Park Hall Infant Academy

Early Years Foundation Stage Prospectus 2027-28

"Education for Life!"

https://www.parkhall-inf.walsall.sch.uk/

The Loriners MAT

PARK HALL
INFANT ACADEMY

Ms Bracebridge

Executive Head

I would like to welcome you to The Loriners Multi Academy Trust. The Loriners is the first 'all primary' MAT to be established in Walsall and we look forward to developing further partnerships moving forward.

The story behind the name ...

It is well documented that Walsall has an amazing heritage in respect of the leather industry. The origins of Walsall's saddlemaking industry date back to the Middle Ages, when early recorded history noted that among the area's artisans were craftsmen working with leather. Essential to the leather industry were the area's 'loriners'.

These are artisan craft workers and ironmongers who produced a variety of horse-related items, including stirrups, bits, buckles, spurs, saddle trees and harness mounts and decorations. The leather industry couldn't survive or thrive without this vital craft!

The pioneers of the town's leather goods trade were bridle cutters who, by settling in Walsall, could call upon the highly developed skills of local loriners for their bits and buckles.

The loriners' chief requirements were high grade iron, coal, charcoal and limestone and were perfectly placed in the Black Country which is rich in all of these essential elements.

The development of the town's leather industry gained pace after 1840 when the South Staffordshire Railway provided Walsall with the opportunity of exporting its goods throughout the country.

By 1851 there were 75 firms making bridles, saddles and harness – all supported by loriners!

It is fair to say that the Walsall leather industry could not exist without the craft of lorinery that held all of the important working parts of saddle, bridles, stirrups and bits together. All parts work interactively and are stronger when working together.

We are proud to be The Loriners MAT, which not only celebrates Walsall, and our surrounding areas, but which also recognises the essential partnerships that are needed to make something stronger... together.

We look forward to our future as The Loriners MAT.

Welcome Message

Mrs Hand

Head of School

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome both parents and children to our Early Years Foundation Stage, and to wish you all happiness and success in the years ahead. The Early Years Foundation Stage consists of a Nursery for children aged 3-4 years old and three Reception classes, staffed by a highly skilled team of teachers and practitioners, dedicated to the education and well-being of your child.

At Park Hall Infant Academy we value your child as an individual, and hope to nurture and develop the knowledge and experiences they bring with them from home.

We aim to create an environment where your child feels happy and secure while at the same time motivated to learn and to find out more about themselves and the world in which they live.

We realise too the importance of forming a partnership with parents, since you are the child's first educator and you continue to play a vital role in their education both through the Early Years Foundation Stage and beyond.

About Our Nursery

Places Available

We offer a range of Nursery sessions to accommodate all 3 and 4 year old children. There are part-time (morning or afternoon) universal funded places available. This is made up of five daily 3 hour sessions, which equates to 15hrs a week. There are also full-time (30hrs a week) places available for children whose parents meet the specific criteria as set by the government.

Nursery Times

Part-time places (15hrs)

Morning only Nursery - 8.45am-11.45am
(Every morning - part weeks cannot be accommodated)

Afternoon only Nursery - 12.30pm-3.30pm
(Every afternoon - part weeks cannot be accommodated)

Full-time places (30hrs)

30 hours of Nursery Provision - 8.45am-2.45pm
(You will need to obtain a 30 hours qualification code from HMRC)

We are able to provide additional childcare from 2:45pm - 3:30pm for children attending the Full-time Nursery. This is currently at a cost of £4.80 per 45 minute session.

About Our Nursery

Induction

It is important to us that you and your child feels happy, confident and safe when you join our school family.

With this in mind we have developed a robust Induction Programme for our new Nursery children. It is designed to ensure that both our children and our parents are very familiar and comfortable with both the school and the staff before your child even begins school in September. This means that when your child officially joins our school family at the beginning of September, they are able to settle quickly and feel happy in their new school environment.

Induction Procedure

During the Summer Term, prior to starting school the following September, there are several parts of Induction that take place. These are detailed below:

· Parents are invited to attend an 'Induction Meeting' at school to meet SLT and the teaching staff.
· Foundation Stage staff visit homes and pre-school settings if applicable to meet the children, their parents and their Key Workers.
Children and parents are invited to 'Stay and Play' times in school. This will be an opportunity for you and your child to explore Nursery and meet the staff.
· Children and parents attend a 'Welcome Induction session' at the start of the academic year.
· Our induction policy is flexible and therefore we can adapt our policy if needed to meet the needs of the children and families.

