



EARLY YEARS SCHOOL HANDBOOK



Forward looking, forward thinking: The best that British international education can offer.
A thriving school community which nurtures, inspires and empowers everyone to be the
very best they can be.

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Welcome

We want you to know that your children will be nurtured and well cared for. Our dedicated staff strive to ensure that your children feel happy in their environment and feel part of the school community.

This handbook provides a detailed overview of what you can expect in the Early Years School and how you can support your child's transition. Please take time to read the information provided and, should you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

We look forward to welcoming you all.

Claudia van de Laar-Newson
Head of Early Years School



CLAUDIA VAN DE LAAR-NEWSON
EMAIL - c.newson@britams.nl

Our Learning Culture



We are proudly an inclusive school with high expectations of all pupils and staff. Our staff are the school's greatest asset; they are professional, caring, and work together to provide the best possible education for the children in our care.

We have a strong sense of community and purpose. We want each pupil to fulfill their academic potential, because that opens doors to the future, but we believe that education is not confined to the classroom nor to the specifications of any syllabus. We provide opportunities for each pupil to discover and enjoy their individual talents, interests and passions. We want each pupil to learn teamwork and leadership skills; to learn how to take risks in a safe environment, to learn how to cope with failure as well as success; and, most importantly, to be happy.

We aim to help our pupils to develop into young people who, when they leave us:

- Are confident in self
- Act with integrity and spirit
- Are ready to take responsibility and to support others, to make a positive contribution to their community
- Have an intellectual curiosity and a lifelong love of learning
- Recognise and value different cultures, sensitivities and orientations
- Are fascinated by and respect the natural world
- Recognise human achievements and failings and learn from both
- Enjoy pursuing their creative, spiritual and sporting potential
- Make a positive contribution to society

Leadership Team



Mrs Claudia van de Laar-Newson
Head of Early Years School



Mrs Linda Naghieh
Head of Nursery



Mrs Jane Starkey-Grove
Reception Year Group Leader



Mrs Jane Keatley
Year 1 Year Group Leader

Communication

Keeping in touch

We are committed to working in strong partnership with parents and encourage parents to come and talk to us if you have any questions, concerns or if you have good news to share.

Teachers are available each morning between 8.30am - 8.45am, and at the end of the day for quick messages. However, if you would like a longer meeting, please make an appointment with the appropriate member of staff. In the first instance we would ask that matters concerning class issues are dealt with by the child's class teacher. We ask that parents do not approach staff when they are engaged in teaching activities.

Dates for your diary

Term and event dates are posted on the "school's portal, Firefly." You can also select to receive notifications about the calendar to get reminders straight to your phone. To do this, scroll to the bottom of your Firefly dashboard until you see the calendar. Click on "see more events" which will open a new window and underneath the calendar, you will find the "subscribe" button. Each week the school will send a newsletter with upcoming events and news headlines.

Class blogs

Every class has a blog that includes specific information for that class. The teacher updates the blog at the end of each week with photographs of the learning and activities that have taken place that week. Please don't forget to check it to keep up to date with life in the classroom.



Change of details

Please inform the school secretary on primarysecretary@britams.nl if your home address, telephone number, email address or child's medical details change.

This information is extremely important as it is required to contact you in the event of an emergency.

Firefly

Firefly (firefly.britams.nl) is our school portal where you will find the following: class blogs, links to documents, attendance data, trip information and more.

Please make sure you are able to access Firefly. You will have received instructions on how to do this in your welcome letter.



Parental Involvement

Helping at home

We encourage all parents to interact, share stories and read in their first language to their children each day. All young children benefit from activities which develop their gross and fine skills.

Class parent(s)

Each class will have one or two class parents. They will update you and remind you about things happening in your child's class – such as term themes, non-uniform days, class events.

If you are willing to be a Class Parent, please inform your child's class teacher.

Parents' Organisation (PO)

The PO is a body of volunteer parents who work closely with the school organising events for families in our community. Each week the PO will send a newsletter to all parents with updates about upcoming events such as picnics, cultural events, and second hand uniform sales.

All parents are members of the PO, and each year a group of volunteers form the Parents' Organisation Executive Committee (POEC). The POEC coordinate a huge range of activities to support the school each year, as well as coordinating the class parent reps. Please do consider giving some time to support the school through the PO.

