

# Welcome to The Gattons Infant School



# This Evening

- Help your child make the best possible start to school
- Housekeeping information
- Identify key ways in which you can help your child prepare for school
- Meet your child's class teacher and indoor and outdoor learning environments

# School Staff

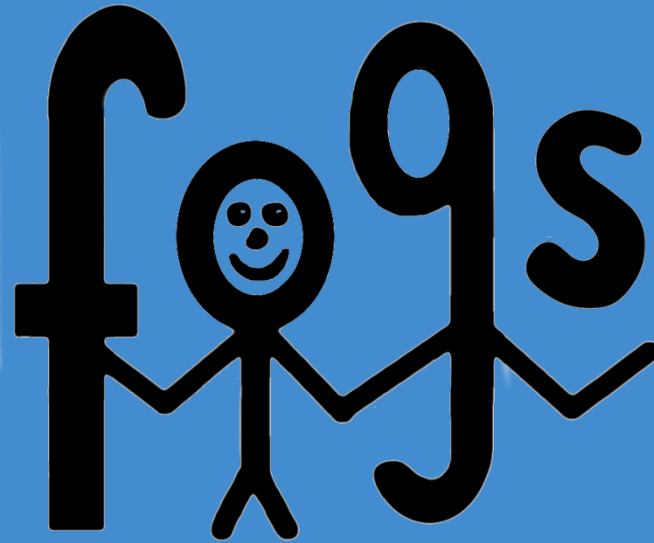
Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Gospel  
Deputy Headteacher & : Miss Ellie Bennett  
SENDCo

Office staff: Mrs Tidbury  
Mrs Ward  
Mrs Gething  
Mrs Morpew

Wrens Class: Mrs Parsons (Early Years Leader)  
Robins Class: Miss Tookey  
Swallows Class: Mrs Kemsley and Mrs Woodhead

# Linked to the school...

- Chair of Governors: Lucas Cook
- Our PTA: Friends of The Gattons (FOGS):  
Rachel & Natasha
- School Meals - ISS school meals new provider from  
September
- School Nurse
- Junior Adventures Group (JAG) Breakfast and After School  
Club
- School uniform: Broadbridges in Burgess Hill or Monkhouse  
online



Friends Of  
The Gattons School



# Friends of the Gattons School

Family & friends of children at the Gattons who want to help **build the community** and **fundraise** for the school

Charity number 286357  
fogsgroup@yahoo.co.uk

## What do we organise?

## How is the money spent?



- Books
- School Trips
- Classroom equipment
- Play equipment



## How can you help?

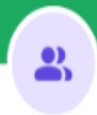
1. Join FOGS to organise events
2. Volunteer to help at events
3. Become a class rep
4. Join Friends of Gattons School facebook group
5. Come to the events!

**Class WhatsApp Groups:** A group for class parents to connect with each other, sharing reminders, FOGS event info, coordinating volunteering for class stall at fayres, etc.



**Robins 2026/7**

WhatsApp group



**Swallows 2026/7**

WhatsApp group



**Wrens 2026/7**

WhatsApp group



<https://tinyurl.com/Robins202627>

<https://tinyurl.com/Swallows202627>

<https://tinyurl.com/Wrens202627>

**FOGS Facebook Page for events info:** <https://tinyurl.com/FOGSfbk>



# How can you help?

- Join our committee as a member or just a helper
- Offer to help with events
- Donate second-hand uniform, toys, books and cakes
- Let us know if you have any ideas, contacts or skills we could use
- Come to the Summer Fayre 27<sup>th</sup> June 12-2pm

# The Governors

We currently have 11 Governors at The Gattons:

- Headteacher and staff
- Parents
- Local Education Authority contacts
- Volunteers from the local community
- People with specialist skills

*No formal qualifications needed – there is help to learn the role*

# Why does a school have Governors...

- They play an important part in overseeing the running of the school in the interests of the community it serves.
- They are here to give direction and focus by performing a vital strategic role.
- All decisions are taken collectively.

# How you can help

- Anyone can become a Governor if you have the time and commitment.
- We let all parents know when there is a Parent Governor vacancy - there may be one in September.
- Training and support is provided.
- You can speak to any of the Governing board members if you want to find out more.

# Preparing for School

- We work with you to support a smooth transition to school
- All feelings are normal!
- Every child is different - they learn at different rates. It's ok if your child isn't doing everything yet. Confidence grows over time.
- Being able to communicate needs is just as important as knowing letters and numbers.

# The first couple of weeks

As part of effective transition into Reception, we have a staggered start.

- Teachers meet with parents and children individually on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> or Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.
- Children will then have two sessions with a smaller group of children from their class.
- All children will be in school for your chosen attendance from Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September.



# Part-time or full-time?

- Many parents ask us to provide a full-time place from September for their child.
- Parents of children starting at The Gattons have many options about attendance which we hope will help parents and the school to make the best possible arrangements for each child.



- A full day (full-time) is from 8.50am until 3.00pm.
- Part-time attendance is from 8.50am until 11.45am. Just before your child starts to attend full-time there will be a couple of part-time days when your child will be invited to stay for lunch until 12.45pm.
- Moving from part-time to full-time attendance can take place at the beginning of a new term or after a half-term holiday.

