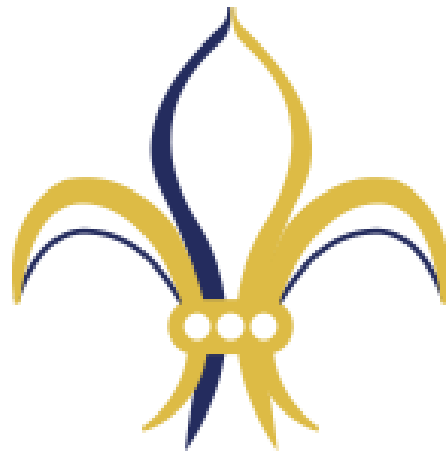




Welcome to



Godmanchester Community Academy

Welcome to our school community



Introductions

Co-Head Teachers: Richard Bakker and Tess Fielden

Assistant Head Teacher: Polly Desmond

SENDCo: Victoria Stanley

Senior Leadership Team: Clare Handley (EYFS/KS1 Leader);
Julie Millard (KS2 Leader)

EYFS Class Teachers: Natalie Bakker and Anelka Tokley

EYFS Teaching Assistants: Michelle Bevan, Shannon Ruff,
Carly Goodliffe

Our EYFS Team

Class Teachers



Mrs Bakker



Miss Tokley



Miss Ruff



Mrs Bevan

Teaching Assistants



Mrs Goodliffe

Our Values



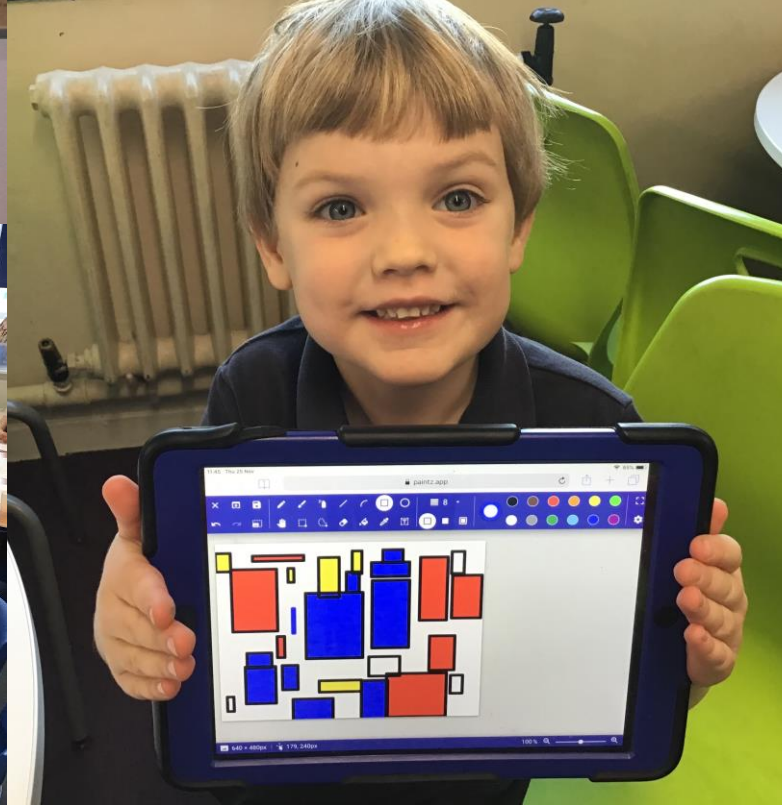
GODMANCHESTER COMMUNITY ACADEMY, WHERE EVERYONE

works hard and shows kindness

Our Ethos



Our Curriculum





Early Years Foundation Stage

It is our intent that all children develop their physical, social and communication skills in an environment that values all cultures, our local community and the importance of kindness. We aim for our children to be confident and independent, to believe in themselves and interact positively with others.



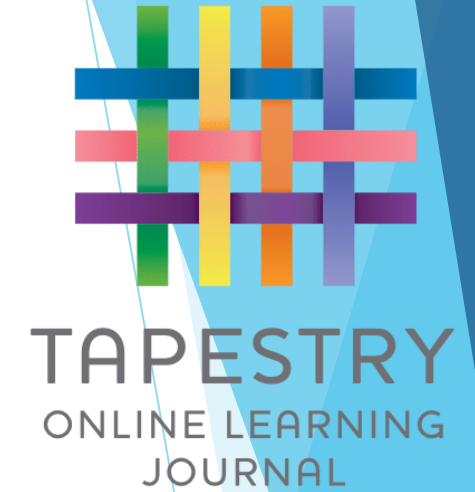
Early Years Foundation Stage

- ▶ Rich in language and memorable experiences
- ▶ Welcoming learning environment
- ▶ Opportunities for exploration and creativity
- ▶ An emphasis on independent choice while still promoting challenge
- ▶ Huge emphasis on pupils becoming confident readers
- ▶ Promote the love of reading and awareness of new vocabulary through exposure to a wide variety of texts
- ▶ Play is an integral part of learning and this is at the heart of our early years curriculum
- ▶ Mix of adult directed and uninterrupted child-initiated play
- ▶ Positive relationships between staff and children
- ▶ Consistent routines
- ▶ Strong relationships with parents and carers

