



Gig Mill Primary School

Together we care, together we succeed

Reception Induction 2026

‘Children make an exceptional start in Early Years. Well planned and exciting lessons inspire the children to start powerful learning journeys.’

OFSTED-March 2020

A welcome from our Executive Headteacher

- ▶ I am Mrs Turner, the executive Headteacher at Gig Mill Primary School. I am delighted to welcome you to our school. Parents and carers play a very important part in school life and we value our partnership with you. We all share responsibility for your child's education, and we look forward to working closely together. We encourage parents to become involved in all aspects of school life, so that, as partners, we can promote high standards of learning, behaviour and attitudes to enable every child to reach their full potential.
 - ▶ Starting school should be a happy and exciting time for both you and your child. We know that you will have lots of questions to ask us and hope the information here will begin to answer at least some of those questions.
 - ▶ Please continue to visit our website and Tapestry over the coming weeks and we will post further information to support your child's induction in to school.
- Mrs J Turner

A welcome from the Early Years Team

From September I will be the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Phase Leader, and I will also be one of the Reception class teachers here at Gig Mill Primary.

The Reception year is a special and exciting time in your child's learning journey. During this time, they make significant steps in their personal, social and academic development. We are dedicated to nurturing curious minds, building confidence through independence and fostering a lifelong love of learning.

We are delighted to welcome you and your family to Gig Mill and supporting your child to help them grow and flourish.

Mrs A Burke



Together we care, Together we succeed.

‘Together we care, together we succeed’ is more than just a motto at Gig Mill Primary. It drives exciting lessons and interactions that enrich the lives of pupils. OFSTED 2020



Our school values

- ▶ Respect
- ▶ Honesty
- ▶ Perseverance
- ▶ Collaboration
- ▶ Creativity
- ▶ Equality

'High expectations and nurturing relationships mean that pupils develop into successful, independent learners.'
OFSTED 2020

Skills builder lenses



- ▶ Listening
- ▶ Speaking
- ▶ Problem Solving
- ▶ Creativity
- ▶ Staying Positive
- ▶ Aiming High
- ▶ Leadership
- ▶ Teamwork

EYFS Curriculum

Our provision

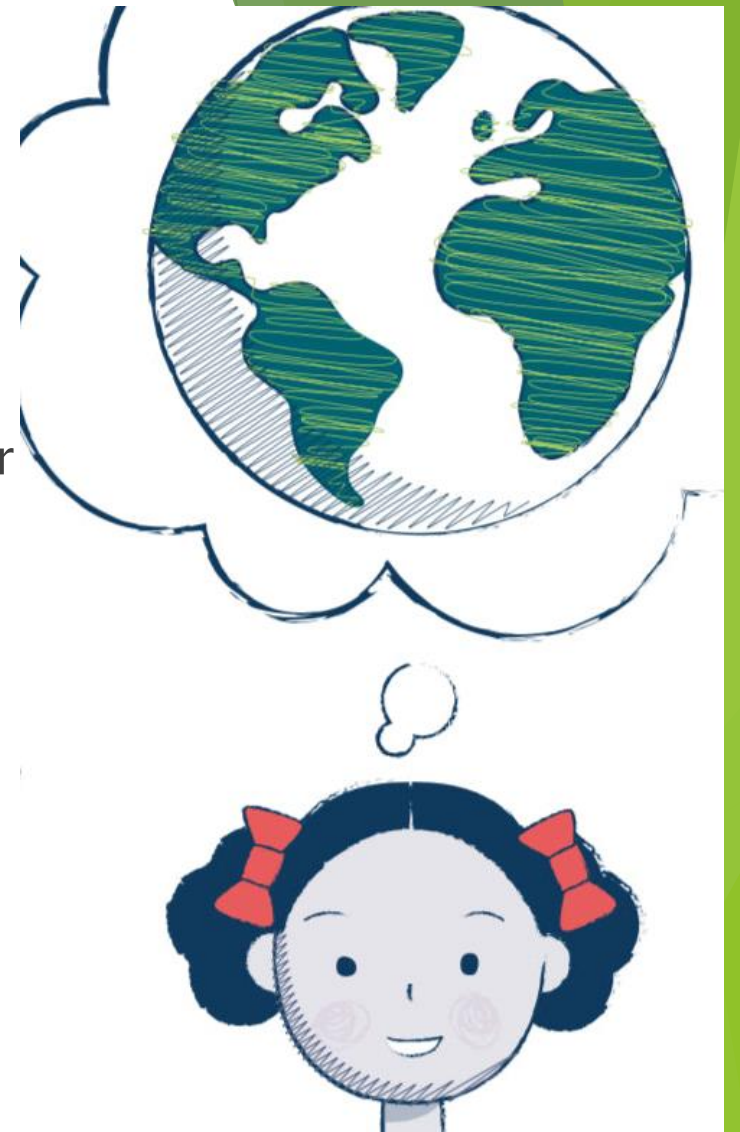
- There are seven areas that shape your child's learning.
- They will already be familiar with this curriculum if they have attended a pre-school, nursery or childminder.
- Communication and language
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Physical development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding of the world
- Expressive arts and design



