



GRANTHAM PREP
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
UNITED KINGDOM

Starting School

**A guide for parents with children starting
at
Grantham
Preparatory International School
2025-2026**



GRANTHAM PREP INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

UNITED KINGDOM



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Term Dates 2025- 2026

Autumn Term 2025: Wednesday 3rd September – Friday 12th December 2025

Half Term: Monday 20th October – Friday 31st October 2025

Spring Term 2026: Tuesday 6th January – Thursday 2nd April 2026

Half Term: Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February 2026

Summer Term 2026: Monday 20th April – Friday 17th July 2026

Half Term: Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May 2026

May Day: Monday 4th May 2026

WELCOME TO THE EYFS UNIT

**The EYFS team next year will be:
Mrs Ives, Mrs Atkins and Mrs Whinney**

In the Foundation Stage we aim to work very closely with parents to ensure that each child becomes a confident and self-assured learner. We provide an environment that supports and develops the children's learning. We offer a range of stimulating learning activities and experiences both indoors and outdoors to help them develop many new skills.



The Foundation Stage Curriculum

Our Vision

We believe that every child is an important unique individual who should be valued and nurtured during their time with us. We aim to provide every child with the skills to become a happy, independent and curious lifelong learner. Our priority is that our EYFS provision provides a high level of engagement and active learning through a range of skill based activities. At The Grantham Prep International School, we strive to meet every child's entitlement to develop a love of learning that will enable them to have the best possible future life chances.

Key Requirements

"Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child's experiences between birth and age five have a major impact on their future life chances. A secure,

safe and happy childhood is so important. Good parenting and high quality early learning together provide the foundation children need to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets the standards that all Early Years providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children's 'school readiness' and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life." 2024 EYFS Statutory Framework

The EYFS principles which guide the work of all practitioners are grouped into four main themes:

A unique child – every child is a unique child who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.

Positive relationships – children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.

Enabling environments – children learn to develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and carers.

Learning and developing – children develop and learn in different ways. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early years' provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Planning Learning:

We plan for play-based, active learning experiences which the children will enjoy. All our activities pay particular attention to how each child will have the opportunity to learn – through playing and exploring, active learning and creating and thinking critically. We want our children to be engaged, motivated critical thinkers who progress well with their learning.





Daily Routines

8.35	Doors open
8.35 - 9.00	Registration and morning activities
9.00-9.30	Assembly
9.30- 10.30	Phonics/Literacy activities in small groups
10.30-10.45	Morning Playtime
10.45-11.00	Snack (milk or water provided) and piece of fresh fruit from home
11.00-12.00	Maths activities in small groups
12.00-12.25	Lunchtime
12.30-1.00	Lunchtime Playtime
1.00	Afternoon Registration
1.00-2.50	Afternoon child and adult-initiated sessions across topic areas
2.50-3.00	Tidy up time
3.00-3.10	Story time
3.10	Home time



Our areas of learning are split into Prime Areas and Specific Areas.

Prime Areas:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development
Physical Development
Communication and Language

Specific Areas:

Literacy
Mathematics
Understanding the World
Expressive Arts and Design

Helping your child to learn:

Many of the following ideas are easy and straight forward and fit into a busy day. They will help your child to develop their imagination, build their enthusiasm for learning and find out about new things.

Encouraging early Mathematics:

Talking with your child about numbers, patterns and shapes will help them to become interested and curious about mathematics.

- Rhymes: Teach your child any number rhymes or songs that you know, particularly ones that involve holding up a number of fingers, like *Five little speckled frogs*.
- Counting: Practise counting. Start at 5, and count on from there to 11. Start at 9, count back from there to zero. Choose a different starting number each time.
- Recognising numbers - Encourage your child to look out for numbers all the time.
at home - *in the kitchen, on pages in a book*
in the street - *on doors, on car number plates, on buses*
whilst out shopping - *on the shop till, on shelves, in shop windows*
- Dice games - Use a 'dotted' dice and play counting on games such as snakes and ladders.
- Cupboard maths - Ask your child to help you sort a food cupboard out, putting heavier items on the lower shelf and lighter items on an upper shelf.

Encouraging Early Reading:

Talking with your child about their everyday world will help them to increase their vocabulary, develop their listening skills and support them in becoming confident speakers.

- Talk about visits or outings you make and collect leaflets and information brochures to look at together.
- Encourage your child to ask about why things happen.
- Read both story and information books to your child, encourage them to ask about words that they might not understand – regular reading stories will really help to develop their imagination and their understanding of new words.
- Read information labels with your child wherever you are – at home, the shops, the library, on the road.
- Join the library and visit regularly to borrow books.
- Play 'I spy'.
- Play rhyming word games



Encouraging early writing skills:

Activities that support developing writing skills include any play activity that will encourage your child to have a go at writing. Their mark making develops into letters, then words. It is also important that children use their fingers and hands to develop their fine motor control which will help their pencil control. These include puzzles, construction toys, dressing dolls, painting, drawing, colouring, art kits, fastening clothes, handling small objects e.g. Lego or Hama beads.

Also important are large body movements that help develop shoulder muscles for writing e.g. climbing frames, ball games, skipping. Finally, your child's core muscles are important – balance games help this.

Helping your child to become more independent:

It will help your child to feel more confident at school if they can be as independent as possible in doing the following:

- Putting on and fastening their coat
- Changing for PE
- Using the toilet and washing and drying their hands afterwards
- Using a knife and fork
- Recognising their own name
- Using a pair of scissors correctly
- Finding their own clothes – this is where naming everything helps.

**Our task, regarding learning, is to help children climb their own mountains, as high as possible. No one can do more.
We love EYFS!**

