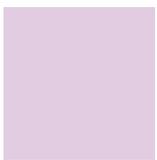
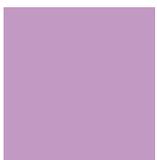
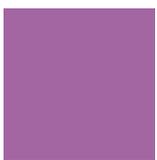
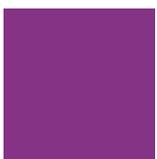


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Contents



'Finlay School is a happy place to be'



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What our children think about Finlay School

'We love learning in the garden, going to 'Numberland' and being super sound spotters in side and out. We also love singing, dancing, dressing up and getting messy'.
-Reception

'We like being at school because we love our friendly class. We enjoy maths work because it is exciting and fun! Our school trips are fantastic and help us learn. At Finlay School we are kind to each other and always try our best!'
- Year 1

'We love all of our lessons, especially maths, literacy and science. The most exciting days are when we go on trips to places like London and Weston. We love the discos, especially the Christmas disco with father Christmas. Most of all, in Year 2 we love seeing our friends every day and playing together and working together. When we work together we can earn marbles in the jar to get treats - they are brilliant!'
- Year 2

'At Finlay we have lots of fundraising days to raise money for the school and other charities. We have fun disco's with refreshments and games with a chance to win prizes. We have good manners, help each other and teachers. We respect each other. We have lots of fun topics and activities from Reception to Year 6. We get to go on school trips like London, Weston, Cheltenham and we get to sleep away somewhere exciting in KS2! We think Finlay School is the BEST SCHOOL!'
- Year 3

'We like Finlay School because we learn about lots of different things and all the teachers are friendly and helpful. It's the best school in the whole world!'
- Year 4

'Children here are kind, happy and friendly. We all support each other to achieve our learning goals. If you come to this school you get to learn in a fun way and teachers always take us on exciting trips. Our attendance is great and we love the prizes we get - cattle country is fantastic!'
- Year 5

'We support each other and create bonds that last a lifetime! We love how we work together in a team both in the classroom and on the sports pitch. In year 6, we get extra responsibilities and are treated like adults. Everyone is really helpful and the experiences we enjoy from street steppers to after school clubs shows how lucky we are! The teachers are friendly and make the lessons educational but fun!'
- Year 6

Welcome to Finlay Community School

Welcome to Finlay Community School Dear Parents, Thank you for taking an interest in our school. We hope you will find lots of useful information throughout this prospectus to give you a good insight into life at Finlay Community School.

Finlay Community School works together with the Learning Community Partnership which is made up of the University of Gloucestershire and the Red Wedge (a group of local churches).

Making a difference...

The school has a dedicated and hard-working staff who succeed in providing a high quality education in a safe environment to enable all of your children to reach their full potential. All staff are committed to making a difference to children and families at Finlay. We want your children to love coming to school every day, to feel valued, safe & secure and to be proud of belonging to the Finlay community. Children only have one chance in education and it is therefore vital that they are motivated to achieve the highest standards. We also know that discipline is important and are proud of the behaviour of the children at our school.

Belonging...

Parents are important to us and we know you are a vital part of Finlay Community School, therefore you are always welcome. Participation is important and we see the years your child spends at our school, as a partnership in learning. We feel that the closer the parents' involvement and interest in the school, the greater the worth your children will place on education. We value your support and are always willing to help with any issues which may arise.

We enjoy working at Finlay Community School and we hope that your child will enjoy their education with us. Thank you for sharing your child with us, and we hope that together we will create happy, successful, enthusiastic and independent children who love to learn. At Finlay Community School we really do strive to make a difference!

If you would like to discuss any matters concerning your child's schooling please feel free to come and visit me or your child's class teacher. We will always be willing to listen and support in any way we can.

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Lane
Executive Head Teacher



Overview

Finlay Community School is located within the Barton & Tredworth area, on the outskirts of Gloucester city. The school is supported by the Learning Community Partnership led by the University of Gloucestershire and supported by the Red Wedge (a number of churches in the local Diocese).

Finlay is a one form entry school, situated in a residential area. We are a mixed foundation school of non-denominational religion, which caters for children aged 3 to 11 years. There are currently 240 children on roll. The school reflects the local community in that we have children from a wide range of social and cultural backgrounds.

