

Little Pebbles  
Amble Links First School  
Amble  
Northumberland  
NE65 0SA

[www.amblelinks.northumberland.sch.uk](http://www.amblelinks.northumberland.sch.uk)

[www.facebook.com/linksfs](https://www.facebook.com/linksfs)

Email: [admin@amblelinks.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@amblelinks.northumberland.sch.uk)

Application Forms can be collected from the school  
office or downloaded at: [goo.gl/Z4wjLQ](https://goo.gl/Z4wjLQ)



## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS 2023-2024



## Welcome to Little Pebbles!

'Little Pebbles' at Amble Links First School offers early education provision for 2 year old children, many of whom will be taking their first steps into education with us. We offer 15 (15 hour) places for 2 year olds who will then move on to nursery; that's 15 hours of playing, painting, reading, cooking, climbing, singing, dancing, dressing-up, running around, building, gardening... whatever your child likes doing!

We aim to provide the children with a safe, caring, engaging and stimulating environment where they will have vast opportunities to develop, grow and learn at their own pace whilst developing important social skills.

Our provision will be designed around preparing children for the expectations we have of all children at Amble Links First School in line with the aim of achieving our school's Vision. By providing children with this firm foundation in a school setting from an earlier age, we believe that the children will be better prepared for learning as they join a school nursery. By identifying and addressing potential barriers to children's learning earlier we know that they will have improved chances of being highly successful learners as they grow through the school and on to their next stages of learning.

We will provide an age-appropriate, play-based curriculum that is tailored to meet the individual needs of each child through ongoing assessments, with a focus on the prime areas of learning. We will work in close partnership with parents to provide a safe and stimulating environment in which each child can flourish.

We hope that this booklet will provide all of the necessary information that you need, but we are always on hand to answer your questions in person.

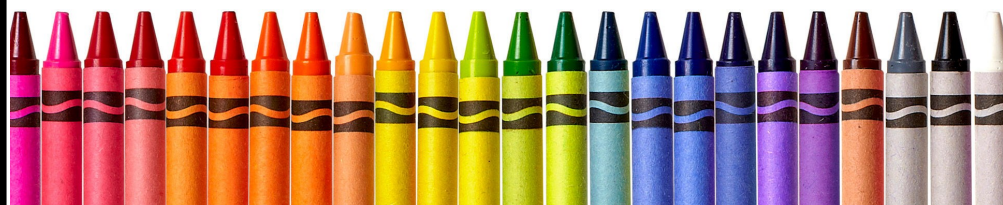
We look forward to meeting and working closely with you and your child.

Paul Heeley – Headteacher

Further information about Amble Links First School can be found at

[www.amblelinks.northumberland.sch.uk](http://www.amblelinks.northumberland.sch.uk)

[www.facebook.com/linksfs](https://www.facebook.com/linksfs)



## Password System for Early Years

We operate a password system for collection of the children. In the welcome pack, forms will be provided which include a list of people who have permission to collect your child, along with a password. If we do not recognise the person who comes to collect your child, they will be asked for their name and for the child's password. If you know that a different person will be collecting your child please ring the school office to inform staff and ensure that they know the correct password. Please do not be offended, this ensures your child's safety.

## School Site Safety

If for any reason your child arrives late to Little Pebbles we ask that bring them to the school office. Smoking (including e-cigarettes and vapourisers) is not permitted anywhere on our school site. Dogs are also NOT permitted on the school premises under any circumstance.

## Car Park Safety

In order to ensure safety only staff, visitors and delivery vehicles are permitted onto the school site at any time between 7.30am and 5.30pm. This reduces risk of collisions. Parents should also note that they have responsibility for children until they are in the school building.

## Toys

We do not encourage children to bring toys into school from home as they can get lost/damaged. If your child has a special toy/comforter which they use to help settle them we ask that this is left in their bag so we can access this if needed.

