



# **Starting School September 2018**

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### **The Foundation Department**

#### **Godmanchester Bridge Academy**

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#### **Godmanchester Bridge Academy**

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### **Introduction**

Welcome to all parents who have children ready to start their first school year in September 2018.

The purpose of this booklet is to provide you with as much information as possible so that you can help prepare your child for school.

The road to success in school begins with the quality of things children need to do well. Good health, loving relationships, parental guidance and praise, and many opportunities to learn, all help



early. There is no one who does well, but a combination of Good health, loving and praise, and many children do well later in life.

As a parent, you are the most important person in your child's life. Throughout the early learning years, you can do many simple things to help your child grow, develop, and have fun learning.

Your knowledge and understanding of your child is vital to us in beginning to understand their responses to the school environment. This is reflected in the following statement from Cambridgeshire County Council.

***'Effective and meaningful partnerships between educators in settings and parents in the home are the best guarantees of children's successful learning'.***

### **Why all the fuss?**

By the time your child is due to start school, they may have been attending pre-school, nursery or play group with confidence.

We aim to build on that confidence, but as 'big school' is different in:



- ❖ its physical appearance
- ❖ the number of other children and adults they will come into contact with
- ❖ the length of the school day

It can be quite daunting for a 4 year old child.

Therefore it is necessary to make sure that the transition from pre-school to school happens as smoothly as possible.

### **Is my child ready to start school?**

As stated before - There is no one quality or skill that children need to start school, but a combination of things contributes to a successful start to their school life.

These include

- ❖ good health and physical wellbeing,
- ❖ social and emotional maturity, language skills,

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- ❖ an ability to solve problems and think creatively,
- ❖ general knowledge about the world.

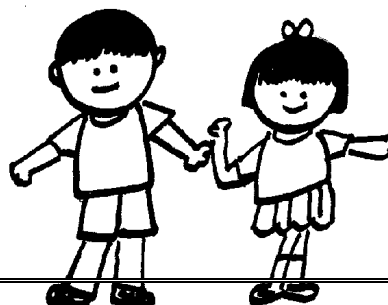
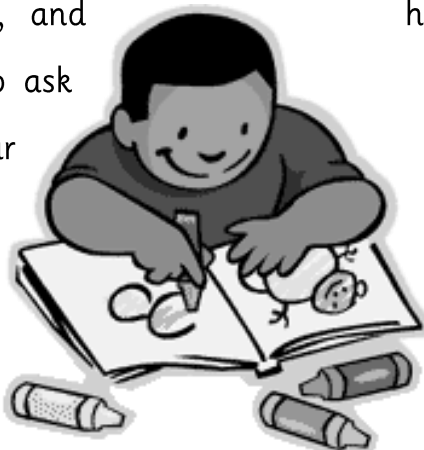
Remember

- ❖ Children develop at different rates, and most children are stronger in some areas than in others.

### **How can I help my child?**

Give your child confidence

- ❖ Encourage your child to want to learn and go to school.
- ❖ Listen to your child. This is the best way to learn what's on their mind, what they know and don't know, and how they think and learn.
- ❖ Encourage your child to ask for help when necessary.
- ❖ Be generous with your praise. Always compliment your child for their efforts.
- ❖ Encourage your child to try new ideas, some children are naturally shy, and they will need gentle persuasion.
- ❖ Encourage independence, but make sure that your child is fully aware of safety issues.
- ❖ Make sure your child can build relationships
- ❖ Teach your child to get along with others, to share, and to take turns.
- ❖ Set a good example for your child. They will imitate what you do.
- ❖ Teach your child to feel good about themselves and believe that they can succeed.
- ❖ Set limits for your child. This is a sign of love which your child appreciates, even if they may argue against them.



## **Help your child become familiar with the school site.**

- ❖ The school has a SureStart Children's Centre (The Daffodil Children's Centre) on site. Children Centers support all families with children under five. They have a programme of activities including drop-in to play sessions which anyone with pre-school children is welcome to attend.

❖ We



also have  
access to a

swimming pool which is run by First Strokes.



## **What happens within Godmanchester Bridge Academy to make the transition easier?**

We endeavor to get to know your child as well as possible before they start school.

- ❖ The Foundation Team Leader makes contact with preschool settings, through visits, phone calls and emails throughout the previous year.
- ❖ Class teachers will visit preschools in the summer term prior to your child coming into school.
- ❖ Parents meetings are held in the autumn and summer terms prior to your child coming into school.

- ❖ Your child will be able to visit the school with you on 2 occasions in the summer term. It is important that you and your child attend these meetings as you both will be given an opportunity to meet their teacher and see their new classroom.
- ❖ Children who attend preschools in Godmanchester will also be given the opportunity to visit the school during the school day.

### **When will my child start school?**

All children will start school on the first day of term in September, although they will either attend school in the mornings or afternoons for a short while.

Children benefit from being part time in this way as they tire easily at school as they have so many new things to cope with.

You will be given a list of dates and times for your child in your official starting pack.

### **What happens at the beginning of the first term at school?**



On the first day of term you will be given a time to bring your child to school, we stagger the intake so that the teacher can settle a few children at a time; hence it is less stressful for your child.

### **What basic skills does my child need to do well at school?**

We wanted to provide a list of areas in which you can support your child before they start school.

- ❖ Set high standards for your children and encourage them to try new things.
- ❖ Read aloud to your child daily. This gives your child a chance to learn about language, enjoy the sound of your voice, and be close to you.
- ❖ Teach your child to eat their dinner and use a knife and fork without help.

- ❖ Encourage your child to get himself dressed, changing for PE and swimming is part of a school day.
- ❖ Teach your child to be able to go to the toilet and wash his/her hands afterwards independently.
- ❖ Introduce your child to adults you meet and get your child to say hello. Encourage your child to hold a simple conversation with other adults; try not to talk for your child.
- ❖ Encourage your child to use a tissue and to blow their own nose.
- ❖ Help your child to be able to make a choice. For example - choices of what do you want to do this afternoon or what do you want to wear or who to visit... These choices should not be totally open “What do you want to do....” but should be “Would you prefer to do this or that.”



## **Visits**

We are very proud of our school and love to show it off! You are very welcome to come and see the school in action. The following dates and times have been set aside for Foundation Stage 2017/18 visits.

- Thursday 30th November 9.30am
- Tuesday 5th December 13.30pm

If these are unsuitable please phone or email the office to make an alternative appointment to see the school in action.

- Admissions application form link

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-&-learning/apply-for-a-school-place/primary-reception-junior-or-middle-school/>

Apply online between 16th November 2017 and 15th January 2018.

Date offer letters will be sent - 16 April 2018

Alternatively, there is an option to complete the paper application form and copies of the form can also be available at the school office.