Our facilities include a pre-school, Library, Computing Suite, Art room & family room – as well as the individual classroom space. Outside we have a learning garden, fields and playgrounds including a variety of play equipment.

Attached to our site is also a Children’s Centre with whom we work in close partnership with (especially on transition into Reception class). Additionally we have the Finlay Hub which is partly used as our school library and also used by the NHS school nurses.

Our school logo was designed by pupil Alyx Biggs, following a school competition. The school uniform colour is purple following a survey and vote by the pupils carried out by the school council.



School Ethos

The staff and governors have set out the following mission statement for our school:

Our aim is to create a happy, caring, inspiring and challenging environment where children feel secure to approach new experiences both in and out of school, so they enjoy learning, achieve their full potential and develop ambition.

We aim to help our children be ready to meet the demands of the 21st century so that the skills they learn will be helpful for the rest of their lives!

Team Points

There are four ‘teams’ in the school:



Eagles (yellow)



Hawks (green)



Kestrels (red)



Falcons (blue).

Pupils are rewarded with team points for good work or behaviour. At the end of the week, the team with the most points wins the team point cup.

Star of the Day

In each class, the teacher chooses a pupil at the end of every day to be ‘Star of the Day’. This will be a pupil who has worked particularly hard, been very helpful, or displayed other positive behaviour. This pupil may have privileges or responsibilities the next day, as a reward.



Good work awards

These awards are given by class teachers to pupils who have completed a good piece of work or displayed improvement that week. Pupils who receive a Good Work award collect their certificate in celebration assembly on a Friday.

Reading Awards

Reading is an important skill taught at Finlay School and as such is made a priority at all times. Therefore, reading awards are presented to children in our Celebration Assembly on Fridays. Below, we have outlined how many signatures (from you) your child needs in their reading record, to achieve one of these awards. Every half term we also choose 2 pupils in each class who have made a concerted effort to improve their reading. These children are presented with a special certificate and story book as a prize.

Award	Reading	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Diamond
Key Stage 1	10	25	50	100	200
Key Stage 2	20	50	100	200	300



Rewards

We have a number of ways of encouraging good behaviour and a positive attitude to school and work.

Finlay's Golden Rules

All pupils are expected to follow 'Finlay's Golden Rules'. These are the same throughout the school, to ensure they are embedded and children understand them fully.

FINLAY RULES



Respect others and they will respect you



Use equipment carefully



Listen carefully and answer kindly



Everyone is important so work together, sharing and taking turns



Speak the truth and people will trust you



Our vision and values are based around 5 important outcomes for children. These are to: Be Healthy, Stay Safe, Enjoy and Achieve, Make a Positive Contribution and Achieve Economic Wellbeing. It is our duty at school to ensure your child's experiences meet these outcomes.

School Aims

We aim for everyone to:

- ★ Feel safe, valued and listened to within a caring community which develops confidence and self worth to make the right decisions.
- ★ Develop lively and enquiring minds, by encouraging each child to persevere, take responsibility for learning and set themselves new targets.
- ★ Live in a community which respects the beliefs and opinions of others, celebrating differences and showing concern and consideration for others.
- ★ Be involved in their child's learning, providing support for the whole family, instilling an enthusiasm to learn new things.
- ★ Be guided and encouraged by clear expectations, making sure staff are always reflectively moving forward towards a shared vision in order to achieve excellence.

Vision & Values

- W**ork together to improve the lives of children
- O**pportunities to achieve
- R**each out to families and the community
- K**indness, empathy and support for all
- I**ndependent lifelong learners
- N**urture lively and enquiring minds
- G**uide children to make informed choices
- T**ime to build lasting memories
- O**pen, trusting and honest relationships
- G**aining confidence in a safe environment
- E**njoyable, practical experiences
- T**alent and success is celebrated
- H**igh standards for all
- E**ncourage responsibility and consideration
- R**espect for others beliefs and opinions



School Uniform/ P.E. Kit

School uniform consists of a purple sweatshirt/cardigan, white/purple polo shirt, black/grey trousers and black school shoes. In the summer girls can wear purple summer dresses and boys black/grey smart shorts. The sweatshirts and cardigans can be bought from the **school office otherwise a full range of items can be found at: www.mapac.com/fnlay**

P.E. kit consists of purple/black shorts/tracksuit bottoms, white t-shirt and daps/trainers. These must be named and kept in a P.E. bag. We encourage children to leave their P.E. kit at school for the term however, if you wish to take it home each week to wash you are free to do so.

