



Cheltenham College Junior School

Kingfisher Information Booklet



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This handbook is designed to answer some of the questions Kingfisher parents may have regarding all aspects of your child's education here in Kingfishers, the Pre-prep of Cheltenham College Junior School. Whether your child spends four years in Kingfishers or a few terms, we aim to provide your child with a wealth of experiences to enable them to develop into happy independent children who are confident in themselves and their environment.

I hope this booklet explains the differences your child will experience as they move up through the Pre-Prep. It will be updated regularly as we effect the inevitable changes that will occur as we strive to retain our 'Outstanding' Foundation Stage OFSTED and continue this throughout the department.

Cheltenham College Junior School

Cheltenham College Junior School is a co-educational school for children from 3-13. Kingfishers is the Pre-Prep department of the Junior School. It opened in 1993 and takes children from the term after they have turned three to age seven.

At age three the children start in Foundation Stage 1 (KF1S) in the cottage. This year we have been fortunate to occupy an additional space next to the Cottage, known as Kingfishers Cabin. Kingfishers then has two Foundation 2 (Reception - KF2) classes, 2 Year 1 classes (K1) and 2 Year 2 classes (K2). All the children have use of the school grounds and fields and often use these areas to support their topic work.



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Kingfisher Staff



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Mrs Annalee Tidmarsh - Year 2 Teacher (K2T)
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Teaching Assistants

All classes have a teaching assistant working alongside the class teacher. We work on a 1:8 ratio all day in the Foundation Stage (ages 3-5) and Year 1. In Year 2 there is a teaching assistant with the class teacher in the mornings while the children complete Literacy and Numeracy activities but not in the afternoon. This allows the children to develop some independence and starts to prepare them for Year 3 in Lower School. There are two teaching assistants who work between Year 1, two in Year 2 and three in the Foundation Stage classes. Your child will be familiar with all of the people listed below and will spend significant time with the teaching assistants allocated to their year group.



Mrs Beth Bromley
(mornings only)



Mrs Belinda Cornwell



Miss Zoe Davies



Mrs Julie Harris
(mornings only)



Miss Sarah Matthews



Miss Kayleigh Norwood



Mrs Fiona Randell



Miss Gemma Smith

Learning Support:



Mrs Ali Brady
Learning Support (part time)



Mr Kit Perona-Wright
Music

All staff have e-mail addresses (surname.first name @cheltcoll.gloucs.sch.uk) and e-mails are checked regularly throughout the day.

Kingfisher Timetable

08:15hrs until 08:55hrs	Drop-off Time
09:00hrs	Assembly (excluding cottage children)
09.20hrs	Classroom based activities
10:35hrs	Snack in classrooms
10:55hrs - 11:15hrs	Playtime
11:15hrs	Classroom based activities
12:00hrs	Foundation Stage lunch
12:20hrs	Year 1 and 2 lunch
12:20hrs - 13:00hrs	Foundation Stage playtime
12:45hrs - 13.15hrs	Year 1 and 2 playtime
13:15hrs	Classroom based activities

During this time all classes have Music and French lessons.
One afternoon a week each class will have a games lesson and a follow-up session with their Class Teacher and in addition a swimming lesson.
Outside activities may take place at any time during the day as part of classroom activities. It is therefore helpful for your child to always have a waterproof in school.

15.30hrs - End of school day (unless staying in Late Club)



After School Activities

Children in Year 2 can choose to join in after school activities. These happen at 15.45hrs until 16.30hrs and there is a different club each day.

These can vary from sports club or art club to gardening or story club. They change termly.

A list is sent at the start of each term for you to discuss with your child. If there is space, the children may do more than one club.

Skiing happens on a Monday night and is from Year 2 upwards. The children leave school at 16.20hrs and are taken to Gloucester Ski Centre. They return to school at 18.45hrs. There is an extra charge for this activity and it runs from September until May. Mrs Grindle organises the activity for children from Year 2-Year 8.

In the Summer Term we also offer Year 1 children the opportunity to participate in Clubs.



After School Care (Late Stay)

Although the school day for Kingfishers finishes at 3.30pm, children can stay at school until 17.30hrs. This can be booked on a termly basis or week by week and is available for all children from the Cottage to Year 2.

Children can stay until 4pm (to allow parents to do one pick up if siblings in Lower School) and there is no charge. After this time there is a charge per half hour and an extra charge for tea which is served at 16.30hrs in the dining hall.

