

Monkleigh Foundation Unit



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Welcome to the Monkleigh Family

Welcome to our Foundation unit at Monkleigh Primary. We are a small unit catering for children from 2 to 5 years of age. We have a maximum capacity of 30 children per day.

We pride ourselves in providing a very nurturing and supportive environment and developing and celebrating each child's unique interests and abilities.

We are very passionate about working with children and their families and cannot wait to develop a positive partnership with your family. We have an open-door policy. Our friendly staff are always approachable and accessible if you need to speak to them.

We have two classes of children. Our Butterflies are our Reception aged children who attend school full time. Our Caterpillars are our Nursery aged children who attend for selected sessions during the week.

Our Fantastic Team



Mrs Emptage

(Class Teacher)

Key worker for Butterflies

BEd Hons Primary (Science)
with QTS

21 years' experience teaching
Reception through to Year 6



Mrs Hinchcliffe

(Class Teacher)

Key worker for Butterflies
BA Hons in Early Years and
Education with QTS

21 years' experience teaching
Reception through to Year 3



Mrs Kingdon

Early Years SEN TA

School well-being practitioner

Level 3 diploma in Early Years

Level 3 safeguarding officer

20 years of experience



Mrs Baker

(Caterpillars leader)

Key worker for caterpillars

Level 6 BA Hons foundation
degree in Early childhood
studies.

11 years of experience

Level 3 safeguarding officer.



Nikki (Caterpillar assistant)

Key worker for Caterpillars

Level 3 diploma in Early years.

18 years of experience

All staff at the Foundation Stage Unit at Monkleigh hold a First Aid qualification, this includes epi pen training. We have experience in providing care for children with severe allergies and will confidently ensure we are meeting the needs of all of the children in our care.

Our Ethos

We are committed to developing the 'Whole Unique Child' through a challenging, engaging and inspiring and ambitious curriculum and environment.

We play, learn and form positive relationships alongside the children. It is essential that we provide the children with excellent learning role models. Developing, supporting and encouraging children to ensure that they are strong, independent, confident and immersed in their learning drives us.

Communication and Language is a real priority for all of the children in our setting. During every experience, interaction and conversation we introduce and develop challenging vocabulary and develop and foster a love for language, books, stories, songs and rhymes.

We use each child's next steps to shape learning experiences and to challenge and extend their thinking. We listen to what the children want to learn and provide experiences and opportunities for this. It is our number one goal that our children feel safe and valued as this will enable them to become confident and curious learners. It is our intent that the children who enter our EYFS develop physically, verbally, cognitively and emotionally whilst embedding a positive attitude to school and learning. We believe that all children deserve to be valued as an individual and we are passionate in supporting all children to develop their resilience, capabilities, confidence and self-esteem to enable them to achieve their full, unique potential.

At Monkleigh Primary School, we strongly believe that the beginning of our children's educational journey ignites the flame for learning and is imperative in "transforming lives, transforming communities".

Parent feedback

"My Child has loved the FSU right from her very first day. She has settled really well and made lots of new friends. The staff are friendly, helpful and communication is great. I enjoy seeing photos of all the children's different activities that they have been doing. My child's learning is coming along brilliantly and I am confident that her individual needs are being supported" (November 2020)

"My little boy is a new child since starting at Monkleigh, he runs in without even saying goodbye. It is amazing! Communication is great and all staff do their very best to make sure my child's needs are met." (November 2020)

"Our children have been attending Monkleigh Primary school over 14 years. Since the opening of the preschool in 2013 which has gone from strength to strength, I have the knowledge that my children are safe and well cared for. The members of staff are always friendly and happy and make the children feel special. I think the merging of the preschool and class R is a great idea and use of resources. It has taken away a lot of stress of my youngest starting school full time for him and myself." (November 2020)

'Monkleigh FSU is so wonderful. Our daughter has been attending for a year now and her development within that time has been incredible. The nursery really focuses on all the senses and she often has experiences at school we simply couldn't do at home. Planting and gardening, cookery, exploring, P.E., den-building and sand and so much more! They manage to make learning so much fun and each topic has well thought-through activities that she absolutely loves. Even throughout Covid, the pre school have been brilliant with all communication and guidance in ensuring we as parents are fully informed. Regular updates and informal meetings, including reports have been unexpected but so appreciated. Our daughter loves all her friends, being outside so much, and of course, the amazing staff that make it all possible. Nothing is too much trouble and the environment is simply magical! I'd highly recommend Monkleigh FSU' (June 2021)

