



OVERSTONE GATE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Ipsum quod faciendum est diutius'



Overstone Gate Primary School

Welcome to the Early Years
Foundation Stage September 2026



The Avenue, Overstone , Northampton
01604 931139

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Respect ● Responsibility ● Kindness ● Teamwork ● Positivity

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A Message from the Headteacher



Dear Parents/ Carers,

It is a great pleasure to welcome families into our second year at Overstone Gate Primary School. After a fantastic first year of building our school community, we are proud of how far we have come and excited to welcome our newest learners as they begin their journey with us.

As Headteacher of Overstone Gate, part of Wootton Park Academy Trust, I am deeply committed to creating a nurturing and inclusive school where every child feels a true sense of belonging. From their very first day, we want each learner to feel valued, safe and proud to be part of our community. We believe that when children feel they belong, they thrive - both academically and personally.

Our five core values are at the heart of everything we do. They shape how we learn together, how we support one another and how we prepare our children to become thoughtful, confident individuals. Alongside these values, our guiding principles ensure that we provide the highest standards of education while nurturing socially responsible citizens who care for one another and the world around them.

Our innovative curriculum and high quality facilities are designed to spark curiosity and foster a lifelong love of learning, beginning in Early Years and continuing throughout each stage of school life. We are unwavering in our commitment to attainment for all, ensuring every child is supported, challenged and empowered to reach their full potential.

Choosing the right school is one of the most important decisions you'll make. It's more than a place to learn, it's where children grow, discover themselves, and build the foundations for life ahead. At Overstone Gate, we are proud to provide a nurturing, inspiring environment where every learner feels valued and empowered.

We invite you to explore our website at www.overstonegateprimaryschool.org.uk to learn more about our vision, values, and the opportunities awaiting your child as part of our growing school community.

Thank you for choosing Overstone Gate Primary School. We look forward to working with you and your family in this exciting next chapter of our journey.

Warm regards,

Mrs Kayleigh Smith

Headteacher

Overstone Gate Primary School



Starting School

EYFS Starting School Booklet

The transition into school is an exciting milestone for both children and their families. We aim to build on the foundations of early learning and nurture social, emotional, and academic growth, helping children adapt to their new routines and friendships as seamlessly as possible. Our aim is to ensure a smooth and positive transition into school life, helping children settle into new routines and begin forming meaningful friendships. This booklet will provide you with an insight into what your child's first year at Overstone Gate Primary School would look like.

Nursery Visits

In June, our EYFS team will contact nurseries and pre-schools across Northampton to gather key information from your child's current setting. This collaboration with your child's key worker helps us to better understand their individual needs and supports a seamless transition into school.

Stay and Play Sessions

Our 'Stay and Play' sessions provide an opportunity for children to explore their new learning environment alongside their parents or carers. These sessions take place in the EYFS base and offer a chance to engage in classroom activities, meet the staff and begin building familiarity with the school setting.

Transfer Day

Transfer Day is a special occasion where children attend the EYFS base independently, alongside their new classmates. There will be two sessions available - one in the morning and one in the afternoon. You will be informed of your child's allocated session. Each session lasts approximately 2.5 hours and is designed to help children build relationships with staff and peers, while developing a sense of confidence and security in their new environment.

Home Visits

Home visits take place during the first week of September. These 20-minute visits allow EYFS staff to meet your child in a familiar and comfortable setting, helping to establish a positive connection before the school term begins. Appointments must be booked in advance via our online booking system.

EYFS Base

Our EYFS provision offers a high quality learning environment where children can thrive. Learners benefit from a free flow approach between indoor classrooms and our outdoor learning zone, encouraging exploration, collaboration and independence.

The EYFS Curriculum



EYFS Curriculum Approach

At Overstone Gate Primary School, we offer a curriculum centred around each individual child. We foster a love of learning through a rich and engaging environment where play is recognised as a vital part of development. A balanced approach combining child-led and adult-led learning ensures the best outcomes for our learners.

We follow an 'In the Moment' planning approach, responding to children's needs and interests as they arise. Alongside this, daily small group sessions support key areas such as Mathematics, Literacy and Kinetic Letters. Children learn across a variety of indoor and outdoor spaces designed to encourage exploration, creativity and collaboration.

Children take part in a wide range of experiences, working independently, in small groups and as part of whole-group learning. Progress is continually monitored through observational assessment, allowing adults to provide appropriate support and challenge.

Our learning environments reflect all areas of the Early Years curriculum and provide open-ended opportunities for children to develop the Characteristics of Effective Learning. Adults support development by modelling language, explaining concepts, exploring ideas with children, asking questions, recalling experiences and providing appropriate challenge. Through these interactions, adults observe, assess understanding and guide children towards their next steps.

Areas of Learning in the EYFS

The Early Years Foundation Stage is organised into seven interconnected areas of learning, divided into three prime areas and four specific areas.