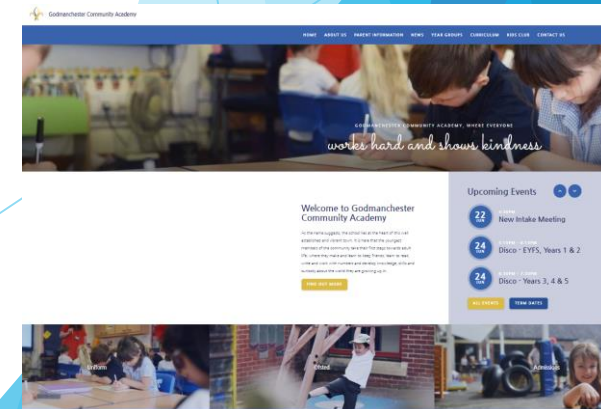


Communication

- ▶ Email
- ▶ School website
- ▶ Tapestry Online Learning Journal
- ▶ Class Dojo
- ▶ Drop off and pick up
- ▶ Parent Consultations - Autumn Term, Spring Term
- ▶ Annual Report - Summer Term

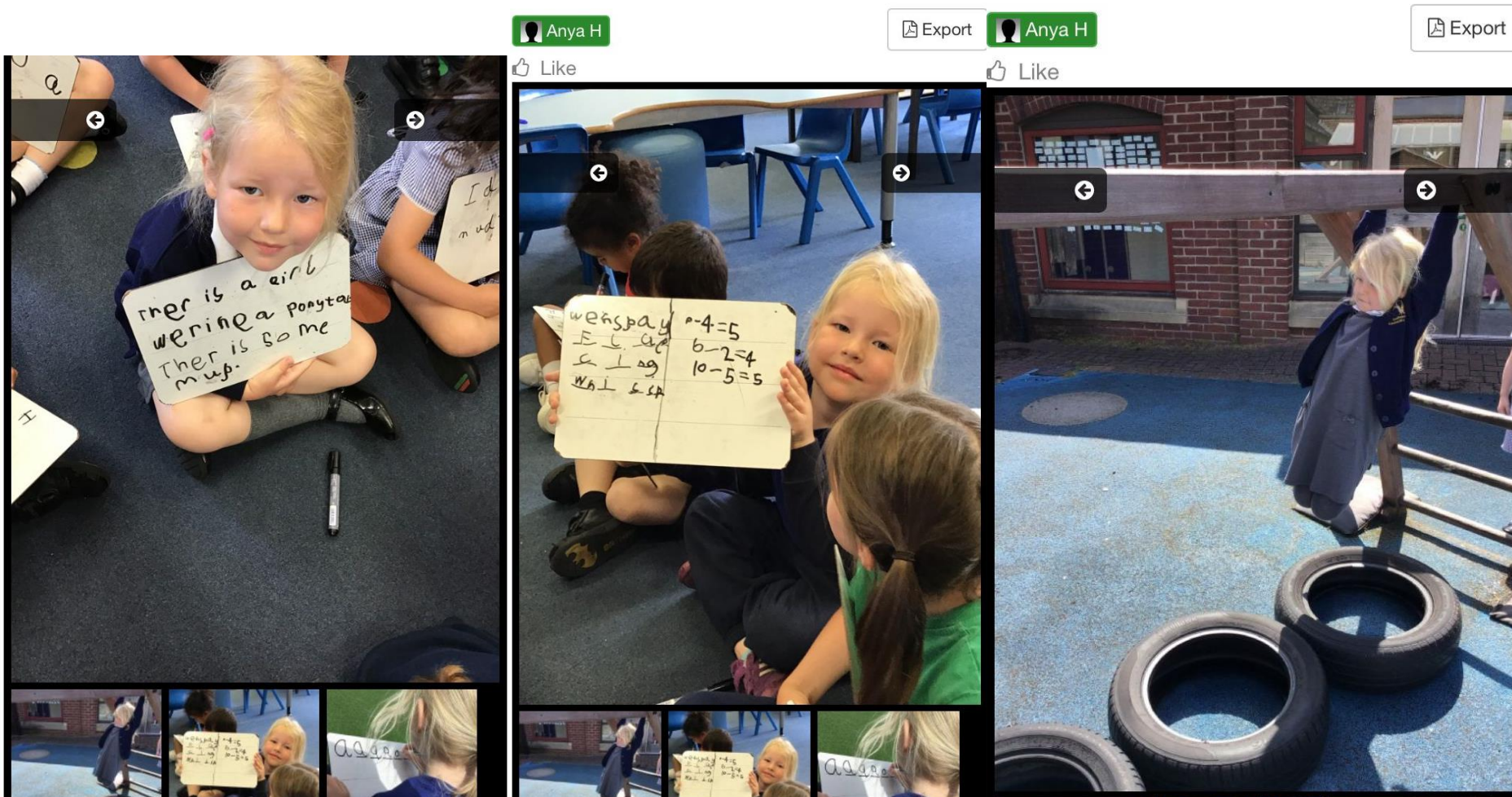


ClassDojo



Communication cont.

► Focus children



Menu

Polly Desmond

Hello,

Next week your child will be a focus child. Please comment on this memo with answers to the following questions in order to help us to plan appropriate activities. Please could you have a conversation with your child about questions 1 & 2 to get their view.

1. What are your child's current interests? (specific toys they like playing with/things they talk about regularly etc.)
2. What does your child need more help with at the moment? (e.g. writing their name, recognising sounds, blending, one more/one less, using scissors etc.)
3. Are there any special events/trips happening at home?

Arbor

- ▶ MIS
- ▶ Payments
- ▶ Trips
- ▶ Communication



Uniform

- ▶ Branded uniform items can be purchased from Price and Buckland
- ▶ There is no expectation that pupils wear branded uniform
- ▶ Navy blue sweatshirt, cardigan or fleece
- ▶ Grey or black skirts, trousers, knee-length shorts or pinafores
- ▶ Blue gingham dress
- ▶ White or navy blue polo shirt
- ▶ Sensible, plain black shoes
- ▶ Plain white, grey, black or navy blue tights or socks
- ▶ Simple hair bands
- ▶ Book Bag



Uniform cont.



- ▶ House colour T-shirts (Edwards - Red, Peacock - Blue, Smith - Yellow, Thomas - Green)
