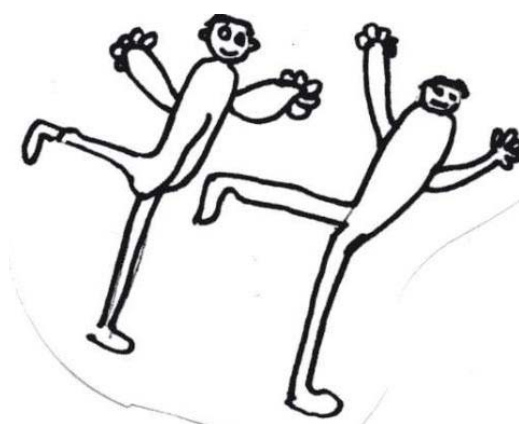




# What we need to know about starting school...

all your questions answered inside!



## Bransgore CE Primary School

September 2008

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, we would like to extend a huge welcome to you and your child to Bransgore Primary School.

We are all extremely excited about your children starting at our school and this booklet is written to hopefully answer all of your questions about this busy time!

At Bransgore School we are very aware that a child's first experiences of school are both exciting and slightly scary for both your child and you. Therefore we hope that this booklet will enable you to be the positive and calming influence that your child may need during their first few weeks at school.

We have tried to answer as many questions as possible based on parents' questions in the past. However, if you still have a question when you finish reading this, please do not hesitate to ask any of the Foundation Team at school who will all be willing to help.

Peter Pretlove  
Head Teacher

Miss Ennor  
Foundation Leader

## What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the first part of the National Curriculum, focusing on the distinct needs of children at all stages of development from 0 - 5 years.



When your child starts school with us they will be entering Foundation Stage 2, the final Foundation block in their journey to the Key Stage 1 National Curriculum in Years 1 and 2. If your child has been to a Pre-

School, a child minder or an Early Years Centre, they will already have experienced the first stages of the Early Years Foundation Stage. At Bransgore we aim to build on the fantastic skills that the children have already learnt during their pre-school experiences. We are continuing the learning journey that your child embarked on at birth and we hope you support the active, exciting and fun way we are proud to deliver the EYFS at Bransgore Primary School.

## Early Years Foundation Stage at Bransgore?

We have two Foundation Stage Classes; Lion Class and Tiger Class, who share a purpose built Foundation Stage Classroom with its own dedicated, secure outdoor area. Both classes are team taught by Miss Naomi Ennor, Foundation Leader and Miss Amy Green (full time teachers) Mrs. Janet Couchman and Mrs Linda Spencer (Early Years Assistants)



### **Do you have links with local Pre-schools?**

This year we have eight feeder pre-schools, all of whom have been contacted by our F.S. leader. Our Foundation Stage Staff will be visiting local settings to meet the children. We will use any information on your personal details form to ensure we visit every setting that is possible. Please check with your child's Pre-school to find out the dates and times of these visits.

### **Can my child visit school before September?**

Visits from our local Pre-schools have already been taking place. We have a further four dates which your child can visit along with their Pre-school staff: Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May, Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May, Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June and Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June from 2 - 3 p.m. These sessions are for your child and their Pre-school, not for parents/carers. Ask your Pre-school for more details. In addition to this we would like to invite you and your child to come to the Teddy Bears' Picnic on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June at 2pm. Our Bransgore School Association (BSA) will have a coffee afternoon for parents and carers who attend in the school hall. We also offer two story time and singing sessions from 2.30 - 3 p.m. on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July.

### **What will happen at the Teddy Bears' Picnic?**

You will bring your child, with their teddy bear, to school and go to the school hall where the BSA will be waiting to offer parents a cup of tea or coffee. The children can have the opportunity to see old friends and make new friends. If the weather is fine, members of the FS team will take the children onto the field for our picnic of fruit and



a drink. We would really appreciate you encouraging your child to come on their own, this will really help them to meet and mix with their new Lion and Tiger friends. If your child is anxious perhaps you can pair them with a friend. We want your child to be happy, comfortable and enjoy this fun opportunity . This is a time for you to meet other new parents and also watch us from the hall windows to see what we are doing! If the weather is not good, we will go to the Foundation Stage Classroom and have an indoor carpet picnic - so still bring those teddies!

### **Story Time and Singing Session**

To help the children and staff get to know each other, we have arranged two Story Times and singing sessions. Some of the Pre-schools will arrange with you to bring your children to school for this time if not, please bring your child to the blue Foundation Stage door on the following days.

- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July(2.30pm - 3pm)
- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July (2.30pm - 3pm)

***NB. Parents do not normally stay for these sessions.***

### **Does Bransgore School offer Home Visits?**

Yes! At our Induction Evening on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June we will also explain another extremely successful part of our induction process. Our Foundation Stage Staff are able to arrange a 30 minute 'Home Visit' to provide the opportunity for your child to meet their new teacher in their own home, show their toys and for you to talk about your child. Home Visits are invaluable and such a



fantastic start to your relationship with the staff at school. Home visits give a wonderful sense of pride to children when described/discussed at a later date. Conversations about home, garden and toys are brought to life by the adults/children's memory of their home visit. It is also a chance for you and your child to meet our class pet ( a toy) and receive a wonderful Treasure Chest gift. If you would like to know any further information, please ask us or a parent who you know has had a Home Visit in the past. We hope you see the home visits as a 'not to be missed' opportunity, book yours at the Induction Evening.

### Starting School...

**Your child will be in \_\_\_\_\_ class.**

Home Visits will be offered on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>, Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> and Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September. The children will start school on Monday 8th September.

