It takes place at Kings School, Taunton. Children require swimming costumes / trunks and a towel. Goggles are helpful to aid their swimming development.

Testing

As with all learning and teaching, there are times when we need to assess how children are progressing. We have 3 assessment weeks during the year, and at other times, we carry out other assessments. Children in Year 1 will have Phonics tests and Year 6 have SATs (May). We use the Curriculum Maestro tests.

Trips and visits

Although the cost of coaches has increased dramatically, we aim to offer 1 or 2 trips per year for children to experience different things and support their learning. Trips can only take place if sufficient contributions are received.

TT Rock Stars!

We have invested in this new App to allow children to improve their times tables recall. Your child will be taught how to use this exciting new App in school and be able to use it at home...we hope parents may want to play too!

Uniform

All children are expected to wear the school uniform, including plain black shoes/trainers. Jumpers (with our logo) are available to buy at the South West School Wear Shop. White polo shirts and all other items of uniform do not have to have the logo on them and they can be bought from supermarkets at very reasonable cost. Children must only wear PE kit when it is their PE day. **PE kit must be plain white t-shirts and black shorts.** Football shirts are not permitted. If it is your child's birthday, they are allowed to come in non-uniform.

Volunteering

Would you like to be able to come in and help our children? Support us on trips? Join us in Forest School? Help hear readers? If you think you would like to offer your support we would like to hear from you! All we need to do is give you an online **DBS (Disclosure Barring Service)** form to complete and once it is successfully returned, you can help! Each DBS costs us £49 but it is really worth it as parental support is essential – as we always need help in many aspects. If you are interested, call us.

Well-being

It is vital for us to ensure we protect our well-being. We all strive to deliver the best for all children. We will always be supportive and we very much value supportive parents too. Thank you for your continued support.

Yet

A word we have introduced into our daily work when faced with challenges. Children are being encouraged to realise they won't succeed in a task at the first attempt, so by using the word 'yet' we are aiming to improve resilience.

You

You are essential to our school and play a vital part in our community! Please support us and we will do everything we can to support you and your child. Our wonderful Pastoral Lead Kim will try to support. The only downside is we only have one Kim - but you will always find her smiling and happy to help where she can!

Zentangles...

This is an art feature enjoyed by children...and it is the only relevant word beginning with 'z' I could think of!

This is not an exhaustive list but hoping this supports you as being a parent is one of the hardest, but most rewarding job anyone can do...and any support we can offer to help you is well worth it.