- ▶ Navy or black shorts (indoor PE and warmer weather)
- ▶ Navy or black tracksuit bottoms and sweatshirt (outdoor games ONLY)
- ▶ Trainers for outdoor games (velcro is preferable)
- ▶ Swimming trunks or one piece swimming suit (shorts are not allowed)
- ▶ Swimming cap

- ▶ All uniform should be clearly named with both first name and last initial.

Lunches

- ▶ Universal Free School Meals
- ▶ Free School Meals and Pupil Premium
- ▶ Independent choice
- ▶ Self-care

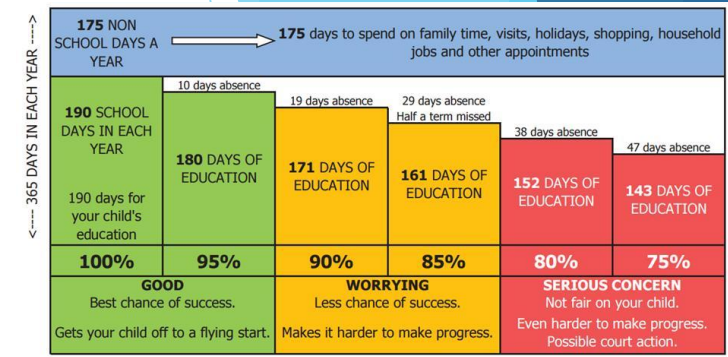


Attendance

- Children are required by law to attend school 190 days a year. The government states that every pupil's attendance should be at least 96%.

Did you know that:

- A child who is absent a day of school per week misses an equivalent of two years of their school life.
- 90% of young people with absence rates below 85% fail to achieve five or more good grades of GCSE and around one third achieve no GCSEs at all.
- At least 1 million children take at least one half day off a year without permission.
- 7.5 million school days are missed each year through unauthorised absence
- Good school attendance is very important for your child's academic performance and social interaction with their peers. Ensure your child is in school everyday on time.



September

- ▶ Home visits: 1st, 2nd, 5th and 6th September 2022
- ▶ Term starts Wednesday 7th September - half days - morning OR afternoon
- ▶ Full days could begin from Monday 12th September - this will be determined on an individual basis depending on each child and how they have settled during their morning or afternoon sessions.