About Our Nursery

Home Visits

Home Visits: Before children start at Nursery, two members of staff will make a visit to your home to meet you and your child. Visiting you at home is a good idea because it is a place where you and your child feel comfortable and relaxed. When you welcome us into your home, your child sees us as friends. Children need to see that the people who are going to be caring for them are friendly and trusted by you.

What do we do when we visit you?

We come to chat about your child and answer any questions that you may have about them starting Nursery. We like to find out as much information about your child and can help you fill in any forms that we need for our records. Usually, the visit lasts about half an hour. We will bring a few toys and books for your child to look at and play with. In this way, they become interested in talking about what they could play with when they come to Nursery.

About Our Nursery

What they learn!

In Nursery, we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum which promotes learning through play, exploration and discovery. The EYFS framework sets out the learning and development stages for children as they grow from birth to five. Your child will participate in lots of hands on, practical activities which stimulate and inspire them. They may not always have a 'piece of work' to show for their efforts however, they are encouraged to share their experiences of the day with you when they get home. Play is a vital part of young children's learning and learning through play is an ongoing process throughout the Foundation Stage; it's a journey that builds on what children know and can do. The staff in Nursery will support your child's play by playing alongside them and modelling playful learning which will extend their communication and social skills. Opportunities for playful learning are available inside and outside every day.

The EYFS is a very important stage as it helps your child get ready for school as well as preparing them for their future learning and successes. We endeavour to help all our children to have a happy, active, fun and nurturing experience which will support their development, care and learning needs.

Children's learning is documented in 'Floor Books'. These Floor Books will evidence the progress and achievements of the children. They will include observations written about your child during free play learning time; photographs to show the process of their learning which has taken place; and "work" which your child has produced. These learning journeys will be shared termly at Parents' Evenings. The staff will update the assessment information each term for your child and will highlight the next steps in learning for your child to work on at home and school.

About Our Reception

Reception Organisation

We have three Reception classes, and each class will have 30 children. The classrooms are set up with a range of learning areas for the children to play and work in. These areas are planned and resourced with a range of challenging and open ended resources for the children to choose from during their free learning time or 'free play'. The teachers and support staff plan learning opportunities which build on childrens' prior knowledge, also taking into account their interests and preferred learning styles. The school day has an equal balance of adult led and child led playful learning time.

Lunches in Reception

All Reception children are entitled to a Free School Meal at lunch times. Our school meals are provided by Dolce and are ordered online by parents. Children may bring a packed lunch. Each day, the children will have a snack time where they will be given a piece of fruit. Milk is also available at this time, should you wish your child to have it. Children under the age of five receive free milk however, you can pay for your child to have milk over the age of five years. Parents can register on the Cool Milk website for their child to have milk in school. All children will need to have a water bottle in school. Water is available throughout the day for children.

Reception Times

Doors open: 8.45 am
Lunchtime: 11.30 am
Afternoon session starts: 12.30 pm
School finishes: 3.20 pm

About Our Reception

Induction Procedure

As soon as the local authority has allocated the children for Reception, we will contact your child's preschool or nursery, and will arrange a time to go and visit your child in their setting. Historically we have children from a wide range of nursery and preschool settings, sometimes from over 20 different nurseries. After we have met all of the 90 children we will then organise the three classes.

Parents and children will then be invited to spend some time with their new teacher in their classroom while the parents are invited to the hall for the parent's briefing, this is where you will find out everything you need to know for starting school in September.

Parents will then be invited to attend a 'stay and play' session in September time, lasting approximately one hour. This "stay and play" visit is an opportunity for you and your child to meet the class teacher and explore the classroom environment together. The transition visit is very important as it enables your child to explore their new classroom with the comfort and security of parents being present.

Curriculum

EYFS Curriculum

Play and talk are the centre of our Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. Children have access to a wide range of playful activities that are carefully planned to help children develop and grow. They learn to share and play co-operatively with other children. Staff will join in children's play to help them to develop knowledge, skills, understanding and independence.

Children are constantly encouraged and given the opportunity to talk, listen, observe and become involved. Children's play and work are valued, discussed and displayed in the classrooms. Children are taught to be strong and independent through positive relationships. Children take part in playing, exploring and active learning in an environment that allows them to develop into independent learners.

The 'Characteristics of Effective Learning' support the development of young children and show how children are learning within the indoor and outdoor learning areas.

The ways in which the child engages with other people and their environment – playing and exploring, active learning, and creating and thinking critically – underpin learning and development across all areas and support the child to remain an effective and motivated learner.