For the first week of school the children will attend in class groups to provide a staggered start. This enables the whole staff team to concentrate on individual needs and really get to know the children. This provides the very best possible start for your child.

The programme for the week of Monday 8th September 2006 will be as follows...

<u>Days</u>	<u>Mornings</u> <u>9am - 12noon</u>	<u>Afternoons</u> <u>1.15pm - 3pm</u>
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Lions only	Tigers only
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Tigers only	Lions only

Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Lions only	Tigers only
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Tigers only	Lions only
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Tigers + Lions	

***Please note that no children start school before Monday 8th September and then you should refer to this table to see when your child should be at school. All children will start mornings on Monday 15th September.***

### **What will happen on these days?**

You should bring your child to the large blue door at the bottom of school by the gates. We will open the door at the times above. (This blue door remains our Foundation Stage Door for the whole year) Please bring your child into the classroom. Look for their peg just inside the door and hang their coats. We have labelled boxes for their snacks and Book Bags; please help your child to find these. Look for the Lion and Tiger picture to make sure that you get the right one!



We would love it if you were able to stay for a little while to help settle your child and also for you to see what the classroom looks like and to know that they are happy. However, we would ask that as soon as your child is settled that you make your way back through the same Foundation Blue Door. This gives the Foundation Staff chance to bring the children onto the carpet for the start of the session.

Please return and wait outside our Blue Door at the end of the session.

*Please do make yourself known to us when you see us bring your child to the door. We will encourage your child to help us spot you and say goodbye to us before they leave the blue doorway. Please do give us an exaggerated wave! This really helps us and your child see where you are. We will not let any child go without seeing you directly. We will be teaching the children this routine over their first few days. If for any reason someone else is picking up your child we need to know - we will only let them go with another adult if we know who they are.*

### When do the children start full time?

→ All the children are invited to start **full mornings** from the next week; *Monday 15th September.*

→ Children whose birthdays are in the months of September to December inclusive will begin **staying all day** from 6<sup>th</sup> October.

→ Our half term holiday is from Wednesday 22nd October to Friday 31st October, returning to school on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. All the children will **stay all day** from this date.

This has been our induction programme for a number of years and has proved to be the most successful in terms of the children's well being and the staff having time to cater for every child's needs.

We are sure that you appreciate that at Bransgore we bring the children into full time education early instead of January 2009.

## Who are the staff at school that you may need to meet?

Mr. Peter Pretlove	Headteacher
Mr. Neil Revell	Deputy Headteacher
Miss Naomi Ennor	Foundation Stage Leader
Miss Amy Green	Foundation Stage Class Teacher
Mrs, Janet Couchman	Early Years Assistant
Mrs. Linda Spencer	Early Years Assistant
Mrs Miriam Hinds	F.Stage Lunchtime Supervisor
Mrs. Gill Green	Pupil Admissions Manager

## When can I find out more?

We would like to invite you to our annual Early Years Foundation Stage Induction Evening on Wednesday 11th June at 6.00pm. This is an opportunity for you to meet the staff, and learn about how the Early Years Foundation Stage works at Bransgore School. This is a meeting for Parents and Carers, so please do not bring the children to this meeting. Thank you.

## Where can I buy school uniform?

Our school uniform and sportswear is available at 'National Schoolwear Centres' at 84, Station Road, New Milton. (01425 617277) - [www.nationalschoolwearcentres.co.uk](http://www.nationalschoolwearcentres.co.uk). Members of the uniform shop will be at the Induction Evening.

*Please be aware that a large amount of learning at school is done outside. With this in mind, please ensure that your child has a waterproof coat or overcoat and wet days, as well as a hat, and gloves for the colder weather. During the summer months your child may like to bring a hat and sun cream to school, which they must be able to apply themselves.*

*"The richest classroom is roofed only by the sky" Margaret Macmillan.*

We know that the weather in our part of the world is not always desirable, however, we believe that there is no such thing as bad weather days.....only bad clothing! Did you know that in Scandinavia our children's counterparts still take their learning outside even in minus conditions. Help us to help your children experience continuous learning in the inside and outside environment that is our classroom.

### **Cooked School Lunches**

Cooked school lunches are a healthy, delicious and popular option for many children at our school: last year half the Early Years Foundation Stage children enjoyed school dinner. Mrs Payne, our talented school chef will cook at our Induction evening on 11<sup>th</sup> June, please **do** try our school dinners. Please see our office staff to find out menus and prices for our cooked lunches. You can find out more online at...

[www.myschoollunch.co.uk/hampshire/](http://www.myschoollunch.co.uk/hampshire/)

### **Absence from school...**

If your child is absent from school please telephone the office after 8am and before 10am. If you do not telephone please send a letter when your child returns to school. If we have no phone call or letter, then your child's absence will be marked as unauthorised. Forms to apply for holiday during term time are also available from the school office.

Other information about Hampshire Schools is available at...

[www.hants.gov.uk/education/parents/](http://www.hants.gov.uk/education/parents/)

Specific information about our school, including copies of newsletters, is on the school website...

[www.bransgoreprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.bransgoreprimaryschool.co.uk)

Other links which maybe of some support to you include...

**Directgov**

[www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/Parents/fs/en>



<http://www.parentscentre.gov.uk/>

We are all here to help make the transition for your child and you as smooth and happy as possible. Please do not hesitate to ask any of our team any questions. If we can't answer immediately then we will endeavour to do our best to answer you as soon as possible.

We look forward to meeting you at the Foundation Induction Evening on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June from 6.00 p.m. Please come to the Foundation Stage Playground where you will be greeted by Mr Pretlove, the Head Teacher.

Please bring along a named photo of your child to help the team put the children's face to yours!