Home visits

- ▶ Mrs Bakker, Miss Tokley, Mrs Bevan and Miss Ruff
- ▶ In your home
- ▶ Discuss your child
- ▶ See and play with your child in a familiar and secure environment
- ▶ Answer any questions you may have
- ▶ 30 minutes
- ▶ Timetabled in advance to fit your other commitments

- ▶ Sign-up sheets in small hall

Stay and Plays and nursery visits

- ▶ Stay and Plays will be hosted between 4.00-4.30pm on Monday 4th July and Wednesday 13th July
- ▶ Opportunity to see their classroom, see the set up and meet their teacher
- ▶ Working with local nurseries to host nursery visits between now and the end of July.

Preparing to start school

1. Support your child's independence

The most useful thing you can do to get your child ready for school is to make sure they are comfortable doing simple tasks by themselves. This includes:

- ▶ **Going to the toilet.** Resist the temptation to pop your child onto the loo and wipe their bottom. It is better to get your child into the habit of doing this for themselves.
- ▶ **Getting dressed.** Avoid clothing with fiddly buckles and buttons. It is also a good idea to have a few dry runs with swimming kit!
- ▶ **Putting on shoes.** Tie-up shoes might be a bit difficult. Go for shoes with Velcro fasteners if possible.
- ▶ **Eating.** This includes using a knife and fork, opening their lunchbox, and being able to open everything in the lunchbox (some yoghurt tubes and drink cartons can be tricky).
- ▶ **Solving simple problems.** Encourage your child to resolve problems by talking when they don't understand or something isn't going well. It is important that they also learn when to ask an adult for help.

Preparing to start school

2. Build up your child's social skills

Learning in a classroom is a social activity. Children learn and develop by playing alongside their peers, and they will make better progress if they are happy mixing with other children and adults. You can encourage this by:

- ▶ **Organising play dates.** Play dates with children from your child's new class help improve their social skills and makes the leap to primary school less scary - they will like knowing one or two of their classmates before school begins.
- ▶ **Practising greetings.** Your child should know how to start a conversation with their new classmates. You can use dolls and soft toys to practise saying "Hello"!
- ▶ **Practising conversations.** Giving your child time to talk - and also having time when they have to *listen* - teaches vital speaking and listening skills. You could take turns to talk about the best part of your day during dinner. Can they ask questions to find out more? Can they remember their sibling's favourite part of the day?
- ▶ **Encouraging sharing and tolerance.** Sharing games such as Snakes and Ladders let children practise social skills and turn-taking. Be sure to use the language of turn-taking, like 'Whose turn is it next?' and 'Thank you for waiting'.

Preparing to start school

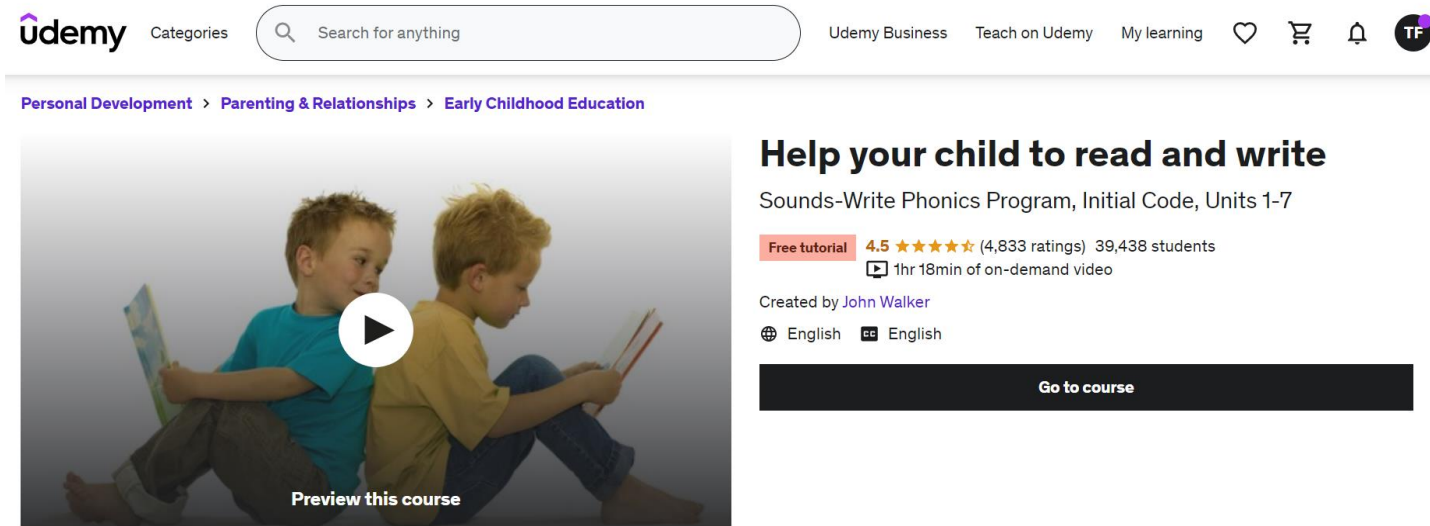
3. Make a start on early literacy and numeracy skills