If you would like to be involved please get in touch by email parentsorganisation@britams.nl or scan the QR code to register your interest.



Daily Life

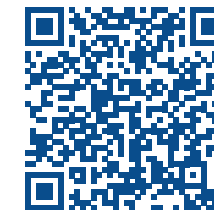


It is normal for some children to find it difficult to leave their parents, especially at the start of a new school year or term. We know that this is also difficult for you as parents, but we encourage you to follow the advice of the class teacher which often is to leave quickly. The school will always call you if your child continues to be upset, however, in almost all cases children settle quickly once their parents have left.

Drop off and pick up

When dropping your child(ren) off or picking them up, please use the playground entrances. Children should be dropped off at their class during the appropriate times, otherwise if late, they must be dropped off or picked up at the main reception – this is explained in more detail below.

Please click or scan the QR code to view our drop off / pick up points map.



Attendance

As part of our duty of care and commitment to supporting children's learning, we monitor attendance of children at school. Regular and punctual attendance is essential for children to get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing and wider life opportunities.

As a school, we recognise our responsibilities to ensure children are in school and on time, therefore having access to learning for the maximum number of days and hours. We aim for a yearly attendance rate of 95%. We understand that absence due to illness cannot be avoided, therefore it is extremely important that children attend regularly at all other times.

Children who regularly miss one or two days of school each week miss a significant amount of the curriculum over the course of a year. This can sometimes impact a child's transition to the next year group.



Registration and punctuality

Registration is taken at 8.50am and at the start of the afternoon. Anyone arriving after close of registration is recorded as 'late'. Lateness should be avoided at all times. Children who are late for school not only interfere with their own educational development but also with that of their peers. In the event a child does arrive at school late, they must report directly to the main reception to receive a late attendance mark in the register and to be escorted to their class by a member of staff.

Sickness

If your child is unwell then they must stay at home. If symptoms include vomiting or diarrhea they must stay at home for 24 hours after they were last ill. A child who has had a fever (temperature above 37.5) must be free of the fever without medication for 24 hours before returning to school.

The Head of School has the right to exclude children from school if they feel a child is too sick to attend and/or is causing risk of infection to others. They may also exclude children who have, or are suspected of having a contagious disease. If a child has been diagnosed with a contagious disease, parents must inform the school. This will be communicated to all parents including the symptoms and possible side effects. Parents are advised to contact a doctor should they feel concerned.



Absences

Parents are requested to contact the school if a child is going to be absent that day by calling **+31 20 67 97 840** or by emailing the school secretary primaryschoolsecretary@britams.nl.

You only need to notify us on the first day that your child is absent, you do not need to contact us every day. If the school has not been informed of an absence, this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence.

Visitors

Visitors to the school, including parent helpers, must sign in and out at the reception and wear a visitor's badge at all times whilst they are on the premises.

Holiday arrangements

Under Dutch law children should not take holidays during school term times. Parents must make every effort to arrange holidays to coincide with the holidays appearing on the school calendar.

Returning to school after an extended absence can be difficult for children and puts them at a disadvantage in relation to peers who attend regularly. If you have to take your child(ren) out of school during term time due to exceptional circumstances, you are kindly requested to complete a "Leave of Absence" form at least one week in advance of the absence. The Head of School will review all requests and if approved, will stamp, sign and return the form to you. Forms are available at our school reception and completed forms are monitored by the relevant Dutch authorities.

Change of arrangements

If there is any change in routine, for example if someone else is picking up your child from school, they are attending a medical or dental appointment, or you wish to take your child out of school early, please complete the form, by clicking or scanning the QR code below.

Please also remember to notify the class teacher of this change too.



Class allocation

The school groups children according to the number of classes in the year group. Between Nursery, Reception and Year 1, there are some slight differences.



Nursery – 3 classes – max 25 children – 1 teacher and 3 nursery officers. Classes are named after trees and we have Apple, Olive and Willow



Reception – 4 classes – max 24 children – 1 teacher and 1 full-time support staff. Classes are named after trees and we have Maple, Oak, Chestnut and Hazel.



Year 1 – 4 classes – max 24 children – 1 teacher and 1 full-time support staff. Classes are named after insects and we have Caterpillar, Dragonfly, Grasshopper and Ladybird.