My son used to be absolutely terrified of other children so I was really apprehensive about him starting nursery, but all of his teachers have done such a wonderful job helping him to settle in and he loves it! The whole school has such a lovely family feel to it and the teachers are all so amazing at ensuring every child's needs are met. We're so grateful to have found Monkleigh and can't recommend them enough. Thank you! 🍷 (June 2021)

My little girl started at the FSU in September 2020. I was so nervous as she was very shy. She absolutely LOVES going to nursery and has really started to come out of her shell and her confidence has grown so much with the support and nurture of the lovely ladies at the nursery who are all so great with the children. (June 2021)

I would really recommend the FSU, it has a lovely feel - just like one big family which is just what I wanted for my little girl starting her school journey 😊 (June 2021)

Fantastic school, x loves it and the staff have been very helpful and supportive. Would definitely recommend! (June 2021)

The Curriculum

We have a strong and ambitious curriculum based on curriculum goals for all areas of learning. Our curriculum clearly outlines what we want the children to know and do by the end of their Nursery and Reception year. It is progressive and builds carefully on prior learning. This enables the children to make links between their learning and to build on their prior knowledge and understanding. Our curriculum is ambitious and carefully planned with the next step to Year 1 in mind. This ensures our children's readiness for starting in Year 1.

Please refer to the Monkleigh FSU Curriculum Goals for Nursery and Reception on our FSU Page on the School Website. Our early years setting follows the curriculum as outlined in the latest version of the EYFS statutory framework that applies from September 2021.

The EYFS framework includes 7 areas of learning and development that are equally important and inter-connected. However, 3 areas known as the prime areas are seen as particularly important for igniting curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building children's capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

The prime areas are:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development

The prime areas are strengthened and applied through 4 specific areas:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

Delivering the Curriculum

Children in our setting will experience whole group, small group and individual teaching.

Each area of learning and development is implemented through planned, purposeful play, and through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activities. Staff respond to each child's emerging needs and interests, guiding their development through warm, positive interaction.

Staff play and learn alongside the children. They provide the children with excellent learning role models. Developing, supporting and encouraging to ensure that they are confident and engaged in their learning drives everyone in the unit. Staff use each child's next steps to shape learning experiences and to challenge and extend their thinking. Staff listen to what the children want to learn and provide experiences and opportunities for this. The number one goal that our children feel safe and valued as this will enable them to become confident and curious learners.

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 1.

For more information regarding the curriculum, this please read the 'What to expect when a parent's guide to the EYFS' which can be found on the Devon.gov.uk website.

Characteristics of effective learning

This is a key element to the Foundation Stage for our provision and finding and providing ways in which our children learn best. The three areas for this are:

- **Active learning-** The way children engage with their activity. Are they persistent? Are they evaluating and problem solving their ideas? Are they concentrating?
- **Playing and exploring-** This is about the way children take control of their learning, are they willing to have a go? What activities are they drawn to? What materials and resources do they access to extend their learning.
- **Creating and thinking critically-** This is focused on the way a child chooses to do things and the way they solve problems and put their ideas to the test.

This is all considered within the provision we provide for all of our children.

Our planning

Our planning is based around children's interests whilst skilfully linking this with our ambitious and challenging curriculum. We strongly promote a child's confidence and independence to engage in their own activities to enable them to learn through their play. Our provision is set up to encourage exploration and provide challenge for all of our little learners. Our topic webs outline the main learning for the Nursery and Reception children. We then create a half termly overview which includes our words of the week and the key texts that we will be reading - this is all available on the website.

Read Write Inc Programme

We use Read Write Inc to teach phonics and reading literacy. It is a literacy programme which helps all children learn to read fluently and at speed so they can focus on developing their skills in comprehension, vocabulary and spelling. When the children are in nursery, they focus on listening skills and discriminating sounds and songs and stories. In the summer term they will begin to follow the RWI programme.