## Hair and Jewellery

It is helpful if long hair can be tied up as it hard to concentrate with long hair in their eyes and it helps spread head lice. Headlice are unfortunately a common occurrence in most schools. If you spot headlice in your child's hair please treat them immediately and let us know at school. There is not a need to keep children off school once they are treated. For safety reasons we would ask children not to wear jewellery for school.

## Sun Protection

Parents should apply sun cream before school (there are now some long lasting creams available). Please provide a sun hat with your child's name in it.

A regular routine supports the child to feel settled and secure. Unsettled children have higher stress levels which, in turn, prevent them from being able to benefit fully from the learning opportunities available.

At Little Pebbles we strongly encourage good attendance from the outset. Clearly we will make every effort to support good attendance and punctuality. Failure to attend regularly without a justifiable reason may lead to us considering withdrawing your child's place.

### **The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)**

Children in our Little Pebbles Class are part of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) which continues through to our Seahorses Class (Nursery) then onto their reception year in the Turtles Class.

We will work in Partnership with parents to ensure that children are 'ready' for their next educational phase. There are seven areas of learning and development that will shape the educational programmes on offer in 2 year old provision. There is a strong focus on the 'prime areas' as this underpins children's capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. The prime areas are:

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

The children are also supported in four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

### **Outdoor Learning**

This forms a very large part of the Early Years Curriculum. By giving the children the opportunity to explore the great outdoors, we provide them with the freedom to move and find out about the world around them. Please ensure that your child has a waterproof coat in school and suitable footwear at all times. We work outside come rain or shine so expect a little mud!

### **Assessment**

When a child is aged between two and three, the key person will review their progress, and provide parents with a short written summary of their child's development in the prime areas. The progress check will identify the child's strengths, and any areas where their progress is less than expected.

If there are significant concerns, or an identified special educational need or disability, then the progress check will identify any targeted support that is needed. The summary will be shared with the parent and can be used to support learning at home. The 2 year old check may be shared with other relevant professionals, including their health visitor, and any staff of any new provision the child will be attending i.e. Nursery Provision.

The children's attainment and progress is monitored throughout the Early Years in The Little Pebbles, Seahorses and Turtles classes and will be recorded using our Tapestry system.

### **Tapestry**

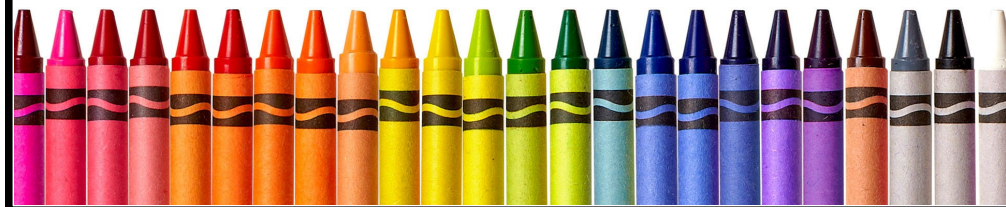
This online learning journal has been hugely successful in our school and ensures that parents and school staff are able to work very closely together. Tapestry enables staff to share your child's learning with you and also allows you to share their home learning and experiences with school through photos, videos and comments. Tapestry can be accessed on most devices. Staff will provide details of how to access and use Tapestry.

### **Accident or Illness**

In the event of a child becoming ill, or having an accident at school, the school will need to contact parents quickly. It is important, therefore that you complete the Admission and Consent form included in your welcome pack in as much detail as possible and return this to us. Please advise us of changes to any contact details as soon as possible.

### **Fruit, Milk and Snacks**

Milk is provided free of charge to all children under 5 years of age. Children will be provided with a drink of still water if they do not like milk. All children will receive a piece of fresh fruit daily as part of the National Fruit Scheme. Please inform school of any allergies, (there is a section on the initial form that includes a space for this information) including food allergies as cooking is an integral part of the Early Years curriculum. Each day we will also provide a small healthy snack such as cheese and crackers, yoghurt or vegetable dippers. Children will be encouraged to sit together during these times to develop social skills.