EYFS Curriculum

Our provision

- ▶ The seven areas of learning are embedded in our indoor and outdoor environment and the activities that the children access.
- ▶ Learning is play focused and active.
- ▶ There is a balance between child initiated and adult led learning.
- ▶ Learning journals are kept as a record of evidence.
- ▶ Children are taught through themes that are familiar and promote curiosity.



Example of Inside Learning:

Expressive Arts and Design - Construction – we will provide children with a range of materials for children to construct with.

Physical development:

Develop strength in fingers
Practise fine motor skills



Communication and language:

Discuss what they want to make

Maths:

Count bricks
Identify measurements

Literacy:

Identify the first sound of their creation
Write a label so others know what they've built

PSED:

Share resources with others
Reflect on how they achieved their aims
Solve problems as they arise

Expressive Arts and Design:

Use imagination

Understanding of the World:

Create something related to our topic
For example – a mosque or a fire station

Example of Outdoor Learning:

Exploring outdoors - Encourage positive interaction with the outside world, offering children a chance to take supported risks, appropriate to themselves and the environment within which they are in.

Physical development:

Develop hand eye coordination
Develop gross motor skills



Communication and language:

Discuss what they want to make
Use new vocabulary

Maths:

Identify measurements
Explore capacity

Literacy:

Identify the first sound of their creation
Write a list of ingredients for their potion

PSED:

Share resources with others
Solve problems as they arise
Collaborate with friends

Expressive Arts and Design:

Use imagination

Understanding of the World:

Explore seasonal natural resources
Explore forces

Our Provision

Classes and groups

Your child will be in one of two class groups and will have an allocated class teacher.

Throughout the day, children will work in small groups for activities with their peers and with all staff members.

All pupils will have the same access to learning and resources.



A typical day in reception:

8.40 Doors open-children are greeted.

8.50 Children must be in at this time.

Doors closed and register is taken.

Morning tasks set up in classrooms.

Phonics

Topic

Children initiated play and teacher led activities.

Kinetic Letters handwriting session

Lunch

Registration

Maths teaching session

Children initiated play and teacher led activities

Story, song closing task

3.20 Hometime-ready on playground a few minutes before



Phonics - Teaching reading and writing

- ▶ At Gig Mill we follow the Little Wandle programme
- ▶ We will teach them:
 - the sound that each letter makes
 - to blend these sounds together to read words
 - to segment words to spell words
- ▶ <https://vimeo.com/838275928>



Kinetic Letters

- ▶ We will develop the children's core strength to enable them to maintain a body position for being able to write.
- ▶ The children will be taught how to form each letter.
- ▶ The children will learn to write their name using these letter formations.





