

Admissions FAQ

Please find below a list of answers to questions frequently asked by new parents. If the answer to a question that you have is not included below then please contact the school office on 01923 221984 or admin@parkgateinfants.herts.sch.uk and they will be happy to answer any questions you may have- no question is silly!

Updated 16/11/20

| Question | Answer |
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| Why should I send my child to Parkgate Infants and Nursery? | <p>Firstly as an Infants and Nursery school we are able to focus on and specialise in the learning of young children. All our policies and procedures reflect the young age of our children.</p> <p>Our aim is that all children are able to achieve- we believe that all our children should leave our school believing that anything is possible.</p> <p>We also believe passionately in providing excellent teaching, working together (Parents (and visitors) often comment on the friendly, community feel of the school) and inclusive practice.</p> |
| Oh no! You are open plan! | <p>Oh yes- we are very proud to be open plan. This means that each of our classes are taught with their year group partner class. Staff work collaboratively to provide for the needs of all children- staff are able to be flexible with groupings so that children get their learning needs met.</p> <p>The open plan design also reflects our ethos- we are open with parents and we ask that you do the same for us!</p> |
| What are your results like? | <p>Our results have been improving over the last few years and are above the national average in most areas of the school.</p> <p>Please see: https://parkgateinfants.herts.sch.uk/download/ks1-assessment-results-2016/</p> |

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| <p>Do you offer before and after school provision?</p> | <p>Yes, we have a breakfast and after school club on site. This is provided through 'Little Rascals'. We have worked with 'Little Rascal' to provide before and after school provision at Parkgate for a long time. They are based in our school hall. If you would like more information see their website at...</p> <p>We also work with a range of other providers to provide a range of after school clubs and generally have a club after school each day. These include clubs like football, multi sports, archery, circus or even spy club. These generally run after school until 4pm. These clubs all have an additional cost.</p> |
| <p>What do you do for homework?</p> | <p>We really value parents' contribution to their child learning. Children for English will every week bring home 2 reading books. These books stay at home for the whole week. Children who are learning phonics will also bring home a sound sheet so that you can practice the sounds that children have been learning in school. Children in Key Stage 1 will bring home a list of spellings to practice. Children in Mathematics will have a weekly mathematics task set each Friday which should be returned the following Wednesday.</p> |
| <p>Can we help in school?</p> | <p>At Parkgate Infants and Nursery School we value the contribution that parents can make in school. We invite parents to help in the classroom, with trips or even with our 'Friends of Parkgate Infants' group. To ensure the safety of children in school you must however complete a db and provide 2 referees.</p> |
| <p>What do OFSTED say?</p> | <p>Ofsted graded Parkgate Infants and Nursery as a good school in July 2018. They said that 'The school is calm and orderly. Pupils' attitudes to learning are highly positive and their behaviour both in lessons and around the school is consistently excellent. Pupils take pride in their work, which they present neatly, and they are confident and polite when talking to adults about their learning.'</p> <p>Please see the full report at https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/21/117163</p> <p>We have continued to build on our success in 2018. We currently believe behaviour at Parkgate Infants is outstanding and this has been substantiated by our Herts for Learning advisors.</p> |

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| <p>How does lunch work?</p> | <p>Children have 4 options for lunch red (meat), green (vegetarian), blue (jacket potato) and yellow (packed lunch). They are given the menu each morning and during the register will choose the option that they would like.</p> <p>At lunch children are given a band to wear in the food option colour they would like. They eat in the dining room before going out to play.</p> <p>In the first ½ term in Reception parents are asked to choose their child’s lunch options.</p> |
| <p>How do you support SENd?</p> | <p>SENd support is a strength at Parkgate Infants and Nursery. Mrs McCarthy, our experienced INCo, supports all pupils and will plan to support your child’s needs. Please feel free to telephone Mrs McCarthy if you would like to discuss your child’s needs.</p> |
| <p>Will my child automatically go to the Junior school?</p> | <p>You will need to apply separately when you get to Year 2 to go to the Junior school. You will usually get in, as long as you apply on time.</p> |
| <p>How do you deal with children who are finding school difficult?</p> | <p>We believe that as a school ‘every child matters’ and we must support children with all their needs. We have our ‘Owl’ room which is used to support children who need additional support. We also have a counsellor who comes in each week to support children who need specialist support.</p> |
| <p>Do you promote singing and music?</p> | <p>Music is a strength of our school. Children are taught by specialist music teachers in Key Stage 1. Children in Year 2 all learn to play the recorder and are also offered the opportunity to learn to play the violin. We also have a band!</p> |