Your child is not expected to have amazing literacy or numeracy skills at this age - that's what school is for! However, there are some ways you can get your child ready for learning:

- ▶ **Help them recognise their name.** It is handy if your child can find their space in the cloakroom, and can keep track of labelled clothes and other belongings.
- ▶ **Share stories.** Reading to your child improves their vocabulary and listening skills, and acting out stories is a great way to practise communication. Seeing you enjoy stories also primes your child to be an enthusiastic reader. You can also use storytelling videos online or eBooks.
- ▶ **Hone fine motor skills.** Building hand strength, fine motor skills, and hand-eye co-ordination helps prepare your child for writing. Making Lego models, using scissors, and threading beads onto string are fun ways to develop hand strength. Drawing and colouring activities introduce your child to mark-making tools.
- ▶ **Introduce them to numbers.** Why not go on a number hunt around your local area and take pictures of any numbers you find? You could also share counting songs together or count objects as you set the table for dinner. Can your child get five forks or three cups out? Can they share them between members of the family?

Sounds Write

- ▶ If you would like to find out more about how we teach young children to read and write at Godmanchester Community Academy and would like to help your child to grow in confidence then we recommend all parents of children in Reception and Year 1 complete the Sounds-Write Parents' course at the link here - [SOUNDS-WRITE PARENTS' COURSE](#)



The screenshot shows the Udemy website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the Udemy logo, a search bar, and links for 'Udemy Business', 'Teach on Udemy', 'My learning', and icons for heart, shopping cart, and notifications. Below the navigation bar, there's a breadcrumb trail: 'Personal Development > Parenting & Relationships > Early Childhood Education'. The main content area features a video player on the left with a play button and the text 'Preview this course' at the bottom. To the right of the video player, the course title 'Help your child to read and write' is displayed in bold, followed by the subtitle 'Sounds-Write Phonics Program, Initial Code, Units 1-7'. Below the title, there's a 'Free tutorial' badge, a 4.5-star rating with 4,833 ratings, and 39,438 students. A play button icon indicates '1hr 18min of on-demand video'. The course is created by 'John Walker' and is available in English. At the bottom of the course details, there's a black button with the text 'Go to course'.

▶ The course is made up of a number of short videos to watch which give parents the knowledge they need to help their child to develop into confident readers and writers.

Preparing to start school

4. Help your child learn to concentrate

Being able to concentrate in 10-15 minute bursts will be really useful at school. Here are some ways to practise:

- ▶ **Enjoy extended play together.** Building kits like Lego are great for encouraging your child's resilience, especially if they can finish the activity in one sitting. Race-the-clock games are good for improving concentration (and are helpful when you need your child to get their socks and shoes on quickly!).
- ▶ **Follow instructions.** Giving your child simple instructions to follow helps build their concentration.

Preparing to start school

5. Talk to your child about school

- ▶ Talking about the exciting things your child is going to do at school helps them get over any nerves.
- ▶ **Attend a Stay and Play**
- ▶ **Talk about how fun school is!**
- ▶ **Practise the school routine.** It can be helpful to do a practice journey before the big day, looking for interesting things on the way. It might be a good idea to make sure your child has school-friendly bedtimes and getting-up times a few days in advance.

Key Contact Details

- ▶ office@gca.acesmat.uk
- ▶ head@gca.acesmat.uk
- ▶ 01480 375115
- ▶ www.godmanchestercommunity.co.uk

Kids' Club

- ▶ Before and after school childcare
- ▶ Located on the school site
- ▶ Breakfast and tea
- ▶ Range of activities across 3 different rooms
- ▶ Outdoor space
- ▶ Holiday club
- ▶ Lots of school staff
- ▶ Kate O'Connor - Manager
- ▶ kidsclub@gca.acesmat.uk
- ▶ 01480 375011

Opportunity to visit our EYFS area and meet the staff

- ▶ Thank you
- ▶ Please make your way into the EYFS area where you can see the provision and meet the team
- ▶ Senior Leaders are available to answer any questions.