### **School Uniform**

As a part of Amble Links First School we expect children to wear a school jumper: these are available from the school office at a cost of £8.70 each. We recommend that children also wear elasticated joggers or leggings as these make it much easier for children to use when visiting the toilet! Please don't send your child in their 'best' clothes as although aprons are provided they can sometimes still get paint, glue, mud and water on themselves! We ask that you provide some spare clothing in a bag that we can keep on the child's peg and use if a change of clothing is required. Wellies will be needed for outdoor wet play and a warm coat, hats, gloves and scarf in the colder months. For summer a sun hat will be needed. Please make sure all clothing, bags and footwear are labelled clearly.

### **Toilet Routine**

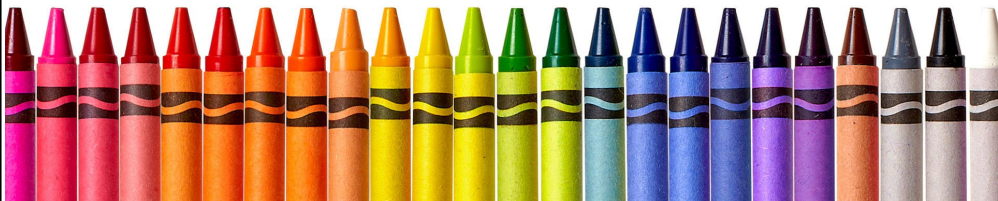
Please dress your child in clothes which they can manage themselves; as detailed above, joggers or leggings are ideal. Whilst we understand a lot of children will be new to toilet training, we will naturally be on hand to help. A change of clothes in their bag will be used in case of 'accidents'. If a child is sent home in spare clothes please wash and return them as our supplies are limited. If your child is still in nappies this is not a problem and we will work in partnership with home when the time is right to toilet train. You are asked to provide nappies and wipes in your child's bag should they require changing during a session.

### **Sleep**

Although sessions are only 3 hours long we are aware some children may need quiet time to relax or sleep. An area is provided for them where we will constantly monitor them. We discourage the use of a dummy when at school as it makes it difficult for the child to communicate verbally. If your child would like to bring a comfort object e.g. a small soft toy it can be kept in their bag on their peg and accessed if required.

### **Session Times**

Our sessions will run from 8.50am until 11.50pm.



### **Key Person**

Each child will be assigned a Key Person. This is the adult in the 2 year old provision who will be the significant adult for you as a parent and for your child. The key person will ensure your child is accessing suitable learning opportunities based on the individual needs, interests and stage of development of each child. The key person will also be the link for the parent for engagement and support, on how to guide the children's development at home. The key person will also complete the 2 year old check for your child.

### **Staff**

Little Pebbles is led by experienced and relevantly qualified practitioners supported by experienced Early Years teachers.

Rebecca Falkous— Little Pebbles Leader

Kath Jones—Key Person

Louise Farmer—Key Person

### **Who's Who**

There are a few key people in the school who you are likely to be working closely with. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any of us with any questions or concerns you may have.

Paul Heeley – Headteacher/Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Louise Cuthbertson – Deputy Headteacher, EYFS Leader, 2<sup>nd</sup> DSL

Debbie Smith - Special Educational Needs/ Disabilities Co-ordinator

Jane Crudace—School Nurse

Ailsa Dellbridge- Office Admin (queries regarding payments/funding etc)

### **Parents as Partners**

At Amble Links we encourage communication between home and school at every opportunity including: online Tapestry system, daily opportunities to speak with staff, the school website and Facebook page and attendance at whole school events.

### **Attendance**

Regular early years attendance is important for all children, even babies, as it is only through regular, consistent routines that children build up the secure attachments they need for healthy development. Research shows that regular part-time attendance from the age of two in a good quality early years setting has a lasting impact on children's social development and intellectual attainment throughout school. Regular attendance has a positive impact on all aspects of a young child's learning and development.