Between 17:00hrs - 17.30hrs children can to be collected from Kingfishers Lodge.



Important Dates



Each term you will be sent a calendar that contains important dates for the Junior. Kingfisher events are in green text. There is also a weekly news letter sent to you called 'The Week' and this contains all the significant things that have occurred over the last seven days along with events for the forthcoming week.

During the course of the year, Kingfishers will be involved in a Nativity play, Sports day, a Summer Performance and various Informal Concerts (usually only involving Year 2 children). All these details will be found in the Calendar and The Week but all Kingfisher staff will be able to assist any parents who are unsure. This year we are also inviting Parents to watch their Child's Class Assembly. Every half term a different class will perform an Assembly to Kingfishers. These dates will be in the Calendar and I know that the children will love having an audience.

Twice a year Kingfisher children attend an end of term chapel service. This occurs at the end of the Winter and Spring terms. Parents are invited to attend. The only one Sunday service that involves Kingfisher children is the Harvest Service when all Kingfishers sing.

Kingfisher Coffee mornings are open to all Kingfisher parents and take place in the Kingfisher Hall. Details of these coffee mornings can be found in the calendar and The Week.



There are numerous other events that take place at The Junior involving children from Year 3 upwards. Kingfisher parents and pupils are welcome to attend any of these main school events with their families.

We look forward to seeing you at as many of these events as possible.

Foundation Stage

Foundation 1 children can start in the Cottage in the term after they turn 3. It is a pre school year and the children can attend for a minimum of 2 days a week. Children can be collected at lunchtime, or stay whole days and join Kingfisher late stay at 3.30pm if required.

The Cottage is separate from the main Kingfisher building although the children regularly use many other parts of the school and the grounds on a daily basis. The emphasis is on fun, practical learning for these children and the planning is in accordance with the Foundation Stage; this is continued in Foundation 2 (Reception) the following year. However, sometimes there can be a child who is Foundation 1 age (3 turning 4) but may be ready for a more structured learning style or ready to mix with a larger group of children. In these cases, we operate an individual flexible programme for each child, whereby if it is appropriate we will move the child so they can join a Foundation 2 class for parts of their day. This may be for Literacy or Numeracy, or for playtimes. We aim to meet the needs of each child and we find this approach can ensure every Foundation Stage child is catered for as an individual.

Children join Foundation 2 after Foundation 1 and it is their first school year (i.e. Reception). Our Reception classes often have a large percentage of children from our Foundation 1 class and there are often other children who join at this stage from various nurseries.



Foundation Stage Curriculum

The curriculum across both Foundation Stage classes follows the Early Foundation Stage Framework.

The 6 key areas of learning according to the Foundation Stage are:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This area of learning includes the child's confidence, independence, awareness of the needs of others and respect for themselves, other children and adults.

Communication, Language and Literacy Development

This area focuses on reading, writing, speaking and listening and linking sounds and letters. The children are introduced to Jolly Phonics in KF2 which is a programme designed to teach all 42 sounds of the English Language and the children are taught to read and write them at the same time. The sounds are repeated throughout the year and built upon in the following 2 years to ensure any children requiring repetition are catered for. Equally, for children who quickly grasp these concepts, they can then be moved on at their individual pace.

Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

In FS1 number work is taught through a wide range of practical activities and games. Counting, number recognition, simple calculations, pattern and shape are all concepts that are covered through daily fun activities, both inside and outside and often linking with other areas of learning. In KF2 the children continue these concepts and also start to record their work. From KF2 we use a Maths scheme called 'Abacus' which provides a basic framework that teachers can adapt according to the class or the individual. Abacus ensures the children have consistency in their maths teaching through their Kingfisher years and provides progression that can be easily modified for children where necessary.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

This area focuses on the world around us. It encourages children to develop an awareness of culture and religion and acknowledges the importance of design and technology, ICT and Science in their everyday life. We are very fortunate to have the use of such

excellent school grounds and the children frequently cover many aspects of Knowledge and Understanding outside. With our Forest School, the children also gain experience of mini-beasts and other living things and can learn how to care for plants and animals.

Physical Development

This area covers a range of movement skills. It includes developing the children's fine motor skills which can be practised by using scissors, playing with pegs, threading and using playdough. Equally important is the development of the children's gross motor skills which are enhanced through PE sessions in the hall, the barn or outside on the fields. The children are taught dance, gymnastics, basic ball skills and simple team games with an emphasis on keeping healthy.

