

FAQ for the website: Foundation Stage 2021 - 2022

Can I come and visit the school?

- Unfortunately due to Covid – 19 restrictions we are not allowing any visitors on site. This is for the safety of you, the children and the staff at Sherrier. We are however, offering an online virtual tour of our school and our Foundation Stage Environment. This is available to view on the school website. If current restrictions are lifted to a point we feel that it is safe we will find ways of asking you into Sherrier (for example, open afternoons and open evenings)
- Please keep an eye on our school website for any up to date information. We will also advertise any potential open evenings in the Swift Flash. Thank you for understanding during these unprecedented times.

When is the deadline for school admissions? Where do I apply?

- The deadline for school admissions is the 15th of January 2021. Please visit the Leicestershire County Council website to apply.
- <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/popular-now/apply-for-a-primary-school-place>

Does the school have a say in whether my child is offered a place at Sherrier?

- No, the school admissions team at County Hall allocate school places. We do not have any say or control over school admissions.

When will I know if my child has a place at Sherrier?

- If you apply online, your primary school place will be sent by email on offer day (16th April 2021).

My child has been offered a place at Sherrier. What now?

- Once your child has been offered a place at Sherrier we will send you a letter asking you to accept your child's place at school.
- You will then need to provide us with some key details by filling out what we call the 'Blue Form' this gives school important information such as parental contact and other family emergency contacts. You will also need to provide a copy of your child's birth certificate (long version).
- If restrictions are lifted and it becomes possible:
We will contact you to arrange an open evening for you to visit the school and meet your child's class teacher. This is normally around June time.
We will also arrange to visit your child in their pre-school setting.
We then arrange a stay and play session where your child comes with pre-school to spend a few hours with us.
- Finally, before starting school we will have a one to one meeting with you and your child to talk through any questions you have. This is normally at the end of August, just as the new term begins

What transition do you offer at Sherrier?

- We usually offer a 2-week part-time transition to school. We will review this and let you know what the arrangements will be because this year we have had to change the way we welcome new starters to school and this may be the way we decide to work in future years
- There are pros and cons to either way because starting school can be overwhelming for little children which is why we offer a part-time timetable. Due to our shared environment it is less daunting for the children to be faced with 29 other children rather than 59 other children! This means that all of the staff in Foundation Stage get to know the children really well before all of the children start school full-time.

When does the school day start and end?

- At the moment in Foundation Stage our school day starts at 8.45am and ends at 3.20pm.

My child will be going to Nursery both before and after school. How is this managed?

- During our typical school times- In the morning your child will be brought into the classroom by their nursery and handed over to your child's teacher. Any messages can then be passed on. At the end of the day the Foundation Stage Staff take the Nursery children to the hall and hand over to the Nursery teachers. It is imperative that you let your child's class teacher know which days your child will be at Nursery and if there are any unexpected changes then please let the school office know as soon as possible.

My child has Special Educational Needs. Who can I talk to about this?

- Our SENDCo Mrs Ashby supports all of the children in our school with Special Educational Needs. You are more than welcome to email the school office and your message will be passed onto Mrs Ashby. We can then talk to you about any extra support or transition your child may need.

Does my child need a mid-morning snack?

- We provide free fruit for all Foundation Stage children on a daily basis. The children are given a whole piece of fruit (we do not peel or cut the fruit for the children).

What uniform do I need?

- Children can wear a plain green jumper or cardigan or alternatively a jumper with a school logo can be purchased from the Office once you have been set up with a ParentPay account with us.
- Children can wear a white school top, blouse or shirt (with a collar).
- Children can wear black or grey trousers, skirts, pinafore dresses and shorts. In warmer weather children may wish to wear a green and white summer dress or skirt.
- Children can wear black, grey or white socks/tights.
- Children must wear black shoes (no laces).

Be prepared for your child to get messy as they explore a range of learning experiences indoors and outdoors. With this in mind please do not buy expensive uniform. Please label ALL items of school uniform as things are easily lost in a busy classroom!

What do I need to bring for outdoor learning?

- In Foundation Stage the children are outside come rain or shine! Therefore we need to be ready for all weathers. Please send into school a pair of wellies and a rain coat/or all in one waterproof for your child. These will stay at school.

Does my child need to bring a P.E kit to school?

- You will need to provide a P.E kit for your child at school. They will need a plain white t-shirt, black shorts and a pair of plimsolls. Please name ALL items of P.E clothing.

Can my child wear jewellery to school?

- Children may wear stud earrings to school but they must be taken out or covered by a parent or the child themselves before every P.E session.

How much does it cost for my child to have a school dinner and how do I apply for them?

- School dinners are free for EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 children. Your child can decide on a daily basis whether they would like a hot meal or a packed lunch (brought in from home). There are normally 3 meal options available each day. A meat option, a vegetarian option and a pasta/jacket potato option. You will be given a menu for you to look at before your child starts school. All children are provided with water at lunchtime. All of the children will sit in the hall to eat together regardless of which meal they have.

Does my child need to bring a drink bottle to school?

- Yes, please provide your child with a named water bottle. They have access to this throughout the day.

Can my child bring juice to school?

- We only allow the children to drink water throughout the school day because of the benefits this provides. Juice or other drinks also attract the ants during summer months!