Children's learning is documented in their individual English and Maths books as well as class 'Floor Books'. These books evidence the progress and achievements the children make during their time in Reception. They will include observations written about your child during free play learning time; photographs to show the process of their learning which has taken place; and "work" which your child has produced. These books will be shared termly with you at Parents' Evenings. The staff will update the assessment information each term for your child and will highlight the next steps in learning for your child to work on at home and school.

In Reception, the school day is divided into adult-led and child-led sessions. As children grow older, and as their development allows, the balance gradually shifts towards more adult-led activities to help children prepare for more formal learning, ready for Year One. Adult-led sessions are planned in an engaging, playful and sometimes active way which supports and develops each child's 'Characteristics of Effective Learning'. Sessions such as Handwriting, Jigsaw, Phonics, Maths and Story time are all adult-led sessions. At the end of the EYFS, staff complete the EYFS profile for each child. Children are assessed against the 17 Early Learning Goals, indicating whether they are;

· Expected – meeting the Early Learning Goals levels
· Emerging – not yet working at the expected level.

What your child needs

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A book bag

A Park Hall Infant Academy book bag will be provided to Reception children at their Induction session in July.

Named clothing

We encourage that all clothing is named.
They also need a named coat – we do still go outsdide even when it's cold or drizzly.
A named hat for sunny days.

A water bottle

Children should bring in a bottle every day and it only contain water (no juice). It also needs to be named.
It should have a sealed lid so if it is knocked over, it won't spill.

Milk and fruit

You DO NOT need to send your child in with a snack– they will be provided with a piece of fruit daily.
If you would like your child to have milk, children under 5 are eligible for a free carton daily through the 'Cool Milk' scheme. 5 and overs can still have milk but will need to pay for it.

Cool Milk
www.coolmilk.com

Special Educational Needs and Disability

Our school policy for Special Education Needs (SEN) has been produced in line with the Code of Practice and is available on our school website.

Children who have SEN have full access to the curriculum. Their learning may be modified according to their individual requirements. Work is prepared to meet the ability needs of each pupil.

The school has an Inclusion/SEND Lead (Mrs Dickson) who supports and advises class teachers, organises special provision when applicable and arranges meetings for parents with members of the SEN Advisory Team or any other agencies. Children with SEN are very welcome in school and parents are encouraged to take an active part in their progress.

Admission Dates 2027

If your child is starting Primary School (Reception) in September 2027, the application portal opens in Autumn 2026, with a national closing date of Friday 15th January 2027 (for children born between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023).

For further information, please visit:
https://tinyurl.com/txjfbyvj

Treehouse

Children in Reception can attend our Before and After School Club called Treehouse from 7:45am until the start of the school day and from the end of the school day until 5:15pm.

For further information, please visit:
https://tinyurl.com/42ba5fbh

Key Information

Term Dates (2026-27)

Autumn term 2026

- Term starts: Tuesday 1 September 2026
- Half term holiday: Monday 26 October 2026 to Friday 30 October 2026
- Term ends: Friday 18 December 2026

Spring term 2027

- Term starts: Monday 4 January 2027
- Half term holiday: Monday 15 February 2027 to Friday 19 February 2027
- Term ends: Thursday 25 March 2027

Summer term 2027

- Term starts: Monday 12 April 2027
- Half term holiday: Monday 31 May 2027 to Friday 4 June 2027
- Term ends: Wednesday 21 July 2027

Teacher Training Days: Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September 2026
Friday 13th November 2026, Friday 18th June 2027 and Wednesday 21st July 2027

Data

The GLD (Good Level of Development) is the level of progress children are expected to have attained by the end of their Reception year.

Here is recent data, showing that PHIA is consistently well above Walsall scores.

Year	PHIA	Walsall	National
2026	90%	70.6%	72.3%
2025	78%	67%	68%
2024	82%	66%	67%

Our Staff

Leadership Team

Executive Head – Ms Bracebridge
Head of School & DSL – Mrs Hand
Chief Finance Officer – Mr Potter
Inclusion Lead and SEND – Mrs Dickson

Finance & Admistrative Team

Executive Office Manager – Mrs Somerfield
Finance Officers – Mrs Battisson and Mrs Lowe
Senior Admin Assistant – Mrs Dhaliwal
Administrative Assistants – Mrs Langdell

Phase Leaders

EYFS Leader – Mrs Birtles
KS1 Leader – Mrs Wilson

Thank You

We look forward to seeing you and your child soon!

Contact Information

01922 721443

https://www.parkhall-inf.walsall.sch.uk/

postbox@parkhall-inf.walsall.sch.uk

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