If the school feels that your child is not yet ready for full-time attendance then we will discuss this with you.

# Daily events



- Free milk until 5 years old - you may pay for your child to have milk after that. You need to register with Cool Milk now for milk even if your child is not 5 until later in the year.
- Free fruit at snack time in the morning (please do not provide your own)
- No nuts or nut products in packed lunches



# Daily events



- Water bottle - sports bottle please.
- Book bag and reading diary in school daily; 1 simple key chain only please. No Large Rucksacks
- Wellies to stay at school
- No sweets in school or for birthdays
- PARENTMAIL - please sign up if you haven't already



# Talking to your child's teacher

- Initial individual meetings with your class teacher.
- We are happy for you to contact us at anytime. We will contact you if we have any concerns.
  - After school is the best time for a conversation (but we can have a brief word in the mornings).
  - Urgent messages to the office.



# Talking to your child about school

- Their feelings are normal
- Allow for 'wobbles'.
  - Be curious
  - Allow for excitement !
  - Walk past school and chat
- What parts of the day might your child need help with ?
- Eat together
- Encourage child to ask for help from an adult
- Begin routines - uniform ready - create calm!



# Screen Time

The World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines advise that children under age two years should have no screen time at all, while those aged between two and five years old should have less than one hour per day.

However, it's estimated that around 80% of two year olds and 95% of five year olds have more time than this.

- Research has also shown that most British children aged two spend more than two hours a day watching TV, playing on computers and using a smartphone, while one in five children already owns a smartphone/tablet by age two.

# Screen Time



<https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/screen-time-under-5s/>

# Settling into school

Bring your child into the classroom for the first few days.

Please tell us...

- If your child is tearful...
- If you are tearful...
- If your child is tired...
- If your child is worried...
- If you are worried...
- If there are any changes at home.



# Getting ready for school

- Checklist in your pack
- Pull an inside out jumper or coat sleeve through themselves Tiny skill - HUGE confidence boost.
- Put on and remove own jumper, socks and shoes - even if it takes a while - even if it goes on backwards sometimes!
- Wipe their bottom after using the toilet - because it's one of things children are most worried about or embarrassed to ask for help with.
- Say ' can you help me please'
- These are often the things children quietly struggle with at first ... because they don't always know how to ask.

# Getting ready for school

- Practise toilet in their uniform
- Look for name label on clothes to help. Practice poppers, buttons and zips. **VELCRO ON SHOES PLEASE**
- Buy larger clothes especially jumpers so they can get them on and off
- No unusual hairbands - Girls hair simply tied back so they can put on a bike helmet!
- Practice with knives, forks and spoons, opening a lunchbox, drinking from a cup and peeling fruit.

PLEASE NAME  
EVERYTHING!

Lower Case including  
first name for the  
children to read!



# Getting ready for school

- Sing as many Nursery Rhymes as you can
- Share lots of books together. Visit the local library
- Gross and Fine motor activities- to develop muscles that will support them as they learn to write
- Name recognition Not in Capital letters please - in your child's pack
- Taking care of toys - encourage your child to take care of their toys and support them in putting their toys away. We use





# Getting ready for school

- Encourage sharing of toys, turn taking and following instructions. Play games such as Snakes and Ladders and don't always let them win! Talk as you play!
- Go to the beach, play in the park - Have Fun together!
- Let them be bored! Reduce screen / tablet time - ideally less than an hour a day on any screen.



UK Government

Best Start in Life - DfE website  
for parents

Preparing for school

I can try starting school song

Starting Reception



# Starting Reception

## Lots of tips for starting Reception



For more information on how to help your child get ready for reception, and for information on supporting children with additional needs, scan the QR code or visit <https://startingreception.co.uk>.



## Reception transition: Starting School

To help us to support your child in school, please tick the boxes that your child can do and put crosses in any they may need support with. There is a comments box to add any relevant notes. Please fill out as close as possible to your child starting school and bring this with you to your child's transition meeting in September.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### I can...

- recognise my name
- take turns when talking in a group
- share toys with a friend

### I can...

- tidy away things I've used
- say or sign please and thank you
- seperate from my parent/carer independently/ with support

### I can...

- put on my socks
- find my shoes
- put on my shoes
- fasten my shoes

### I can...

- find my coat
- put my arms into my coat
- fasten my coat
- fasten buttons on my clothes

### I can...

- wash my hands
- dry my hands
- go to the toilet when I need to
- wipe/clean myself after using the toilet

### I can...

- eat with a knife and fork
- peel a banana and satsuma
- open my lunchbox and packets/pots
- wash my hands before/after eating

Please complete and bring with you to your parent meeting in September.

# Dates for your Diary

- Thursday 17th September -  
Settling in Meeting 9am
- Reading Meeting Tuesday 29th  
September 7pm
- Learning at School on Thursday 5th  
November 9am



Mrs Parsons - Wrens Class teacher and  
Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)  
Leader



Miss Tookey - Robins Class teacher



Mrs Kemsley and Mrs Woodhead -  
Swallows Class teachers