Is my child entitled to milk at school?

- All children (up to the age of 5) are entitled to free milk at school, however, you will need to register your child at www.coolmilk.com. If you wish for your child to still receive milk once they turn 5 then there will be a small charge to pay. If you are entitled to Free school meals you still need to sign up if you wish your child to have milk.

What can my child bring in her/his lunch box?

- At Sherrier, we encourage healthy eating and expect parents to choose wisely when creating a packed lunch. An example of a healthy packed lunch may include items such as:
 - * A sandwich (no peanut butter or chocolate spread due to nut allergies)
 - * Yoghurt and a piece of fruit
 - * Dried fruit

- * A biscuit or small cake
- * Bottle of water or juice

We do not allow sweets, fizzy drinks or chocolate (unless covering a wafer/biscuit). We are a **NO NUT** school (this includes spreads such as Nutella) so we kindly ask that you do not send any nut products into school.

What do I do if my child is late?

- If you arrive at school and the entrances are closed, please bring your child to the main school gates, ring the buzzer and a member of the office staff will come to the gate to meet you.

How do I report my child's absence?

- If your child is absent for any reason then please notify us by calling the school office and leaving a message on the answering machine. You will receive a call from Mrs Dennis in the office if your child is absent and there is no reason given to us.

Am I allowed to have a holiday booked in term time?

- Holidays should be taken during school holidays, and school cannot authorise them unless there are exceptional circumstances. If you do feel this applies to you at any time please. Therefore, if you contact the school and complete a 'Leave of Absence Form' (request from office)

What happens if my child has a doctor's appointment?

If your child has a pre-arranged appointment then please call the school office to inform them. The office can then communicate this to the appropriate school staff.

Where am I allowed to park at drop-off and collection times?

- At Sherrier, we try to encourage all families to walk to school but if this is not possible then you can park on New Street or the surrounding roads. However, please be aware that these are very busy areas at school drop-off and pick-up times.

How do you communicate to parents?

- A system called Class Dojo is the main platform for communication that we use at Sherrier, which you will be invited by the class teacher to sign-up to once your child starts school. Each year group also has their own email address so that you can contact your child's class teacher. For payments of any kind we use the online system of ParentPay.

Who do I inform if somebody different is collecting my child?

- If somebody different is due to collect your child then please inform their class teacher via email or contact the school office prior to your child being collected. We will not under any circumstances release children without this prior consent.

What clubs do you provide?

- We provide a wide variety of clubs for the children to enjoy afterschool. Some of these are paid (run by outside agencies) and some are free (run by teachers in school). We do not offer any clubs for Foundation Stage until after Christmas. This is because children get very tired when they first come to school and many of them want to sleep as soon as they get home! Once the children have settled into school life we will then inform you which clubs are open to Foundation Stage.

Can my child bring a toy/comforter to school?

- We normally discourage toys or collectables (e.g. football cards) being brought to school, unless the class teacher has specifically requested that they do so.
If your child has a favourite security toy or blanket, try to get them used to being without it during the day. Perhaps arrange a special place where your child's toy or blanket could be waiting for them when they get home from school.

What happens if my child has a toileting accident?

- We encourage parents to send in spare clothes if they feel this is appropriate for their child. Children are encouraged to try and have a go at wiping themselves clean but if this proves too much or too difficult for them we make a phone call home for you to come in and assist. Due to safeguarding, we are not allowed to attend to children's personal needs so please do practise going to the toilet at home to build up their independence especially wiping after a poo! We will of course support any children with medical needs who need specific toileting help.
- **How can I get my child ready for school? What do they need to know before starting school?**

Starting school can be both an exciting and daunting time for children and parents. At Sherrier we recognise this and we are on hand to guide and support each step of the way. Your child **does not** need to be able to read and write before starting school – it is our job to teach them this. Instead there are some things you CAN do at home over the summer holidays to make sure that your child is ready for life at school.



Going to the toilet - Support your child to be confident about getting to the toilet in time and wiping properly, using toilet paper rather than wet wipes.



Washing their hands - Chat about the importance of good handwashing with soap and water and drying their hands properly. At Sherrier the children dry their hands using hand dryers and paper towels.



Dressing and undressing - let your child practise putting on their school clothes, taking them off and folding them neatly in preparation for PE lessons, especially buttons and zips.



Feeding Themselves - Children having school dinners need to be able to use a full-sized knife and fork. If your child is taking a lunchbox, make sure they can open it as well as any containers and packets inside.

- **Using a tissue** - Introduce your child to the routine of 'catch it, bin it, kill it' – catching their sneeze or runny nose in a tissue, putting it in the bin straightaway, then washing hands to kill germs.
- **Tidying up** - Get your child into the habit of hanging their coat up, putting their toys away, clearing the table, and so on, to prepare them for doing these things at school.

I have a question. How can I contact the school?

- If you have a question that is not answered above then please email the school office on

office@sherrier.leics.sch.uk.

Your email will then be forwarded to a member of staff who will then get back to you. As you can imagine our phone lines are very busy throughout the school day and it is very difficult for our Foundation Stage team to get to the phone (as it means leaving the children). Email is a much faster way of us communicating with you!