A Typical day for the Butterflies and Caterpillars

	Caterpillars	Butterflies
9:00	Yoga/Wake and Shake Register and Days of the Week Song	
9:05 - 10:00	Early Language and Phonics Activities and Explore and Learn	Read Write Inc
10:00 - 10:10	Snack and Curriculum Input	
10:10 - 11:20	Explore and Learn in the Continuous Provision (Indoors and Outdoors) Challenge Activities,	
11:20 - 11:30	Collect and Return tidy time	
11:30 - 11:45	Song time/Song of the Week/handwashing	Review of Learning/Seesaw/Song of the Week
11:45 - 12:00	Whole FSU get together for stories, songs and Fred Games (Home time for some caterpillars)	
12:00 - 1:00	Lunchtime in FSU	
1:00 - 1:30	Maths	Maths
1:30 - 2:45	Continuous Provision (Indoors and Outdoors, Music, PE, busy fingers, Forest School)	
2:45 - 3:00	Collect and Return	
3:00 - 3:30	Home time at 3pm	Story and Home time at 3:30

Children who are two years old normally attend two dedicated sessions a week. These take place on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Their mornings start with a settle, story and sensory activities in their dedicated space before integrating into the FSU provision over the course of the morning.

All children have their main PE lesson on a Monday and can come to school in their PE kit on this day. Children in Butterflies and Older Caterpillars have outdoor learning on a Thursday. Children in Butterflies attend whole school assembly on a Friday afternoon.

A fruit Snack is provided by the school and we welcome parents' kind donations of fruit.

Parent involvement

We are very passionate about working within a partnership with our parents. We want you to be involved with your child's learning as this is the best way for a child to thrive.

We have different members of staff in place to be your child's key worker. The role of a key worker is to be the main practitioner responsible for meeting your child's emotional needs and working closely with you to help aid their development. Communication in the first instance will be to your child's key worker however all staff are always on hand to talk to you and help you with any questions. All of our staff are warm, approachable and friendly and are happy to discuss any queries or questions you have regarding our provision or your child.

We provide a range of parent meetings - for information about learning and supporting your child's learning and open afternoons, in addition to the more formal Parent's Evenings.

Friends of Monkleigh School (FOMS)

Every parent or carer of a child at Monkleigh School is automatically a Friend of Monkleigh School. FOMS are a hard-working team who fundraise throughout the year to provide excellent resources and experiences for all of the children at Monkleigh. Please visit their page Friends of Monkleigh School on Facebook to become a member of the group.

Class Dojo

We use the Class Dojo app. This is a school communication platform that teachers, students and families have access to, to build a close-knit partnership by sharing what is happening at home and in the provision by sharing videos, photos and messages. This is a great way for parents to see what their child is learning about through play. Please refer to the information guide - Caterpillar profiles are created on here.

SeeSaw

In Reception the children and teachers use Seesaw to record their learning through photos, text, uploaded documents and videos and comments. Parents have access to Seesaw and are regularly notified of new learning. Parents can feed in their comments and views via Seesaw. Parents will be given an invitation to this secure APP early in the new school year.

Supporting SEN and Disabled children

We are fully committed to providing inclusive care here at Monkleigh. We have disabled access to most of the school and run several inclusion programmes to support a child's individual learning to ensure we are able to cater for their needs.

Admissions for Caterpillars:

We take children from 2 years old. Children who start at the age of two will attend our designated two year old mornings which are on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Children who start Nursery as a 'Rising 3' - starting the term before they turn three can attend for full days or half days. Children who have attended as two year olds can increase their sessions from the beginning of the term that they turn three. It is our policy that all children attend at least 2 sessions per week over different days to ensure a successful and positive settling in experience.

Please see our Admissions Policy for further information.

If parents want to buy additional hours on top of the 15 funded hours or the extended entitlement, they can do this during any of our opening times. We sell 3-hour/6 hour long sessions at a normal hourly rate of £4.25 (3 year old - from the start of the term following their 3rd birthday) & £5.25 (2 year olds & 3 year olds during the term in which they have their 3rd birthday).

*Rate increase from 01/09/2023 - sessions will be charged at EY funding rates:
£4.56 (from start of term following 3rd birthday)
£5.34 (2yo & 3yo the term in which they have their 3rd birthday)*

Although lots of our children in our Nursery Class move into our Reception Class, Children attending our Nursery Class at Monkleigh do not automatically qualify to attend the Reception Class. Admissions to Reception Classes are handled by Devon County Council Admissions and are based on a separate policy. We always warmly welcome applications to our Reception Class and visits to come and see our FSU.

Admissions for Butterflies

All children who would like to attend Monkleigh Primary School for their Reception year (Butterflies) need to apply via Devon Admissions - even if they have been attending the unit as a Caterpillar.

Details for how to apply, including online login information will be sent to you in the November before your child is due to start full time school. Applications need to be submitted before 15th January of the year that your child will start full time school. Please refer to **The Step by Step Guide to Normal School Admissions** published by Devon County Council.

