



Carrington Infant School

Carrington Schools Federation



Early Years Foundation Stage September Entry 2026



Welcome to Carrington Infant School

Beginning school is a major event in the life of a four year old and it will not be long before your child will be starting with us at Carrington Infant School. There will be many new things to learn and of course, you will want to ensure that your child is well prepared for this important event. We aim to make starting school a happy and memorable experience. We hope that this booklet will provide some useful information that will help your child to settle quickly into school.

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Contact Information

Our contact details are:

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Carrington Infant School

Website: <https://www.carrington-inf.bucks.sch.uk/>

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Kate Cliffe

Co-Head of School / SendCo: Mrs Katie Buckley

Co-Head of School / Early Years Lead: Mrs Anna Barron

Our Vision

The Carrington Schools Federation vision is to be a nurturing community that develops respectful, resilient, and happy children with the self-belief, knowledge, and skills to thrive in the future.

We have three values that underpin everything we do, these are: Kindness, Respect and Honesty.

Safeguarding Statement

Safeguarding our pupils at this school, the health, safety and well-being of every child are our paramount concern. We listen to our pupils and take seriously what they tell us. Our school procedures for safeguarding children are in line with Buckinghamshire Council and Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board Child Protection Procedures, “Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023” and “Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023” and statutory guidance issued under section 29 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

We recognise school plays a significant part in the prevention of harm to our children by providing them with effective lines of communication with trusted adults, supportive friends and an ethos of protection. We include within this the emotional wellbeing of our students and recognise the role school plays in recognising and preventing the political indoctrination of pupils either by self-radicalisation or through exposure to extremist views.

To provide a safe environment for pupils, we follow the safer recruitment policy which includes all checks on staff and regular volunteers’ suitability, including Disclosure and Barring checks, as recommended by Buckinghamshire Council in accordance with current legislation.

Meet the Foundation Stage Staff



Mrs Barron
(Co-Head of School & EYFS Lead)



Mrs Carvell
(EYFS Teacher)



Mrs Jones
(EYFS Cover Teacher)



Mrs Cook
(EYFS Teacher)



Mrs Daley
(Learning Support Staff)



Mrs Booth
(Learning Support Staff)



Mrs Friel
(Learning Support Staff)



Mrs Sidley
(Learning Support Staff)

Parents as Partners

We recognise the importance of parents and carers in a child's developing stages. As a primary care provider you are your child's first and enduring educators and we greatly value any input, opinions and information you can share with us about your child's learning and progress. A high proportion of learning takes place from birth to age six years.

We provide many other opportunities for parents and carers to take an active part in their child's education. These include:

- Termly stay and play sessions in Early Years
- Weekly whole school newsletters
- School website
- School Facebook page
- Use of Tapestry



Most importantly, our family ethos is central to our school and as such, we operate an open door policy where parents are actively encouraged to meet with staff to discuss any concerns at the earliest opportunity.

We use a computer package called Tapestry to record children's learning and achievements, some of you may be familiar with this already from pre-school or nursery. The children will become familiar with these learning journeys and they are always available for you to look through or access online. We also encourage you to contribute to these by making small observations at home, which we display on our magic moment tree. A login to Tapestry will be sent in due course.

Preparing Your Child for School

Your child will be in a class of up to 30 children. It will make starting school much easier and happier if they are independent and can do many things for themselves. Please do not worry if they can't do these things yet, talk to us and we can put the necessary provision in place for your child.

Can he/she:

- Dress and undress themselves?
- Use the toilet independently and ask to go when needed?
- Tidy up after himself / herself?
- Recognise their own name? Please tell your child's teacher if their name is abbreviated in any way.
- Feed himself / herself with a knife and fork?
- Share toys and equipment?
- Sing some nursery rhymes?
- Listen well and follow simple instructions?

How can I help my child prepare for school?

- Encourage your child to be as independent as possible, even if it takes longer for them to get ready
- Get them used to a routine of early to bed and up early enough for you and your child to have a stress-free time getting ready for school
- Be positive. Show them that starting school is an enjoyable experience.

What can I do with my child before they start school?