We also try to ensure equal allocation of the following in classes:

- Number of children
- Ratio of boys and girls
- Children with learning support
- Children with EAL
- A language 'buddy' who shares the same language as your child

Many of the children are learning English as an additional language and often start school speaking little or no English, but very soon gain the confidence and skills to communicate quite freely in English; this being their second and in some cases their third language.

All recent research indicates that a child will learn English more effectively if they continue to develop their first language at the same time. Children's knowledge and skills transfer across languages from their first language they have learned at home, to the school language. With such evidence in mind we do not separate children who speak the same language, rather we try to ensure that there is at least one other child in the class who shares the same language.



School uniform

Only branded school items can be purchased from our online Uniform Shop. For non-branded items, you can purchase them from Marks & Spencer, Next or other external retailers.

Please ensure that your child wears a labelled waterproof coat to school and, in times of cold weather. The children are responsible for their own belongings and parents should encourage their children to hang up their own coats and put away their lunchboxes in the space provided each day.

Children are not allowed to wear jewellery except for a wrist watch, small stud earrings and jewellery worn for religious purposes. The school cannot be held responsible for the loss of or damage to any jewellery in school. Jewellery is not permitted to be worn for PE (sports) lessons. If your child is unable to remove their earrings, then please provide them with tape to cover them.



Everyday uniform

Branded items in school online shop

- Navy blue branded sweatshirt or cardigan
- Navy blue branded polo shirt

Not sold by school:

- White polo shirt
- Grey trousers and/or skirts
- School shoes (must be suitable for outdoor use and easy to use such as Velcro straps)

PE kit and outerwear

On days children have a gym session, they may come to school dressed in their PE kit. The kit can also be left in their gym bag in school to change into. Children need a pair of sport shoes/plimsolls for sport. Children also need a spare set of clothes to change in to, this does not have to be school uniform but should include extra underwear.

Not sold by school:

- Navy shorts
- Trainers



Please click or scan the QR code for more details about uniform.



Lost property

Please ensure that all items of clothing are clearly labelled so that lost items can be returned to their rightful owner. There is a lost property box at the rear entrance of the Early Years School area. All items of lost property are placed here. This box is regularly emptied and unclaimed items are donated to the clothing bins.

Medical information and allergies

Please inform the class teacher if your child suffers from any allergies, this is in addition to completing the **Medical Form** as part of the enrolment process. Long term medicines need to be put in a named container and handed to the teacher.

We aim to be a 'nut-free' school. There are a number of people in the school with a severe nut allergy, so we ask you to ensure that no snacks or lunch contain nuts/traces of nuts. For example, items such as Nutella, pesto, hazelnut yoghurt or peanut butter.

For this same reason, no food may be handed out or consumed on the playground after school.

Administering medicines

If your child requires any prescribed oral medication during the course of a school day, you are required to complete a **Medication Administered at School form**.

By signing the form, you give your consent for the teacher to administer the medication.

Please click or scan the QR code for the Medication Administered School Form.



Snacks and lunch

Nursery - part time	Fruit or similar healthy snack for snack time every day
Nursery - full time	2x fruit or similar healthy snack for snack times in the morning and afternoon. Lunch which is eaten in their classrooms.
Reception and Year 1	Fruit or similar healthy snack for snack time every day. Lunch, which is eaten in the Early Years hall.

Lunch can be supplied from home or you can arrange for it to be provided by our catering partner, Appel. Please note the school has no facilities to heat up lunch provided from home. All children need to bring a water bottle that can be refilled during the day. If your child brings in grapes or cherry tomatoes, please make sure they are cut into pieces as they are a choking hazard for small children.

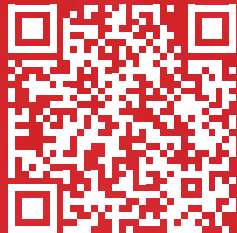
Birthdays/celebrations

Children's birthdays are celebrated in school and as part of the celebrations the school provides a small treat for all the children in the class. This treat is restricted to a piece of fresh fruit, a fruit roll or a small box of raisins.

Due to possible allergies, parents MAY NOT provide treats from home. We also kindly ask that you do not provide party bags, even with non-food items, and/or party invitations (unless every child in the class is invited).