Parentmail:

Parentmail is an app which connects schools and parents efficiently and reliably using modern technology. The Parentmail app is used for sharing information, invoices and ordering school dinners. Any additional charges will be sent to parents via the Parentmail app. Invoices **must be paid in advance of each half term.**

Caterpillars are welcome to have a school dinner at a charge of £2.40 All of our delicious school dinners are freshly cooked on site.

We run two sessions each day these are:

09:00-12:00

09:00-15:00

We do offer a breakfast club service from 8.00am Monday-Friday

There is also an after-school provision which runs:

15:00-16:30 Monday to Thursday (15:00-15:30 Friday)

This provision is available to children who are three years and older and are toilet trained.

Settling in

We offer settling in stay and play visits the term before a child is due to start with us. In addition to the stay and play session there will also be an information meeting for parents. We can be flexible with catering for your child's settling in needs and will work with you to find the best way for this to happen. We want every child's time at Monkleigh to be happy and positive.

School Uniform

School uniform for Caterpillars is optional but can be purchased from School Threads <https://schoolthreads.org/>

The colour uniform for Caterpillars is red, the Butterflies are green.

We have a preloved stall full of high-quality uniform available at the end of the Summer Term for the final two weeks.

Caterpillars



Butterflies



What to bring

All children within our unit require the following things every day:

- Drinks bottle
- Waterproof clothing
- Wellington boots
- Changes of clothing
- Weather appropriate clothing and accessories
- Book bag - a green book bag for Caterpillars and Butterflies as this can then be used throughout the school - Please make sure that Caterpillars have a book bag.
- PE kit

We are very hands on with our learning and will be outside no matter the weather. Different weather brings new and exciting learning opportunities.

Please make sure all belongings are named

Attendance

Sessions are booked on a half termly basis; any changes in hours can only be made at the start of a new half term.

Missed sessions for Caterpillars will still be charged if parents are paying unless we are provided with 4 weeks written notice. Any time off from the school must ask for the Head teacher's permission in advance.

Payments must be made in advance. Failure to pay fees may result in your child's sessions being withdrawn.

Parents must notify the school if there are any change in their circumstances, particularly if this will affect funding or your child's attendance in any way.

Parents must inform the school office directly if their child is unable to attend their session by 8.30am of that day.

Collection

We will only let children be collected by those we know and have been told about prior to pick up, parents must give written consent. We will hold children with us until we have spoken to parents if the above has not occurred.

If a parent fails to collect a child, the following procedure will be followed:

1. Supervising adult to wait with the child for ten minutes.
2. Make telephone calls to all contacts for the child to ask someone to arrange collection.
3. After 30 mins contact Social Services to inform them that a child has not been collected from school.

Change of details:

Parents/carers are required to inform school immediately if any information given on the enrolment form changes. This includes a change of address, contact number, GP and importantly update of emergency contacts and who you authorise to collect your child.

Medical:

Parents are requested to inform the school of any food allergies or medical conditions. Parents must provide written details of the condition/severity and must continue to keep the school up to date of any changes of the allergy or condition. A health plan may need to be put in place for your child to attend. We also ask parents to provide school with copies of any medical correspondence or appointments.

Immediately inform preschool if your child is suffering from any contagious disease. For the benefit of the other children in preschool, you must NOT allow your child to attend.

We do have a 'Am I well enough for school?' guideline which we request parents to follow to ensure the children are happy and healthy to learn.

If your child has been prescribed any antibiotics we ask them NOT to return to school 24 hours from commencement of their first dose in case of a reaction. Medication can then be administered after this period of time by a member of staff once a permission form has been filled out.

Permissions and contact forms:

A number of forms accompany this starter pack. We require all forms to be returned before your child's start date.

Policies

All of our policies can be accessed from our school website.

Procedure for if a child goes missing at school:

1. Alert all adults and provide a detailed description of the child and the last place they were seen. Check all doors and access points to the school are closed and locked.
2. Send adults to check the local area, classrooms, sheds etc.

Contact the police to inform them that there is a child missing.

Ofsted

Ofsted is the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills. They inspect services providing education and skills for learners of all ages. If you believe that you need to contact Ofsted please visit

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted>

Any more questions or queries please email us:

preschool@monkleigh-primary.devon.sch.uk or

admin@monkleigh-primary.devon.sch.uk

Or to speak to one of us please call: 01805 623269