Creative Development

This area covers music, art, design, imaginative play and drama. Many of these aspects are taught across other areas of learning ensuring plenty of opportunities are available for the children. Often when an art skill has been taught there will be a chance for the children to practise skills themselves in their own time as the teachers will ensure the resources are available to them. Likewise this often occurs in music and drama.

The Classes will also have a topic focus for the term and many activities will be related to the topic chosen for that term. Often French, Music or PE sessions taught by other staff, may also be linked to the children's topic work. All 6 areas of learning have topic links made by the class tutor and the children enjoy having a focus and a link between each aspect of their curriculum.

At the end of KF2 most children will have completed the Foundation Stage Early Learning Goals which are usually covered during a child's first year in school. As the children move to Year 1 the curriculum then links to the National Curriculum. For any additional information about the Foundation Stage or individual information about your child or their records, please do not hesitate to contact staff.

Highscope

Throughout the Pre-Prep we operate an active learning system called 'Highscope' which is a plan, do and review framework achieved through play. It is an approach where children and teachers plan, work and review together enhancing the opportunities for developing many social and intellectual skills. It provides teachers with a framework that can be adapted to meet specific needs of a child or a class. It ensures that children have some control of their own learning and access to materials and equipment they may require. Therefore each classroom in Kingfishers is organized in such a way that children have access to resources and can independently retrieve what they need.

Highscope requires the child to make a decision about what they would like to choose to fit into their day. The complexity of decision-making becomes more complex as the child gets older and therefore there are noticeable differences in Highscope between the year groups.



Key Stage One - Years One and Two

The curriculum builds upon the skills taught in the Foundation Stage and once a child has completed all the early learning goals then the curriculum uses the Key Stage One National Curriculum as its framework. Instead of the 6 areas of learning, children are taught skills through the following subjects:

English

The Key Stage One curriculum continues to build upon children's skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening. The children also have a weekly grammar lesson using Jolly Grammar - the follow on from Jolly Phonics. Handwriting continues to be practised in Year 1 to ensure the children's writing is cursive and correctly formed so they can begin to join their writing in Year 2. Comprehension skills is a weekly lesson to encourage the children to read for meaning and check their writing makes sense.

Mathematics

The Mathematics Scheme (Abacus) continues to revise and then extend the concepts that were taught in Foundation 2. Number mathematics includes using and applying number, calculation and mental maths. The number sequence is extended to 100, then 1000 and the children continue to develop their addition and subtraction skills. Division and multiplication is introduced in Year 2. Other topics covered include money, time, 2D and 3D shape, length, weight and capacity.

ICT

All children have access to computers in the classroom and in Kingfisher Library. Each classroom has an Interactive Whiteboard that is used as teaching aid in lessons and also by the children to revise the skills they have been taught. Once a week, each class has a timetabled lesson in the ICT suite where they are taught new skills and introduced to new applications. Children start to use the internet, drawing applications and create their own pictures and work they can save and print.

Science

Science is taught as a weekly lesson and covers a different focus each term. These include, growing, electricity, forces, materials and changes. Much of this work is taught through practical activities to enable the children to gain hands on experience and develop an understanding of scientific concepts. Sometimes the work may be

recorded by the children or photographed as a record of what they have done.

Topic

Each term the children are introduced to a different topic. Topic work ensures the children are also being taught Geography and History so the topics tend to be very broad and we aim to relate to them in other areas of learning.

Art

The children are taught skills through a variety of approaches. These include painting, using pastels, collage and 3D modeling. The children also experience marbling, printing, sewing and weaving. Once taught, the children are encouraged and supported to independently use these skills if they so wish.

PHSCE

Personal, Health and Social Citizenship Education teaches children skills to help them make choices, develop friendships, take a responsibility for themselves and become aware of consequences to their actions. The children have Circle Time lessons as a class which encourages them to think about what others say and to participate in discussion about problem solving, friendship issues and other relevant topics. It is a time when children can say what they think and everyone is expected to listen and not judge each other. It encourages positive interaction between the class and allows children to think of others and suggest ideas and strategies to help other children in certain situations.

RE

The children have weekly assemblies which introduce them to Bible stories and encourage them to relate these to the present day. In lessons the children think about celebrations, places of worship and different faiths,

Physical Education

Every week the children have a Games session taught by specialist PE staff and a

weekly swimming lesson. The children are taught in small groups to ensure they are given one to one help when developing their skills. Games sessions take place in either, the Sports Hall or The Barn. When the weather is good, we use the fields and in the Summer we practise for Sports Day.