Attendance

- ▶ **DFE guidelines:** Expectation of at least 96% attendance which is equivalent to missing 7 school days
- ▶ When children are in full-time education; a phone call is required by 9:30am each day of absence.
- ▶ Punctuality is important, a settled start is always best for your child.
- ▶ Attendance is monitored and letters are sent out if absence or lateness becomes an issue. This may result in a fixed penalty fine.
- ▶ Term time holidays will not be authorised
- ▶ The Education Investigation Service reinstated penalty fines for leave of absence in term time for a period of 5 days or more.
- ▶ Home visits are undertaken if a child fails to turn up at school and cannot be contacted.
- ▶ [Attendance policies may be reviewed in line with government guidance. Our most up to date policies can be found on the school website.](#)

Password system

- Inside your pack you have a form to set up a password for collection of your child.
- Staff will ask for the password if we do not recognise the adult who is collecting your child.
- We will not release your child if we do not recognise the adult and they do not know the password.
- Always, let us know if someone different is collecting your child.
- You can do this by telling the member of staff on the Reception door that morning or via the school office.

Breakfast and afterschool club

- At Gig Mill we are lucky to have childcare options at the start and end of the day to support working parents.
- In our KS1 hall we have a breakfast club and an afterschool club.
- Breakfast club is available from 7.30 and the children have the chance to have a healthy breakfast. The children are then escorted to their classes at the start of the day.
- After school provision begins at the end of the school day and closes at 6.00 . The children are provided with a healthy snack and have a choice of indoor and outdoor play and activities.
- For further information contact the office staff.

Drop off and collection

Morning

- Children come through the Reception door on their own. This helps them develop their independence and allows for a settled start.
- At least one member of staff will be based at the entrance to take messages on behalf of both classes. The other staff will be supervising the children in the class.

Home time

- Children will be released onto the school playground at the end of the school day.
- The children will finish at 3.20, we will be out on the KS1 playground a few minutes before the rest of school, to support with the collection of older siblings.
- Children are only released if we can see a named adult. Siblings under 16 are unable to collect children.
- If there is a change to the usual adult collecting your child, we will ask for the password.

Pupil Premium Funding and School meals

All children in reception to year 2 are entitled to Universal Free School Meals. If your child had any food allergies, please inform us by filling in the Caterlink form in your pack.

Hot dinners will need to be preordered through MCAS.

The universal free school meal option is a choice between:

A pre-ordered grab bag cold sandwich meal.

A pre-ordered hot meal.

Inside your pack is the free school meals application form (if you are eligible for this).

Pupil Premium entitles you to holiday food vouchers and more.

Any questions please ask.



Parent communication

- At Gig Mill we use a platform to communicate to parents called MCAS
- MCAS My Child At School is an online portal and mobile app that allows parents and carers to view their child's school data in real time
- It provides information about attendance, and is used for booking trips, clubs and making online payments.
- You can access this via a web browser at www.mychildatschool.com or by downloading the MyChildAtSchoolApp
- To set up your account, you will need a unique invitation code provided by your child's school
- Staff member on door at the beginning and end of the day
- Contact the school office via the phone or info email
- Tapestry online learning journal



School Uniform

County School Wear dates:

Deadline for delivery to school is 5th July.

Deadline for home delivery is 31st July.

Uniform is available online now from [County School Wear](#)

All pupils are expected to wear school uniform and the help and co-operation of parents is appreciated. It also encourages togetherness and ownership.

We believe this helps to promote a positive ethos and sense of belonging. The children are proud to wear their Gig Mill uniform.



Please ensure all uniform and PE kit is clearly named and labelled, including shoes.