- Give your child as many varied experiences as possible: drawing, painting, cooking, singing, making models, playing games, doing jigsaws and puzzles etc.
- Get them used to: pencils, crayons, felt pens, chalks, paints, play dough, scissors
- Share stories, books and rhymes
- Read to them
- Count everything and share things out
- Encourage your child to set the table at mealtimes – cup, plate, knife, fork and spoon for each person
- Talk to them all the time
- Name familiar things and discuss what they see around them and what things are for
- Talk about what you see when you are out and about
- Watch people work and discuss what they are doing



A Typical School Day

08.45 Arrive at the Reception class gate for Beech / Hazel as applicable

09.00 Welcome and phonics

09.45 Snack time

10.00 Group reading

10.20 Child initiated play and small group adult-initiated activities both indoors and outside



11.15 Carpet time – focus whole class teaching

11.30 Group reading

11:55 Lunch

12.55 Carpet time – focus whole class teaching

13.25 Child initiated play and small group adult-initiated activities both indoors and outside

14.45 Story

15.15 Home time



School Lunches & Snacks

The school serves meals provided by Culinera, which are nutritionally balanced. There is a main hot option and a choice of jacket potatoes each day. Orders are placed via the school gateway app and can be made for the whole term. Parents can provide a packed lunch if preferred. The menus are run on a 3 week rotation and they are available, along with the allergen information, on the school website. The children are supported to collect their lunches and cut up their food if necessary. There is always a vegetarian option. Please ensure the school has up to date information about any special dietary requirements. We operate a 'no nut' policy at school, so please ensure any packed lunches do not have **any** nut-containing items (including cereal bars, chocolate spread etc.).

Packed lunches should have:

- A sandwich or similar e.g. wrap, chapati
And a selection of extras, which could include:
- Fruit e.g. banana, grapes
- Vegetables e.g. carrot / cucumber sticks
- Yoghurts or fromage frais
- Cheese e.g. strings or babybel
- Crisps or bread sticks
- A small treat e.g. biscuit



Water is provided by the school. Our snack station is open throughout the day, children freely help themselves to fruit. Every child under 5 qualifies for free school milk, which is available to all registered children each morning. Please make sure you complete the online milk registration form, details are in the welcome pack. Once children reach their 5th birthday, milk can be paid for by parents at approx. £20 per term.

Induction Programme 2026

Date	Activity
Weds 17 th June 2026 9.30-10.30am	Classroom visit for children, parents to stay
Tues 7 th July 2026 9.30-10.30am	Classroom visit for children, parents to stay
Thurs 3 rd & Fri 4 th September 2026	Home visits to non-Carrington parents, time slots will be sent in advance
Mon 7 th & Tues 8 th September 2026	Children attend either morning or afternoon 8.45am -11.30am or 12.30pm -3.15pm (time slots to be advised)
Weds 9 th – Fri 11 th September 2026	Eldest children stay all day (8.45am – 3.15pm) Youngest children stay for morning session (8.45am – 12pm) - time slots will be confirmed
From Mon 14 th September 2026	All children attend all day (8.45am -3.15pm)

**** Timings and classes to be confirmed to parents by email.***

Prior to the induction dates, Mrs Barron will make visits to see children in their pre-school or nursery setting wherever possible. As well as meeting your child, Mrs Barron will begin to gather information from their key workers. This allows us to prepare for your child's arrival, incorporate their interests and help them to feel comfortable on induction days. This should make the transition process an exciting and enjoyable start to their primary education and ensure that they settle quickly with their new friends. If your child does not attend a pre-school or nursery, Mrs Barron will be able to meet your child during a home visit.

Learning in the Foundation Stage



The Foundation Stage is where the excitement begins! We pride ourselves on being an exciting and engaging place to be, encouraging our children to be independent learners through a range of practical activities. We follow a thematic curriculum which allows us to be creative with our lessons and let the children lead their own learning.

As our Foundation Stage children enter the classroom they learn primarily through a variety of play and real-life experiences. Our teaching is delivered through carefully planned tasks. The children access the indoor and outdoor environment



freely. Their development is tracked through detailed observations during child-initiated play. We use these to record individual interests, progress and plan the next steps of your child's learning.

The EYFS Curriculum

In Reception children follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFS). This curriculum is based upon four themes and principles.