Prime Areas

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Specific Areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design



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Transition Sessions

Starting school is a significant step in your child's development. Whether your child is transitioning from full-time day care or another early years setting, our carefully planned induction programme is designed to support a smooth and confident start to school life.

Tuesday 30 th June & Thursday 2 nd July	Stay and Play Sessions (16:00 - 17:00)
Wednesday 8 th July 2026	Transfer Day (your child will be allocated either Group A or Group B) A - 09:30-11:30 and B - 12:30-14:30
Thursday 3 rd , Friday 4 th & Monday 7 th September	Home Visits
Tuesday 8 th - Friday 11 th September	Half Day sessions (your child will be allocated either group A or B). A - 09:00-11:30 and B - 12:30-15:00
Monday 14 th - Friday 18 th September	All learners stay for the morning session and lunch (08:40-13:15)
Monday 21 st September	All learners will attend school full time (08:40-15:10)

When your child attends school full time, the school day will be as follows;

School gates open	08:30 (playground bell rings at 08:35)
Registration	08:40
Lunchtime	12:00 – 13:00
End of the school day	15:10

At Overstone Gate Primary School, we believe that strong communication between home and school is essential to supporting your child's learning journey. If you would like to speak with your child's class teacher, they will be available in their classroom from 08:30 each morning.



Tapestry and Assessment

Tapestry: Celebrating Learning Together

Tapestry is our secure online learning journal that enables you to follow your child's journey through EYFS. It provides a window into their school experiences, allowing you to view observations, photos and videos of their learning. You can also contribute by adding your own observations from home, helping to build a rich picture of your child's development.

Weekly Home Learning Challenges will be shared via Tapestry, giving you the opportunity to see how your child applies newly acquired skills in different contexts. Training and guidance on using Tapestry will be provided through helpful video tutorials.

In July, the Early Years team will create a Tapestry profile for each child. This will help both you and your child become familiar with the school setting and staff. To enable us to set up your account, please complete and return the attached Tapestry consent form by early June.

Partnership with Parents and Carers

We believe that a strong partnership between home and school has a positive impact on children's learning and development. We operate an open door policy and warmly encourage you to speak with us about any aspect of school life. Your involvement and support are highly valued.

Assessment in EYFS

Once your child has settled into school, they will complete the National Baseline Assessment - carried out by their class teacher during the first term. This assessment helps us understand your child's starting point and tailor their learning journey accordingly.

You can find more information about the Baseline Assessment here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/EYFS-baseline-assessment-information-for-parents>.

Throughout the year, children are assessed through informal observations. These help us understand how they engage with activities, interact with others and demonstrate their learning. Observational assessment allows us to respond to each child's needs and celebrate their progress.



Additional Info

Lunchtimes

Learners have the option of enjoying a hot meal, freshly prepared and cooked on site, or choosing from a selection of sandwiches. Alternatively, children may bring a packed lunch from home if preferred. All learners in EYFS are entitled to a free hot meal each day, provided through the Government's Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme. Information on how to book meals in advance will be shared with parents and carers.

Snack Time

There will be snacks available during the day where learners can help themselves to a piece of fruit and their water. Milk is available free of charge for under 5s and for those eligible for financial support through Pupil Premium. Milk can also be purchased from our provider when your child turns 5. Snack time encourages healthy eating, independence and the development of personal and social skills.

Uniform

School uniform can be purchased online, all information can be found on our school website: <https://overstonegateprimaryschool.org.uk/uniform/> Uniform will be delivered to your home address. Please remember to order uniform in plenty of time.

Personal Possessions

To help us keep track of belongings, please ensure that all clothing, shoes and personal items are clearly labelled with your child's name. We kindly ask that toys, comfort items and teddy bears remain at home to avoid loss or distraction during the school day.

Reading Books

Reading is a vital part of early education, and we aim to foster a love of books from the very beginning. Learners will bring home a library book and a reading book to share with you. They will be taught to read in school and will also bring home a variety of activities to support their reading journey.

Key Dates



Dates	Information
June 2026	Staff will contact pre-schools/nurseries
Friday 26 th June	Registration pack to be completed and returned to school
Tuesday 30 th June & Thursday 2 nd July	Stay and Play Sessions (16:00- 17:00)
Wednesday 8 th July 2026	Transfer Day (your child will be allocated either group A or B). A - 09:30-11:30 and B - 12:30-14:30
Thursday 3 rd , Friday 4 th & Monday 7 th September	Home visits with class teacher
Tuesday 8 th - Friday 11 th September	Half-day sessions (your child will be allocated either group A or B). A - 09:00-11:30 and B - 12:30-15:00
Monday 14 th - Friday 18 th September	All learners stay for the morning session and lunch (08:40-13:15)
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Contact Us

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