

Welcome to Harbinger
Early Years Foundation
Stage



Dear Parents & Carers,

We are delighted to welcome you to Harbinger Primary School. We hope your association with the school will be a long and enjoyable one.

Our **vision** is to strive for high standards of learning and teaching for our children in a safe and inspiring environment. We work together so that mutual respect and co-operation can flourish and problem-solve to overcome potential barriers. We work in partnership with families and the wider school communities, to ensure individual needs are met.

We aim to create an educational community where all children develop as:

- ❖ successful and reflective learners who have a positive attitude and commitment to learning, make progress and achieve.
- ❖ confident individuals who can live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives, demonstrating resilience, responsibility and resourcefulness.
- ❖ enthusiastic and responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society.

Our **core values** drive our commitment to everybody achieving the best possible outcomes for themselves, engaging with learning, valuing the role we each play and taking pride in our school:

- ❖ **Learning**: An entitlement to relevant and purposeful learning, high expectations and outcomes, widening horizons and raising aspirations.
- ❖ **Well-Being**: An ethos of personal development and emotional intelligence, excellent care and guidance, intrinsic motivation to discover routes to happiness and success.
- ❖ **Togetherness**: An environment founded on equality and inclusion, rights and responsibilities, an awareness of belonging to our immediate and global communities.

As your child starts at Harbinger, the purpose of this pack is to provide you with information about the school procedures that you need to be familiar with and suggestions of ways you can support your child in making this important transition.

We look forward to our partnership together.

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca Abrahams, Executive Headteacher

“Play is one of the main ways in which children learn. It helps build self-worth by giving a child a sense of his or her own abilities and to feel good about themselves. Because it’s fun children often become very absorbed in what they are doing. In turn, this helps them develop the ability to concentrate.”

www.familylives.org.uk



Early Years Times

Children will attend **full days** after they have settled into the Early Years Foundation Stage, except **Wednesdays for part time Nursery children.**

NURSERY and RECEPTION

Full-time Reception: Monday to Friday 8.45-9 a.m.- 3:30 pm
Plus, Nursery children with DFE 30-hour code

Beginning of the week Nursery:

Monday 8:45-9am – 3.30pm
Tuesday 8:45-9am – 3:30pm
Wednesday 8:45-9am – 11:15am

End of the week Nursery:

Wednesday 1pm – 3:30pm
Thursday 8:45-9am – 3:30pm
Friday 8:45-9am – 3:30pm

Starting Early Years (Nursery/ Reception) is a new and exciting experience. However, both parents and children can sometimes feel apprehensive about the changes ahead. At Harbinger school, we aim to make this transition as smooth and as positive as possible. Below are some of the things we do to support your child’s move into Early Years and some suggestions of what you might like to do as parents.

If you have any questions or comments, please email the Early Years Team at

earlyyears@harbinger.towerhamlets.sch.uk

Parent Meetings

At Harbinger school, our first meeting with you is an **information** parent only meeting to outline key information regarding preparing your child for school.

Our Early Years Team aim to give you and your child the opportunity to visit their new class before they start school. Every new child will be given a date to visit the school, meet the class teacher and have a tour of their new classroom.

During the visit you will be able to chat to staff about your child, including their previous childcare experiences, their general development, and their interests and share other relevant information or concerns you have about them starting school. Information shared during the school visits helps staff plan for your child’s first day and ensure the move into school is as smooth as possible.

As parents, you can help prepare your child for the move to school in the following ways:

- If your child has not been apart from you before, try to arrange for him/her to spend some time with relatives/friends so she/he can get used to being with others.
- Share books about starting school with your child and talk about how the characters are feeling about starting school. This will help your child to talk about any fears or concerns they may have and allow you to reassure them.

Some examples are; 'Starting School' by Janet Ahlberg and 'Harry and the Dinosaurs go to School' Ian Whybrow and Adrian Reynolds.

Before Starting in Early Years

Help your child to become as independent as is possible by encouraging and helping them to:

- Use the toilet and wash their hands
- Put on and take off their coat
- Use a tissue to wipe their nose
- Share toys and take turns
- Put their toys away

Children need to be toilet trained before starting school unless your child has additional needs. Staff will regularly remind and encourage children to use the toilet and wash their hands.

Nursery Settling

Your child will be invited to attend FOUR stay and play sessions before they officially start Nursery. This will be an opportunity to stay with your child and experience what Harbinger is like. You will have the chance to meet other new parents and children.

You will be given an official start date. We stagger the entry of children over one week so staff can give them individual attention and help them settle.

