



Beach School

Information Booklet for Parents

East Preston Beach School

Welcome to East Preston Infant Beach School.

This is where the journey begins..... the sound of a bird calling overhead; the seagull looking for something tasty to eat. The big blue ocean is waving at us and the crabs are coming to say hello. The adventure, imaginations and experiences are about to start at the beach.



At Beach School the creativity, confidence and self-esteem of each explorer will start to grow and develop with every visit they make. The experiences and adventures that take place in Beach School will always be enjoyed and remembered.

Beach School adopts the same ethos to learning and understanding as Forest School. This holistic approach gives the children a chance to explore and investigate the marine environment right here in East Preston. The children will be using their imaginations, gross and fine motor skills as well as problem solving. Learning through touch and using all their senses they will enhance their knowledge and understanding of the world they live in and how to keep themselves and others safe when at the beach. The children will also learn about what we can do to maintain and respect this environment and ways to help keep the beach clean and safe.



1. What is Beach School?

Beach School is taking the classroom learning outside and using the natural surroundings of the beach to enhance and help the learner grow. Using the same principles as Forest School the children have the opportunity to have hands on experience and become aware of the marine life and plants and have a greater understanding of beach safety.

This method of learning helps with confidence, self-esteem and problem-solving skills. Children become aware of the environment they are in and the plants, sea life and weather conditions that surround them. Beach school is fully risk assessed and the adults carry mobile phones so that they can contact the school if needed.

2. How can Beach School help my child's learning and development?

Beach School helps children develop through a child-led approach and teaches them how to assess risks for themselves.

Beach School involves many skills:-

- Gross and fine motor skills - strengthening muscles and helping with co-ordination
- Identifying and understanding the different marine life they find and then investigating what their job is
- Problem solving and looking at moving objects and liquid
- Seaweed identification
- Changes in landscape
- Looking at the weather and how it changes
- Imaginative story telling
- Creating sculptures and artwork outside



3. What happens during the Beach School day?

On the morning of the visit the Beach School Leader will visit the site, check and set up the area ready for the children to arrive.

The children arrive at school in their Beach School clothing and once the class teacher has checked that all the children are wearing the correct clothes, the class will walk down to the beach.



Each session will begin with a safety talk, rules for working on the beach and about respecting the environment.

We will be in small groups and the children will already know their team and the adult who they will be with for the day.

For every session we have a plan which includes a variety of small group activities linked to the term's topic. The children will work and stay with their designated adult and work with these activities.

At lunchtime we will all sit together and eat our lunch. The beach has public toilets we can access and clean drinking water.

Finally, the class will leave the beach at 2pm to return to school (this is subject to change depending on the weather!)

4. What sort of activities will the children be doing?

Activities will be linked to the topic that the children are covering that term. Typically, these may include:

Music - looking and seeing if we can make different music from the objects we find on the beach.

Design Technology- using natural materials to create ways of moving water and how to stop a flow.

Literacy - story telling, writing, following instructions and being confident in retelling.

Maths - measuring, shape sorting and identifying and problem solving.

Art - creating 3D pictures or sculptures out of pebbles, seaweed or items they find on the beach.

Computing - Using different technologies eg: I pads and cameras to purposefully create images they can then use further in the classroom.

Geography - looking at the land and sea and talking about the differences they see, creating maps and using directional language.

Science - Habitats - looking at and identifying the marine flora and fauna we find.

5. What tools will be used in Beach School?

In Beach School the children use the same tools that they use in school as part of the Design Technology curriculum eg, palm drills, scissors etc

We will have scissors and tape on site which will only be used in the correct manner and in small groups. All activities using tools are fully risk assessed.



6. What is the adult/child ratio?

As a minimum the ratio is 1:6. For a class of 30 children there is typically a Teacher, the Beach School Leader and a Teaching & Learning Assistant.

We always welcome additional pairs of hands so if you would like to support the class on Beach School day then please speak with the class teacher well before the day to enable for planning.

If we do not have the correct adult to child ratio then Beach School will not go ahead on those days.

7. Are there First Aiders on the site?

We always have a minimum of 1 Teaching & Learning Assistant - First Aider, 1 Learning Support Assistant - First Aider and The Beach School Leader - Wilderness First Aid Training.

A First Aid kit will be on site at the beach.

If there is an accident the child will be taken into the First Aid area on the beach and first aid administered. Asthma pumps and any medical equipment needed will be taken down to the beach area for the duration of the session and if required this will be supervised by a Teaching & Learning Assistant. If needed, the school will be telephoned and additional staff driven down.



8. What about break and lunchtimes?

The children are given a break mid-morning when they are able to visit the toilets and have their snack and a drink. The children may also visit the toilet at any point during the day but only with their designated adults.

At lunchtime the children will take turns in their small groups to thoroughly wash their hands before sitting down and eating their lunch.

All water bottles are taken down to the Beach School area and the children are encouraged to drink water throughout the day.

9. If it is cold or raining will Beach School still take place?

Beach School will take part in all seasons unless we feel the weather conditions are unsafe. This decision will be made by the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team as safety is paramount at all times. The Beach School Leader and Teacher will be vigilant and will be aware of tide times, weather conditions and forecast changes ahead of the visit.



10. What if the children are cold or wet?

Before the Beach School session starts the children are reminded of the importance of telling an adult if they are too hot, cold or wet. During the day the children will be carefully monitored by the supervising adults who are aware that some children will not speak out, and so are vigilant as a team to look out for signs of a child being cold or unhappy. If a child has managed to get wet, then the Teaching & Learning Assistant will be notified and the child will be changed into dry clothes.

What about during hot weather?



During the summer months the children will need to be wearing hats and bring in sunscreen that they can reapply during the day. We will encourage them to drink plenty of fluids and there will be frequent drinks stops throughout the day.

We are aware of the lack of shade on the beach and the Beach School Leader will erect a temporary shelter to give the children a break from the sun, so that they can still enjoy the activities outside.

11. I have no waterproof clothing or wellies for my child!

If you do not have all the correct clothing for outdoors then we do have some spare items including a very large range of wellington boots, waterproof trousers and jackets so please speak to the class teacher. We make sure all children are wearing the correct clothing before we go outside. No child will be permitted to go outside if their clothes are not suitable for the conditions.



If you have any more questions?

If you have any further questions or concerns, however small, please speak with the class teacher who will be happy to discuss these with you.



Suitable Clothing...

The children will be outside in varying weather and will need the appropriate clothing for the conditions and also possible changes of clothes. The children will need to come to school dressed in their Beach School clothes.

...for the cold weather



- Hats and gloves
- Jumper/fleeces (with warm under garments)
- Warm socks (and some spare socks)
- Wellington boots
- Waterproof clothing
- Coat

...for the hot weather



- Sun cream protection
- Sun hat (preferably one that offers protection to the back of their neck)
- Sensible sturdy closed toe shoes
- Preferably covered legs (no shorts)
- Spare socks
- Wellington boots
- Waterproof clothing
- Jacket