Teachers should not be put into the position of turning away party bags or explaining to some children why they are not invited.

To sign up and for more information on school lunches please click or scan the QR code.



Bike park

There is a bike park outside the main entrance. Scooters and small bicycles (loop fietsen) can be left at the gate of the playground. Larger two wheeled bikes can be locked in the bike racks next to the Early Years playground. There are also designated spaces, to the left of the main entrance, where the larger Bakfiets can be parked to ensure they do not block the entrance.

This area is open at certain times of the day and therefore all bikes should be locked securely.

Bike safety

Please ensure your bicycle is safe to transport children. Watch out for their feet in the spokes of the rear wheel. We also ask everybody to make sure they do not cycle their bike in the bike park and surrounding area (pavement) by school.

Travel

As part of a busy city community, we recommend families travel to school either by foot, by bike or by using public transport. Parking is very limited in the neighbourhood around the school building therefore we recommend not travelling by car as much as possible.

There is a Kiss and Ride area located outside the main entrance where the children may exit the car, but this is only permitted for children in Year 5 and above. It is not permitted to leave your vehicle unattended in this area. We have a handy travel guide to help you decide the best possible solution for you to travel to the school.



Sports and games

During the course of the year children enjoy sports and games sessions with a sports coach. Children develop fundamental movement skills and become increasingly competent and confident in balance and coordination individually and with others.

We teach yoga and follow the Massage in Schools programme, and there are optional (additional fees required) weekly ballet lessons led by the teacher from the English Ballet School.

Little Stars Fitness

Health and wellbeing is incorporated into daily life for the children. We work with Little Stars Fitness to provide a stimulating learning experience to teach children about the importance of health, nutrition and fitness. It is hands on and gives children a practical experience that can be taken home.

The sessions use real mini gym machines and exercise equipment followed by smoothie or juice making. Updates, including nutritional information and recipes will be given regularly ensuring everyone benefits.





Secret garden

We have a rooftop secret garden offering children a smaller scale forest school approach, providing them with practical experiences as they explore elements of a natural environment. Children observe the changes in the seasons and nature over the course of the year, plant bulbs and seeds, learn to use a variety of tools, and safely make a fire.

In addition to these practical skills, children will learn to work alongside and collaboratively with each other, develop their confidence, and hopefully a love of the outdoors.

Educational visits

Children in Reception and Year 1 go on one educational visit during the year to a local attraction linked to the curriculum. These are a wonderful opportunity for children to make exciting, real-life links with their learning.

Extra-curricular programme (ECP)

Our extra-curricular programme is available for children in Reception and Year 1 in the Early Years School.

The programme varies slightly for the different year groups, so that it is appropriate for their age. This is explained in more detail in the Reception and Year 1 sections later in this handbook.

For more information please click or scan the QR code.



After school care

We work in partnership with after school care provider Majest Global to provide reliable, good quality after school care for children. Majest Global provides after school care exclusively to BSA children between the ages 3 to 12 years.

The facility is open every day after school 3.00pm – 6.30pm and during school holidays 8.00am to 6.30pm.

For all enquiries, email Majest directly on info@majestglobal.nl.

For more information please click or scan the QR code.





School Policy

Supporting children

We are an inclusive school, and we work in various ways to support children with additional needs where their needs can be met in a mainstream Early Years School environment. We work together with the parents and the class teacher to identify children with additional needs (cognitive, social/emotional, physical) and to provide them additional support as needed.

This can be done in one of three ways. Either through advice and guidance to parents and teachers, or through working as part of the learning support programme in which children can be supported either in class or in small groups or pairs with the learning support staff, or by referral to within or out of school specialists. Parental permission is sought before children join any learning support groups.



Child protection

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and parents to share this commitment. The school has a child protection policy and guidelines which are in line with Dutch national procedures and which all members of staff are expected to adhere to. All reported incidents are legally obliged to be investigated following a strict code.

It is important for parents to know and to adhere to the rules of the host country. In The Netherlands any form of physical punishment, for example smacking or hitting a child is against the law. If a child discloses that they have been punished in this way, as a school, we are obliged to follow up with parents and carers and, depending on the severity, report the incident to child protection services (Veilig Thuis) in order that appropriate support can be given to the child and their parents and carers.