During the first week, children will attend school every day during that week NOT Monday to Wednesday, or Wednesday to Friday. They will attend mornings or afternoons only. This is to give them time to become familiar with the school, **developing relationships, becoming aware of their new environment and begin to understand the routine of the day.**

They will begin their usual pattern of Monday to Wednesday, or Wednesday to Friday from week 2.

Children will gradually progress their time spent at school depending on the individual child, their needs and experience.

Once children are settled, staff welcome children at the start of each session. On arrival, children hang up their coats, put away their book bag and then choose which activity they would like to do. Parents are encouraged to say goodbye to the children at the door.

We welcome regular check ins with parents when school finishes at 3:30pm. We ask you to wait patiently until all children have been given to their safe adult before we can engage in conversation. For more lengthy discussions, we recommend that you make an appointment to see key staff.



Reception settling

Existing Harbinger children will return to school after the Summer for the morning only. They will resume their full-time status from day 2.

New children to Harbinger will come for a visit (without their parent) on their first day. This will be just over an hour. They will attend the whole morning on day 2, and gradually progress their time over the course of one week.

Once children are settled, staff welcome children at the start of each day. On arrival, children hang up their coats, put away their book bag and then sit down for their early bird work for Literacy learning.

Again, we welcome regular check ins with parents when school finishes at 3:30pm. We ask you to wait patiently until all children have been given to their safe adult before we can engage in conversation. For more lengthy discussions, we recommend that you make an appointment to see key staff.

Clothing

At Harbinger, children do not wear school uniform. However, we recommend comfortable clothes for learning. School logo sweatshirts and polo shirts are available from the school office.

While in Early Years your child will take part in a range of physical, messy and creative play activities both inside and outside. Therefore, we would ask you to send your child to school each day in comfortable and suitable clothes for such activities. Laces are not permitted in the Early years. Our aim is to ensure children are always independent and safe.

Please label all your child's clothing as they are responsible for all their own clothing; this also includes coats and book bags.

They will also need a **bag of spare clothes**, which can be kept on their peg in case a change of clothes is needed.

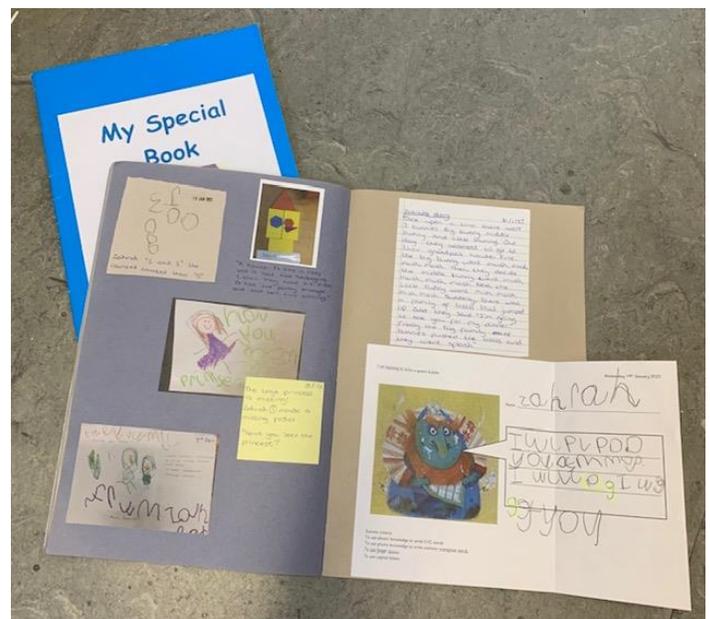


Special books

All through nursery and reception the children use Special books to collect, save and share the work they are proud of between home and school. We encourage the children and families together to add pictures, art, and anything they have done, learnt or wish to share inside the books. These books are meant to be a gallery of their learning and progress over their time with us.

Every fortnight, there will be 4/5 focused children. During this time, staff will be observing their interests and needs in order to develop their learning through play.

There will be a sheet for parents to write in at the end of every half term, when they will be invited into school to share the children's achievements.



Learning and the Curriculum

Nursery and Reception work closely together, following the statutory Development Matters. This is organised around the following seven areas of learning:

PRIME AREAS

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development

- **Communication and language**

SPECIFIC AREAS

- **Mathematical Development**
- **Literacy**
- **Expressive Arts and Design**
- **Understanding the World**

Nursery and Reception follow a strong play-based curriculum. Each session is carefully planned to give children the opportunity to take part in a range of play based activities which encourage the development of skills, knowledge and understanding in all seven areas of learning. These could include:

- **sand and water play**
- **construction**
- **creative activities**
- **role play**
- **listening to music, songs and rhymes**
- **using the computer**
- **playing with small world animals, vehicles or people**
- **completing puzzles and games**
- **tactile play with materials such as pasta and jelly.**

The Early Years Foundation Stage has a large outside play area where children can take part in activities to develop their physical skills and co-ordination. As well as having access to a wide selection of other learning opportunities.

