Early Years at Badger Hill

Your guide to starting school

Badger Hill
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Pathfinder
Multi Academy Trust

Together we will grow

Badger Hill

We are delighted that you have chosen Badger Hill and look forward to getting to know you and your child over the next few years.

Badger Hill is a modern, airy school which we moved in to in September 2019. We have spacious classrooms, well-resourced library, a sensory nurture room and fantastic large hall.

We are a diverse and vibrant school who's key aim is to offer the best education as possible for all those that attend our school. As part of the school's commitment, we will offer every child a happy, safe and stimulating environment where they will be nurtured, valued and encouraged to reach their full potential.

We believe in a positive mind set approach to all we do and the 'power of yet' is very important to us and embodies our school value of believe. Working closely with governors, staff and parents, we strive to ensure that all children learn through a creative and exciting curriculum with our mission statement '**together we will grow**'.

Our school values;

Children's needs are central to all we do and we stand at the heart of the community. We offer a child-centred approach to learning for all at Badger Hill helping them to be driven by ambition. We have no ceiling on our achievements, we aim high.

We offer everyone exciting opportunities to learn through a vibrant curriculum, stimulating learning environments and positive learning behaviours. We love to learn at Badger Hill.

We are proud of Badger Hill and all our school has to offer. We embrace our uniqueness and celebrate Badger Hill at every opportunity. As part of Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust we thrive and grow amongst our family of schools - sharing and learning from good practice across the Trust.

Children begin school with different life experiences. Whatever experiences your child has had, we will work with them to ensure that their time at Badger Hill is happy and memorable.

Welcome to Badger Hill School!

The environment has been carefully modelled to enable independence, offer opportunities for developing every area of learning, and above all else, to be warm and inviting for the children! Our staff are skilled and passionate Early Years practitioners, but they are also great listeners, parents themselves and very approachable!

We understand that your little people needs lots of love, encouragement and opportunities, and in partnership with you, we can provide this to give them the very best start!

Hello, I'm Mrs Whititngham the head teacher at Badger Hill. I live in Newton on Ouse with my family and enjoy walking and gardening! I'm very proud to work at Badger Hill and cannot wait to see you start your learning journey with us! My favourite books are the Harry Potter Novels.

Hello, I am Mrs McEvoy and I will be your Reception class teacher. I am also the Deputy Head Teacher at Badger Hill. I live in York with my two young children and we enjoy spending days in the woods, seaside and at the farms. I really enjoy reading and my favourite book is 'The Lion inside' by Rachel Bright.

Hi everyone! My name is Mrs Harland and I will be your teacher on a Thursday and a Friday. I cannot wait to get started and meet you all! I live in Pocklington with my two boys and I have worked at Badger Hill for 7 years. I love drama and acting out stories; my favourite children's author is Anthony Browne.

Hello! I'm Miss Nicholls and I will be your reception teaching Assistant and I also work at the schools Breakfast and After School club. I'm so excited to meet you all and like to have lots of fun! I enjoy crafting, spending time with my family and baking. My favourite author is Julia Donaldson.

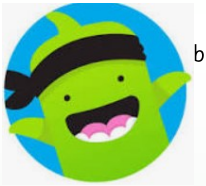
Hello, I am Mrs Goddard. I am the SENDCO and Pastoral lead in school. I am here to talk, if your child has any extra needs or if you need extra support. I teach in Year 6, so I love the opportunity to watch the reception grow,. I have been at Badger Hill for 13 years. I love reading and enjoy walking!

Starting school - the big day!

We are very excited to see you on your first day but you will have been to visit us already and we will have been to visit you. All children have a named peg for their coats and a dedicated space for lunch boxes. Lunch time is from 12.00 noon to 1.00pm when you will eat your lunch and have time to play outside with your friends.

What you need on the first day of school.

- A named bag with a spare set of clothes
- Nappies and wipes (if needed)
- Wellie boots which can stay in school
- Packed lunch (if needed)
- Coat and gloves
- Suncream and hat (in hot weather)
- Waterproof top and trousers in a named bag which will stay in school.



- Named water bottle

Communication

When your child begins school we will communicate with you in lots of ways...

- Tapestry ; We will share your child's wow moments with you.
- Class dojos ; Daily/weekly interaction of what your child and the class are doing and any key messages for the day.
- Twitter ; We will share whole school updates on here.
- Website; You can access key information about our school, policies, training days etc. https://badgerhillprimaryschool.co.uk

Badger Hill Handy Hints

Milk	Every day, and a great source of protein and calcium. Milk is free of charge for the under 5's - please complete the enclosed leaflet or register online with Cool Milk. https://www.coolmilk.com/
Fruit	1 of your 5 a day which we have available daily.
Lunchtime	Your child has a daily choice of packed lunch or school meal. Menus are available from the school office and your child will bring one home three times per year. School meals are free of charge to all Early Years and Key Stage 1 children.
Medicine	Medicine cannot be given to children unless prescribed by a doctor. In this instance it will need to be registered with our school office where it can be safely stored.