Music

Music lessons occur daily and cover a wide range of skills which are taught by a specialist music teacher. In Year 2 the children spend half a term playing the recorder and the violin. Some children choose

to continue the violin and these lessons are then taught outside normal music lessons. The children can also learn other instruments if they choose and again these lessons are individual and will occur at some other time in the day.

French

French is continued from the Foundation Stage and again taught daily, The children have specialist French teachers and are taught through practical activities, games, songs and then begin to record some French work at this stage.

Trips and Events

To enhance the children's learning and support the curriculum, we invite relevant people to come in and speak to the children where this is possible. These have included a Doctor, a Dentist, and a lady coming to do a Japanese talk and make sushi. Once a year, usually in the Summer Term, each year group from FS2 goes out of school on a school trip. Previous trips have included, KF2 trip to Bristol Zoo, K1 trip to Westonbirt and K2 trip to At-Bristol. If appropriate, the children may be taken out of school on a visit in the Winter or Spring term. A letter is always sent home prior to any trip, informing you of the details.



Home - School Links

Every child is issued with a blue book bag once they start Foundation 2. This is designed for the child to be able to take home a reading book and any other information they may have been given. It is therefore helpful if parents are able to check the blue book bag each night and send it back to school the following morning. Often letters are sent home in the book bag and frequently other children send home party invitations.

In Foundation 2 children will be sent home with a reading book and a card for Parents to fill out and sign if they hear their child read. This allows the class teacher to track the child's reading and ensure the child always has a new reading book when they are ready. Once Foundation 2 children start Jolly Phonics, they are also sent home with a Sound book to revise the sounds they have been taught, and later a dictation book to practise writing simple words. As these children are still young, it is not expected that these things are completed every night. However, some children may be ready to and if so they are then able to move on at their own pace and class teachers will ensure the material in the book bag is suitable for that child's level of learning. If you are ever unsure of anything that is sent home from school, please ask your child's class teacher.

In Year 1 and 2, children still take a reading book home. As their books become longer, it is sometimes the case that a child may read a chapter or so a night, but not a whole book. We encourage the children to read little and often as long as they are not too tired but not to feel they have to finish a lengthy book in one evening - unless they would like to! From Year 1 the children are also given weekly spellings to learn. These tend to be sent home on a Monday and are tested the following Monday. It may vary from child to child how many words they are given to learn as we try to ensure each child is catered for appropriately according to their ability. If you find your child is particularly struggling to learn their spellings, or if they do not need to learn them at all, please let the class tutor know.

All staff are available to talk to parents from 08.15hrs in the morning until 09.00hrs and again at 15.30hrs at pick up time. Otherwise, you could arrange an alternative time to speak to your child's teacher if you feel you need more time. We encourage parents to inform us of any things that may affect their child to ensure we offer them the best support in school as possible. We aim to provide your child with a happy and stimulating day but if for any reason they are unhappy, please come and discuss this with us. Staff will also ensure they feedback to parents after school, or at drop off time, any relevant information they may have from school.

Twice a year in the Autumn Term and the Summer Term all Kingfisher children will receive a full report. In the Spring Term there are Parents Evenings for each Year Group (from KF1).

Golden Rules

Kingfishers encourages children to think about their behaviour at school according to the following 6 Golden Rules. These rules are reinforced in every class and through many routines of their day.

- Do be gentle
- Do be kind and helpful
- Do work hard
- Do look after property
- Do listen to people
- Do be honest

Children are praised and rewarded when they are noticed behaving in a positive way. This can include verbal praise, stickers, notes home and certificates. We present children with *Golden Certificates* when they have played well outside at playtime and chosen a sensible game, ensuring no children are deliberately left out. This celebration of good behaviour has a very positive effect on the children and they are very proud of what they achieve. This term we are going to present other certificates to children who have kept *Golden Rules* in school and have been noticed by a member of staff.

Once the children reach Year 1 and 2 we introduce *Golden Time* which is aimed at motivating the children to focus on their work and enjoy their own time at the end of the week as a reward. The children play daily when completing their *Highscope* choice but *Golden Time* allows the children to have free choice of whatever they choose for 20 minutes one afternoon. Minutes can be taken off during the week for any behaviour which does not adhere to the *Golden Rules*. Your child will most likely be able to give you further information on *Golden Rules*, *Golden Certificates* and *Golden Time*, but if you are unsure please come and ask.