Drinks and Snacks

All our school children are entitled to free school milk which is placed in our snack areas. We ask you to provide a bottle of water daily and we will 'top up' when needed during the day. Free fruit is also available for children each day as part of the governments 'Fruit in Schools' scheme.



Finding out about your child's progress

We operate an 'open door' policy at Harbinger so parents can talk to staff when they drop off but preferably when they pick up their children. If you need to talk with staff for a longer period or in private, please arrange a meeting with the appropriate member of staff. We encourage parents to share any concerns with us as early as possible so we can work to resolve matters and/or offer support.

Staff make regular observations of children in early years and keep a record of their progress and development by completing the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile, which is linked to the seven areas of learning in the Foundation Stage curriculum. Parents have an opportunity to meet with staff to discuss their child's progress on a termly basis. In the term your child starts school, this will consist of the school visit and followed by a parent meeting at the end of that term for Reception parents.

You will also receive a report that encompasses all 7 areas of learning to allow you to see the progress and next steps for your child in their final term.

Sickness and Absences

If your child is unwell, please telephone the school office first thing in the morning on the day of your child's absence informing us of the reason of absence. This must be followed up with a call on every day of absence. If your child has a medical appointment, please inform the office or your child's class teacher in advance. The telephone number for the office is: 020 7987 1924.

We encourage parents not to take holidays within 'term time' due to the disruption this causes to children's learning. However, where parents need to take annual leave outside school holiday times you will need to complete a request form from the office.

Punctuality is crucial to set your child into good routines which will have a long-lasting positive impact on their life. If your child is late, then they will be confused and unsettled and will arrive late to their learning session. It will also have a negative impact on the other children in the class who will become distracted and stop the flow of learning.

We understand that this may happen on occasions but encourage good attendance and punctuality to gain the maximum benefits from school.

Breakfast and After School Club

Breakfast club is available from 8am daily and costs £4 per day.

Currently there are no afterschool clubs available for early years children.

Further information available at the main office.



Letting imaginations run with happiness!

**Welcome to Harbinger Primary school,
for any further information please contact us
anytime.**

**Jackie Garner
Early Years Phase Leader**

**Tel: 020 7987 1924
earlyyears@harbinger.towerhamlets.sch.uk
www.harbinger.org.uk**



Child information sheet

Child's Name:	D.O.B:
Has your child attended a nursery, playgroup, childminder etc.? if so, where and what hours/ days did they do?	
What makes your child feel comfortable/ confident in a new environment?	
What do they enjoying playing with most?	
What does your child enjoy creating with? Paints, blocks, junk, glue What is their favorite creation?	
What Languages are spoken at home?	
What celebrations do you share as a family?	
Do they enjoy singing/ dancing? What is their favourite song/ dance?	
Do they join in with any clubs, sports, groups or activities? If so which ones?	
Do they enjoy mark making? If so what do their like to draw? Do they have a dominant hand? Which hand?	

What else would you like to tell us about your child? Have they done something recently to make you proud? Have you got any concerns?

Is there anything your child dislikes doing? Or is worried about/scared of?

If your child becomes upset or frustrated, what is the best way to comfort them or help them calm down?

Is there anything you feel your child needs adult support with?

What are your child's eating habits like?

Do they have siblings or other family members living with you? Can you tell us a bit about them?

Who will be picking up and dropping them off at school? (please provide contact numbers)

Does your child know anyone else that will be starting in September?

Thank you for sharing this with us it will help us make their school experience a special and personalised one! We can't wait to welcome your child in September!



MEDICAL FORM

Name of child:	Known as:	D.O.B:
Address:		
Mother's name:	Father's Name:	
Parental Responsibility:		
Home phone number:	Mother's mobile:	Father's Mobile:
Emergency Contact: 1. 2. 3.		
Doctor's Name:	Doctor's address:	Doctor's telephone number:
Any medical conditions: (i.e. eczema, asthma)		
If Yes. Any medication required to be kept in school?		
Does your child suffer from any allergies?		
If Yes what reaction do they display?		
Does your child have any special educational needs?		
If yes which needs and agencies are you working with?		
Dietary needs:		
Is your child a vegetarian?		
If yes please specify:		
Does your child have any other food restrictions or requirements?		