To view our full child protection policy and see other policies, please click or scan the QR code.



Nursery

Learning culture

In fostering a vibrant and nurturing learning culture within the Nursery, we adhere to the following principles:

- That every child is a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.
- The importance of positive relationships – children learn to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with parents and/or a key person.
- That the environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning.
- That children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates and all areas of Learning and Development are equally important and inter-connected.

Induction

Every child will take part in an induction and we welcome parents to join their child(ren) in class for this. The groups are smaller during this which allows the staff to focus on individuals and support those who may find the induction period difficult. Specific details of your child's induction programme, with dates and timings, are sent separately to you closer to the start of the term. The induction week will consist of the following:

- 2x short sessions
- 1x long session (if appropriate)
- 1x online meeting

Your child's teacher will arrange the online meeting with the family. This is an opportunity to get to know each other and give you the chance to ask questions. Staff will work with you to make the induction experience happy and positive. We realise some children may need a more gradual entry into school, so their induction can be spread into the following weeks if necessary. Staff will discuss all options with you.



Changing your sessions

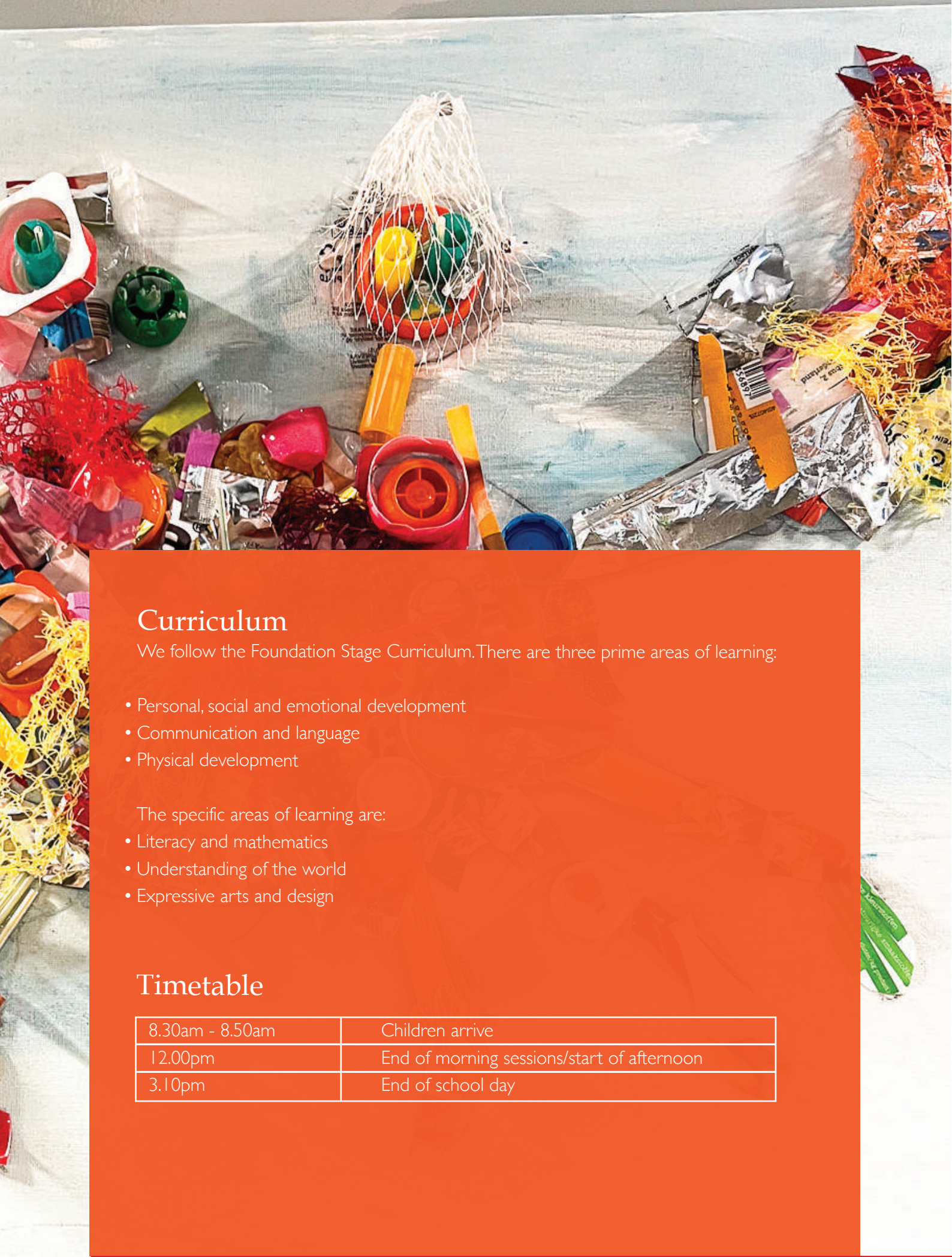
Should you wish to change your child's sessions, please discuss this with the staff in your child's class. They will be able to give advice about how they feel the changes will affect your child. You will need to complete a **request to change session form**.

