

Frequently Asked Questions:

What are the hours of the school day?

Normally, school starts at 8:55am and ends at 3:15pm.

Since September, we have staggered start and end times, group 1 (surname A-K) - 8:55am-3:05pm; group 2 (surname L-Z) - 8:45am-3:15pm. This could change again by next September.

Is there a breakfast club?

Yes, our Breakfast Club is in-house and starts at 7:45am for all year groups. There is a cost, but this includes breakfast and a variety of activities.

Is there access to an After-School Club?

Abbots Hall run the After-School Club for the most local primary schools. Many of our children attend and they are collected from our school by Abbots Hall staff every day.

Do you have a Nursery on-site?

Yes, our Nursery is part of the school, and takes children from the term after they turn 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. The Nursery operates school hours, term time only.

Do you have a school uniform?

Yes, our uniform is red and grey, and details are on our website. Please label all items of your child's school uniform.

What does my child need to bring to school?

Your child will be issued with their first school book bag and a water bottle when they start in reception. They will need to bring in a P.E kit, which consists of red or black shorts, a white t-shirt and plimsolls. The school provides all the stationery and equipment they will need.

Can my child wear jewellery at school?

Small stud earrings are permitted and a wrist watch can be worn. Smart watches are not allowed (this includes Fitbits). On P.E days, earrings can either be removed or taped up in Key Stage 1; in Key Stage 2 earrings must be removed for P.E days.

How long do children get for lunch?

Children have a staggered lunchtime, where each year group have one hour for lunch. All children sit together in their year groups, regardless if they are 'dinners' or 'sandwiches'.

We run a band system where children choose their meal in the morning. There are three choices. All dinners are then made to order.

What can I put in my child's packed lunch?

We encourage children to bring in a healthy lunch (small treats are allowed but no sweets or fizzy drinks). We ask that children do NOT bring nuts or products containing nuts to school, as we have some children in school with allergies.

Is drinking water available?

Yes, children are provided with a water bottle when they start school. This can be topped up in school if necessary.

How are children with Special Educational Needs supported in your school?

The school has a Special Educational Needs team who support children both in and outside the classroom. EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) has additional adults to ensure children settle well, operate a key worker system and target any areas of need promptly. All classes have a class LSA to support children.

How do you address bullying?

The school takes bullying very seriously and operate a zero-tolerance approach. We have systems in place in classes for children to indicate how they are feeling. There are always adults about that children can speak with if they are upset or worried about anything. We ask that parents, alongside staff, encourage children to tell a grown up if they have been hurt or upset so that we can deal with things swiftly. We also ask that parents keep us informed if their children express at home that they have been hurt or upset.

How do you deal with negative behaviour?

We promote positive behaviour, through rewards such as: Dojos, Team Points, Head Teacher's Gold Awards and STEP (Sorry, Thank You, Excuse Me, Please) Awards for manners. Consequences are given if necessary, and if appropriate parents will be informed. Parent partnership is important to ensure your child makes the right choices and learns to take responsibility for their actions.

Are the children given homework?

Children are given open tasks that they can complete at home. Reading is a priority as it underpins all learning, so your child is asked to read regularly at home. Weekly spellings are given in older years alongside times tables.

What are the arrangements for children starting school?

At Graham James, we support children making the transition from Nursery to Reception, by liaising with previous settings, individual meetings with parents and a two-week transition in the summer term, mornings only. This translates through the rest of the school, where each year move up to their next class at the end of the summer term for two weeks and have a chance to get to know their teacher before the summer, this helps us start the year more productively and alleviates worries over the summer.

How does my child learn?

In Reception, we follow the EYFS adoptive curriculum, which covers the 7 areas of learning through a child-friendly play-based curriculum. There is a whole school topic approach to learning, allowing children from different years to have a common interest and focus on topics that are relevant to their lives.

Does the school offer extra-curricular activities/clubs?

Due to the current situation, clubs are suspended. However, usually there is a range of clubs available, at lunchtime and after school. These range from football and netball, mixed sports, comic club, choir to reading club, ICT club and Art club.

Can I take my child on holiday during term time?

The short answer is no. Attending school is a compulsory obligation that parents must adhere to and therefore you should avoid taking your child out of school. If you wish to have a special case considered then you are required to complete a 'request a leave of absence' form, which can be requested from the school office and will be reviewed by the Chair of Governors.

What should I do if my child is ill?

If your child is ill, please ring the school office the first day of their absence. Select option 1 to report a child's absence.

How do I contact my child's teacher?

You can make an appointment at the school office by phone or email, or a note in your child's book bag.

Can I park at the school?

Unfortunately, we do not have adequate parking for parents. Parents are encouraged to walk where possible or there is a town centre free car park a few minutes from the school.

What are the admissions criteria/catchment arrangements?

Please see the Academy policy on admissions criteria. If the Academy is oversubscribed, then these criteria are used.

<http://www.grahamjamesacademy.co.uk/admissions/>