PE kit and daily school items

- The Gig Mill PE Kit:
 - A plain white polo or t-shirt with plain navy blue or black shorts or jogging bottoms
 - Plain navy blue or black hoody or their school sweatshirt
 - Trainers with Velcro fastenings if possible
 - Long hair tied back
 - No jewellery and earrings removed
- Children will come to school wearing PE kits on PE days which will be **Mondays and Fridays** for reception classes.
- **Daily items**
 - Book bags- please do not send large backpacks.
 - Reading records
 - Water bottles
 - Library books/reading books

Tapestry

- ▶ Tapestry is a secure online learning journal. It documents your child's 'wow' moments through photographs, videos and text that parents can view from their smart device or computer.
- ▶ Tapestry is contributed to by the EYFS team of teachers and teaching assistants as well as parents. It is used in two ways:
 - ▶ 1) As your child's personal learning journal to document their learning both in the classroom and at home. Parents could share: milestones; family events and celebrations; home learning e.g. Maths challenges, reading, phonics practise.
 - ▶ 2) As a communication tool between school and home. We share information including updates and useful home learning tools.
- ▶ Please make sure you have returned your forms for us to be able to set up your tapestry account.



Home visits

It is important for us to establish a link between home and school as it will help your child to settle into school more easily.

Some children will be more familiar with school than others, for example some have attended our nursery here or some have experienced the school drop offs with older siblings.

Home visit appointments have been organised for Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd July and your specific appointment is detailed in your pack.

Two of our school staff will visit you and your child at home. Your child may want to share a special toy with the teacher.

We will complete the clerical check for date of births. You will need to show some form of documentation such as a passport or birth certificate where we can check your child's date of birth.

Stay and Play - Wednesday 8th July

This will be your child's first experience in the reception classrooms so we would like to invite you to stay so that they can experience this with a familiar adult.

Your child will get to meet their class teacher and explore their classroom.

Please see your pack for the time of your stay and play session.



Settling in sessions

Settling in sessions are planned for two days at the start of the autumn term taking place on **Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd September**. Our settling-in sessions will enable your child to settle calmly and securely in a smaller group situation. The time of your sessions will be in your pack.

Please note that when children leave after attending the morning session they will leave via the outdoor classroom at the back of the school building next to the school field. Gates will be opened to allow entry.

On **Friday 4th September** all children will be able to integrate into their full class group and attend school **9:30am-2:00pm**. They will experience their first school lunch but still have a quieter drop off and collection experience.

On **Monday 7th September**, your child will begin school full-time 8:40-3:15.

Memory boxes-transition activity

We would like to request that over the summer holidays that you create a memory box with your child. To do this you need to find a shoe box, decorate it in any way you like and put inside the below items:

- ▶ A picture of your child
- ▶ A picture of your child with their family
- ▶ A picture of your child as a baby
- ▶ A picture of them celebrating a birthday
- ▶ A picture of their home
- ▶ A copy of their favourite book to share at story time
- ▶ Plus any other special items that you are happy to send into school for them to share with their class

Please send memory boxes into school on Friday 12th September

This list of items is included in your pack.



Getting school ready

Physical development

I can go to the toilet by myself

Self-care such as wiping, pulling up and down clothing, washing hands and recognising when they need the toilet

I can get myself dressed

Independent in taking their jumper off and putting it back on, able to put their coat on using zips and buttons, able to take their shoes off and on.

I can feed myself

Practise using a knife and fork, opening wrappers or lunch box containers

I have a good sleep routine

Nutritious meals and plenty of sleep will help children to learn, concentrate and thrive at school. A bedtime story can help a child to wind down ready for bedtime.

Getting school ready

Communication and language:

I can listen to, follow and join in a conversation

- Listen to what people say
- Follow and respond to instructions
- speak in sentences using 4-6 words in different tenses
- retell stories and sing nursery rhymes

Personal, social and emotional development:

I can talk about my feelings and ask for help

- Share and take turns
- Talk about their thoughts and feelings
- Ask for help when needed



We understand that starting school can be daunting for both you and your child. We aim to make the transition as smooth as possible. Talking about school in a positive way will help support your child, you could also read some books about starting school, let your child try on their uniform and talk about school during the holidays.

Together we will work in partnership with you to help your child develop and reach their fullest potential.

Please feel free to ask any questions and remember to take home your packs with the details of your transition sessions.





We look forward to working with
you in the next few weeks and
welcoming you in September.