The Head of Nursery will check session availability. If the increase is possible you will be sent written confirmation of the change and date it takes place.

If the desired sessions are not available your child's name will be put on a waiting list for the specific sessions and you will be contacted when they become available, you will then receive confirmation of the change and the date it will commence.

Please click or scan the QR code to view the change session form.





Curriculum

We follow the Foundation Stage Curriculum. There are three prime areas of learning:

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Communication and language
- Physical development

The specific areas of learning are:

- Literacy and mathematics
- Understanding of the world
- Expressive arts and design

Timetable

8.30am - 8.50am	Children arrive
12.00pm	End of morning sessions/start of afternoon
3.10pm	End of school day

Managing behaviour

A very important part of learning, especially in the Early Years is personal, social, and emotional development. This may be the first time that a child has had to share toys and start to consider the feelings of others.

Inevitably there will be times when the staff have to help a child understand that a type of behaviour displayed is not acceptable in school and this is the way we deal with these situations:

- We explain why the behaviour displayed is not acceptable in school and ask that the child does not repeat it.
- If the behaviour is repeated, we explain again why the child should not behave in this way and what will happen if the behaviour is repeated.
- If the behaviour is repeated again, we take the action mentioned to the child (for example, perhaps coming inside or sitting quietly to think for a while).
- We do not use the phrase “naughty chair” and if a child is asked to sit for a while we give them a minute or 2 minute timer.





It is important for young children that we address these incidents immediately and that we are consistent. Sometimes a situation will be dealt with by staff and they will not feel it necessary to involve parents but sometimes we may need your help – perhaps to explain to a child in their own language why a behaviour is not acceptable in the classroom and sometimes to work with the staff in trying to manage a behaviour at home and in school.

Toilet training

All children should be toilet trained, and therefore able to do the following:

- Recognise when they need to go to the toilet
- Use the toilet independently
- Deal with their own clothing
- Wipe themselves when finished
- Does not need to wear nappies (diapers) or pull ups

Observations and assessment

Part of our job as Early Years practitioners is to observe the children at various times and record these observations. Through our observations of the children interacting and at play we can discover many things.

- Personal interests / dislikes
- Level of knowledge / ability
- Social skills and more

Our observations help us to plan the next steps to provide for the needs of each child and also help us to assess how each child is learning and their developmental levels. The staff in the Early Years use the Evidence Me profile app to record children's achievements against the Early Years profile. Teachers are able to take a photograph to capture the child's learning, to add notes and record the achievement against the curriculum.

In February and June, parents will be sent copies of the reports generated through the app.

This applies to both Nursery and Reception.

Reception

Induction

All children starting Reception, even those who have attended our Nursery full time in the previous school year attend part time during the first week of school. Children starting Reception attend just two full days during the first week.

This ensures that each child receives more individual attention and the staff can spend more time getting to know your child. Children begin to familiarise themselves with their environment and classroom routines. They start to build friendships.

The class is divided into two with one half attending on set days, and the other half attending on alternate days. The induction programme with details of the dates and times your child is expected to attend are sent closer to the start of term.

In addition, we arrange an online meeting so that staff can introduce themselves to children starting school for the first time. All children are then expected to attend full time from a set date, once children have completed their induction. There is no option for children in Reception to attend part time.