The Unique Child –

We understand that every child is an individual child who is capable in their own right. The holistic child has a variety of needs to be met over their time in the Foundation Stage.

Positive Relationships – Social interaction is key to children’s development. Children become strong, independent learners; as well as scaffolding their learning through positive social interaction.

Enabling Environments – Providing a safe, secure and stimulating base for your children is key to their development. The framework allows for experiences that respond to the child’s individual needs / interests; as well as developing a strong partnership between practitioners, parents and carers.

Learning and Development – Children develop and learn in different ways. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early year’s provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Early Learning Goals

Within the early years curriculum there are 3 prime areas of learning and 4 specific areas. This framework provides the basis of how we structure the setting, the activities and opportunities we provide; as well as how we assess your child's development. For each of these areas your child will have an 'Early Learning Goal' to work towards.

Prime Areas

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

Specific Areas

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



Characteristics of Effective Learning

- Playing and exploring
- Active learning
- Creating and thinking critically

Things to bring to school

- Wellies to be kept in school – we play outside in all weathers and visit Forest School
- Suitable coat – nothing too special as it is likely to get sandy, muddy or wet
- Book bags, reading records (school provided) and reading books (school provided). Books are checked and changed regularly
- Hats, scarves and gloves
- Sun hats (please note sun cream should be applied at home please)
- Water bottle
- During the early days and weeks, if your child has a comforter (e.g. teddy bear) they can bring this to school.
- Please note anything coming to school, including all above items, should be clearly labelled with your child's name.

Forest School

Children have access to our wonderful Forest School at least once a week in the Foundation Stage and over their time in the school. Personal and social skills are well developed in the Forest School but all learning can happen there, including English and Maths. We do go out in all weathers so children will need wet weather gear and wellies.

At Carrington Infant School we are very proud to be involved in running the Forest School initiative. Forest School provides a unique opportunity to learn through practical activities, in an exhilarating environment that is totally removed from the traditional classroom setting.

The experience provides our children with the opportunity to explore the outdoors, to work together and build self-esteem, to problem solve and to engage in a physical and social environment.

We have a fabulous wooded area, with both mature trees and saplings. The children contribute to building nature shelters and we have a fire circle surrounded by tree stumps for the class to sit on. Hot chocolate made using water heated by an open fire is a real treat in the colder months.



Special Needs

If you feel your child has special or additional needs including any disability or medical issues it is vital that we know about this. If not already included on the admission form, please let the school know about any needs your child may have so that we can fully support your child on entry and as he / she progresses through the school. We have a special needs co-ordinator, Mrs Katie Buckley, who manages the learning of children with additional needs liaising with parents and teachers.

Medical Matters

It is essential that we have two emergency contact numbers should your child fall ill or have an accident during the school day. These details will be taken from the admission form. Please inform us immediately if these numbers change.

Should your child require a prescribed medicine following an illness e.g. antibiotics, these should be administered at home whenever possible. However, if necessary you may either come into school to administer the medicine yourself or you will need to complete a form available from the school office, to give permission for a member of staff to administer the medicine. Children who need antibiotics four times a day are normally not well enough to be in school. Please note that this is at the discretion of the Head Teacher. It is possible to request antibiotics from the doctor that are given less frequently and therefore do not need to be taken in school. If your child needs a non-prescribed medicine in school time, a parent needs to come to school to administer this unless there is a health plan in place that has agreed this.

Parental Help

We welcome parental help in school. At the beginning of each school year we send out a form inviting parents to express their interest in being a volunteer helper. We will also hold a meeting to explain our procedures. If you have 30 minutes or more which you could spare to hear children read, assist with computer skills, cookery, sewing, football, woodwork etc. the school would love to hear from you! In order to ensure the safety of all our pupils, all adult helpers in school must be DBS checked and also complete the childcare disclosure declaration before they begin volunteering in school.

If you work full time please do not think that you cannot help – you can, by supporting the Parent Teachers' Association with their events. All parents are automatically members of the PTA who support the school.

Finally, thank you for the time you have taken to read this. If you have any queries or problems, however small, please come and talk to us. We look forward to working with you to ensure every child reaches their full potential.