Our setting welcomes all individuals! We are fully accessible for both children and adults.

We have a qualified SENCO (Special Needs Co-ordinator) in our school and are able to support all children in our setting.

We are happy to discuss with you any additional needs or facilities you or your child may need, and offer support or guidance where appropriate.

Modern families lead busy lives, and depending on our circumstances, many of us are not always able to drop off our children at the start of the school day or collect them when school finishes.

Badgers After School Club

For those families who wish to access extended care facilities, at Badger Hill, we offer a breakfast club every morning from 8.00am in school. Children have the opportunity to enjoy a tasty breakfast before taking part in a number of activities before the school day begins. In addition, we provide an after school club facility on site which runs from 3.15pm until 6.00pm.

The clubs are well organised and fun and competitive rates are offered to all our pupils. Please contact us for more information.

“Our son has loved his first year at Badger Hill, he has grown physically and blossomed into a well-rounded, happy young person.”

Readiness for school

What your child may be able to do when starting school:

- Play well with their friends in a group, sort small disagreements without needing an adult e.g. who has the red train.
- Say what they are good at and what they need help with.
- Solve problems by talking rather than getting upset e.g. when someone has taken their toy.
- Can listen and do something at the same time.
- Understand instructions with two parts e.g. take this bowl to daddy and ask him for two eggs.
- Introduce a story into their play.
- Jump off something and land safely.
- Play running and chasing games with other children without bumping into anything.
- Can roll, throw, catch and kick a ball.
- Use one hand more than the other for doing things e.g. when drawing, writing or picking things up.
- Hold a pencil and can write some letters e.g. b or f.
- Usually clean and dry during the day.
- Use some tools safely without an adult e.g. scissors.

You can get your child ready for school by helping them to:

- Use the toilet independently as wash their own hands.
- Recognise their own name.
- Count up or down the stairs.
- Sing a favourite nursery rhyme.
- Talk about something they like or don’t like.
- Be able to take off their coat and put on shoes.
- Talk in sentences.
- Open and enjoy a book.
- Understand the word ‘stop’ and that it might be used to keep them safe.

How we learn in Early Years

We know that children learn best if they feel safe, valued and special. For us each child in our care is unique; we want them to have the confidence and independence to follow their own fascinations and learn in a way which allows them to become totally absorbed in their purposeful play. We know from countless child development studies that children need sustained periods of time to explore and develop their ideas fully and that is why we have long uninterrupted periods of purposeful play both in the morning and afternoon.

Our learning environment has been very carefully planned to ensure there are multiple possibilities for challenge, creativity and investigation in each area of provision. We are passionate about quality outdoor learning and children have access to our wonderful Early Years outdoor area throughout the day.

The adults in Early Years are skilled practitioners who have a deep understanding of child development and how children learn best. We interact with children when they are at their most receptive - when engaged in their chosen play! We teach in a way which is completely tailored to the needs of the child; modelling language, asking key questions, making suggestions to add challenge and interest and enjoying the experience of playing together. We do have teaching inputs during the day such as phonics and maths where we introduce new skills but it is then through play that we then support the children in practising and honing these skills further.

Collaboration between home and school is essential in making your child's first year a successful one. We have an open door policy and are happy to answer any of your questions, even if they feel small! Together we help your child to settle and thrive at school, make friendships, develop independence, learn to read and write and so much more!

Characteristics of Effective Learning

ENGAGEMENT	**Playing and exploring** • Finding out and exploring • Playing with what they know • Being willing to 'have a go'
MOTIVATION	**Active learning** • Being involved and concentrating • Keep trying • Enjoying achieving what they set out to do
THINKING	**Creating and thinking critically** • Having their own ideas • Making links • Choosing ways to do things

“All the teaching staff in reception have given my son along with countless others the best possible start to their education.”

Other information

Unfortunately, there is no parent parking on site and limited parking in the surrounding streets, therefore we encourage parents to either walk to school or to park safely and considerately.

Useful contact numbers

Main school number: **01904 806480**

Breakfast Club when open: **01904 806478**

After School Club: **01904 806478**

Follow us on Twitter
@BadgerHillYork

Breakfast and after school club will be booked through an online system. More information will follow around this ,as it is a new system. There is open availability for whoever needs it.

How to apply - admissions

Children who have their fifth birthday between 1 September and 31 August may join the Reception class in the September of that year, although they are not legally required to start school until the term after their fifth birthday. You can find the current version of our admissions policy on our website: **www.badgerhillprimaryschool.co.uk** or please contact the school to receive a printed copy.

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