First weeks

During the first weeks of the term staff will carry out an entry assessment to identify each child's needs. Children continue to work with the Foundation Stage curriculum. They are all working through the developmental levels towards the goals in each of the areas which they should achieve during this school year. Records from Nursery are automatically passed on. Any records of your child's progress from previous schools or settings should be passed to your child's teacher.

It is an individual approach to learning with children being taught individually, in small groups and sometimes as a class. There are different expectations for different children. At the start of the year, children record very little of their work, the emphasis is on practical activities. Much of the teaching and learning is still achieved through play based activities.

Work is often sent home rather than kept in school, so that children can share their learning. There is a timetable which may appear very structured, this just ensures sufficient amount of time is spent on each subject.

Reception



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
8.50am - 9.00am	REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION	
9.00am - 9.30am	PSHE ASSEMBLY	MATHS	WRITE DANCE	SPORTS AND GAMES	EAL / DUTCH	
9.30am - 10.00am	SHOW AND TELL / CLASS MASCOTS		SNACK	PHONICS		
	SNACK	SNACK	EAL / DUTCH	SNACK	SNACK	
10.00am - 10.30am	PLAYGROUND	PLAYGROUND		PLAYGROUND	PLAYGROUND	
10.30am - 11.00am	PHONICS	PHONICS	PLAYGROUND	MATHS	C.L.L	
11.00am - 11.30am	COMMUNICATION LANGUAGE AND LITERACY (C.L.L)	MATHS	C.L.L / LIBRARY			
			PHONICS			
11.30am - 12.00pm	BEGINNER EAL	BEGINNER EAL		BEGINNER EAL		
12.00pm - 12.30pm	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	
12.30 - 1.15pm	PLAYGROUND	PLAYGROUND	PLAYGROUND	PLAYGROUND	PLAYGROUND	
1.15pm - 1.30pm	REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION	
1.30pm - 2.00pm	MUSIC	TOPIC & AREAS OF LEARNING	BALLET	C.L.L / 7 AREAS OF LEARNING	MATHS / YOGA	
2.00pm - 2.30pm	C.L.L / 7 AREAS OF LEARNING		MATHS / 7 AREAS OF LEARNING			NATIVE DUTCH
2.30pm - 3.00pm						
3.00pm - 3.10pm	STORY AND HOME TIME	STORY AND HOME TIME	STORY AND HOME TIME	STORY AND HOME TIME	STORY AND HOME TIME	

Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets the standards that all Early Years providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children's 'school readiness' and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life.

There are seven areas of learning and development that must shape educational programmes in Early Years settings. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

The three prime areas are:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development

Providers must also support children in four other areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design



Dutch is taught as an additional language to children who are native English speakers or children who are proficient additional English language speakers. Native Dutch is taught to native Dutch children. Children must have at least one Dutch speaking parent and speak Dutch every day in the home. English is taught as an additional language to additional language learners. EAL is taught by the EAL teacher and children are withdrawn for sessions.

Extra-curricular programme

The programme runs throughout the start of the Spring Term and children may join one activity per week. The programme is not open during the Autumn Term as the children are still adapting to full time school. The extra-curricular activities (ECAs) are held from 3.30pm - 4.30pm on particular days of the week. For an overview of the programme, please refer back to the ECP section under **Daily Life**.



Year 1

Curriculum

The children in Year 1 follow the National Curriculum used in England. The curriculum provides children with an introduction to the essential knowledge they need to be educated citizens. It introduces them to the best that has been thought and said, and helps engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement. The national curriculum is just one element in the education of every child. There is time and space in the school day and in each week, term and year, to range beyond the national curriculum specifications.

The national curriculum provides an outline of core knowledge around which teachers can develop exciting and stimulating lessons to promote the development of the children's knowledge, understanding and skills as part of the wider school curriculum. Dutch is taught as an additional language to children who are native English speakers or children who are proficient additional English language speakers. Native Dutch is taught to native Dutch children. Children must have at least one Dutch speaking parent and speak Dutch every day in the home.

English is taught as an additional language to additional language learners. EAL is taught by the EAL teacher and children are withdrawn from class for sessions.

Learning expectations

We work collaboratively to promote positive relationships and a sense of belonging; sharing what it means to be a BSA child. Our learning focusses on core skills; helping the children to strengthen and develop their reading, writing and numeracy. The children have daily phonics sessions, following the Letters and Sounds scheme, where they learn new sounds and apply them to their reading and writing.

Children practise their literacy skills through daily writing sessions and take home a reading book at their appropriate reading level. Maths sessions focus on number, shape, space and measure throughout the school year. Class Dojo is used for online portfolios for children to showcase and share their learning by adding photos and videos to share with you at home. The children are encouraged to take photographs of their learning independently. As a class, we share each child's online portfolio throughout the week to celebrate their learning.



Helping at home

We would expect children in Year 1 to spend at least 5 - 10 minutes reading with an adult at home, at least four times per week. As well as developing key literacy skills such as word reading and creative writing; reading develops ability to focus, concentration, social skills and communication skills. Where families speak more than one language, reading in a native or home language is just as important as reading in English to develop these skills.

Confidence with number is a key foundation for Maths in Year 1. Finding numbers in day-to-day activities, counting one and back to 100 and solving number problems is highly beneficial.

Year 1

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8.50am - 9.00am	REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION
9.00am - 9.15am	PSHE ASSEMBLY	LITERACY	LITERACY	LITERACY	LITERACY
9.15am - 9.30am					
9.30am - 9.45am					
9.45am - 10.00am	SNACK AND PLAYTIME	SNACK AND PLAYTIME	SNACK AND PLAYTIME	SNACK AND PLAYTIME	SNACK AND PLAYTIME
10.00am - 10.15am					
10.15am - 10.30am					
10.30am - 10.45am	LITERACY	MATHS	MATHS	MATHS	MATHS LIBRARY
10.45am - 11.00am	MUSIC				
11.00am - 11.15am					
11.15am - 11.30am					
11.30am - 11.45am	PHONICS / HANDWRITING		PHONICS	PHONICS	PHONICS / HANDWRITING
11.45am - 12.00pm		PHONICS / HANDWRITING	EAL / DUTCH	EAL / DUTCH	LUNCH AND PLAYTIME
12.00pm - 12.15pm					
12.15pm - 12.30pm					
12.30 - 12.45pm	LUNCH AND PLAYTIME	LUNCH AND PLAYTIME	LUNCH AND PLAYTIME	LUNCH AND PLAYTIME	NATIVE DUTCH LEARNING THROUGH PLAY SCIENCE/HUMANITIES/COMPUTING OUTDOOR LEARNING READING
12.45pm - 1.00pm					
1.00pm - 1.15pm					
1.15pm - 1.30pm					
1.30pm - 1.45pm	MATHEMATICS	LEARNING THROUGH PLAY SCIENCE/HUMANITIES/COMPUTING	LEARNING THROUGH PLAY SCIENCE/HUMANITIES/COMPUTING OUTDOOR LEARNING READING	LEARNING THROUGH PLAY SCIENCE/HUMANITIES/COMPUTING OUTDOOR LEARNING READING	
1.45pm - 2.00pm					
2.00pm - 2.15pm	LEARNING THROUGH PLAY SCIENCE/HUMANITIES/COMPUTING OUTDOOR LEARNING READING	P.E		SPORTS AND GAMES	
2.15pm - 2.30pm					
2.30pm - 2.45pm		READING			
2.45pm - 3.00pm	STORY AND HOME TIME	STORY AND HOME TIME	STORY AND HOME TIME	HOME TIME	STORY AND HOME TIME
3.00pm - 3.15pm					



Extra-curricular programme

The programme runs throughout the school year. We recommend children join just one after school activity in the Autumn Term and then they may join two in the Spring and Summer Term(s).

The extra-curricular activities (ECAs) are held from 3.30pm to 4.30pm on particular days of the week. For an overview of the programme, please refer back to the ECP section under **Daily Life**.



House system

We run a house system throughout the school that begins with children in Year 1 and runs up to our oldest students in Year 13, as well as the staff. This is a common feature in British schools and is designed to foster a sense of belonging and camaraderie, and provides an opportunity for children from different year groups to socialise.

There are four houses, named after the main canals in Amsterdam; Keizersgracht, Prinsengracht, Singel, and Herengracht. They are also assigned specific colours.

Throughout the academic year, there will be various inter-house events and competitions. To visually identify which house everyone belongs to, there are optional house shirts available to purchase from our online uniform shop.



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