Please note: children are not allowed to wear dangly earrings, fake tattoos, have fake nails or wear any other clothes round school that do not constitute school uniform. This will result in your child being sent home.

Breakfast Club

At Finlay school we offer a breakfast club running daily from 8:15-8:45am costing 50p a week. You pay for the breakfast club termly. If you would like your child to attend breakfast club please let the staff at the office know and they will give you a form to fill out. Entry to breakfast club closes at 8.35am prompt to ensure children are in class on time. Anyone arriving after this time, will not be served.

School Timetable

School starts at 8:55am and ends at 3.00pm. Children in pre-school follow a different timetable, please see the website for the most up to date information. Children in Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 are dropped off and collected on the middle playground, whereas Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 are dropped off and collected on the side playground.

We encourage children to arrive from **8:45am** in the playground as this ensures they begin the day calm and focused. Our timetable follows the same structure each week, with a few differences in Key Stage 1 and Foundation Stage.



SATs (Statutory Assessment Tests)

In Year 2 and Year 6, children take the National *Standard Attainment Tests* (SATs). The data of these for current and past results can be seen on our website.

KS1 – Year 2 SATS.

At the end of year 2, children have to take the following tests, which are then marked internally and moderated. These set the expected learning progress for the following key stage.

English: Spelling Punctuation and Grammar & Writing
Mathematics: Arithmetic, Reasoning one and two (word problems).
Reading comprehension.

KS2 – Year 6 SATS

At the end of year 6, children have to take the following tests, which are then marked **externally**, with the exception of writing which is marked internally and moderated. These set the expected learning progress for secondary school.

English: Spelling Punctuation and Grammar & Writing
Mathematics: Arithmetic, Reasoning one and two (word problems).
Reading comprehension.



Finlay School makes you smart



School Dinners

School meals are prepared on our premises and children have the option of a school dinner or bringing in a packed lunch. Dinner money is collected by teachers in the morning and is £2.20 per day, **this must be paid on the day or in advance**. If you would like to pay online via parent pay, please visit the school office. The school will not be able to provide a dinner to children who do not pay as these dinners are run by an outside catering company.

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, they are entitled to Free School meals. If your child in Key Stage 2 is entitled to free school meals you will need to fill out a form available from the school office. It is the parents responsibility to ensure these forms are updated when required. If your child would like a school dinner they will have a choice of 3 meals per day which includes a vegetarian option. Our most up to date school dinners menu is available online, at www.finlayschool.co.uk/parents/meals

Snacks

Morning break is for 15 minutes. As we are a healthy school, children may only bring fruit, plain biscuits or cereal bars for a snack. Foundation Stage and KS1 pupils benefit from the Government Fruit and Vegetable Scheme, which provides each child with a daily snack. Drinking water is provided for the children throughout the day. If parents wish for their children to have milk during morning break, they need to fill in a form which can be found at the school office. If your child is entitled to free school meals, they are also entitled to free milk, but you must complete the form available from the school office, alternatively you can complete online at www.coolmilk.com

Key Stage 2 pupils are asked to bring in a healthy, fruit based snack to enjoy after break time. There are not permitted to eat chocolate bars or items containing large amounts of sugar.

Please note: The school **does not** oversee the ordering of milk although we are happy to assist you.



Finlay Community School School Council



Dear Parent/s, Carer and new Pupil,

Welcome to our school. Here at Finlay we believe that the school council plays an important role in our school life. We hold regular meetings (with the help of our teachers) to discuss lots of different issues and think about the changes we can make to improve our school. The school council has two representatives from Years 1 – 4 and three representatives from Years 5 & 6. At the meetings we make sure that we listen to each other and allow everyone to say what they think. It is important for everyone to be able to share their own ideas and opinions. We also hold weekly class council meetings so that the other pupils in our class can share their ideas with us.

At the School Council our work never stops and we are always thinking of ways to improve our School. This year we set up a snack shop for Key Stage 2 on Friday and have visited local schools to gain other ideas. We have had lockers installed in the Key Stage 2 corridor for all the pupils and we now wear yellow jumpers so we can be easily identified as school council members.

Inside School we have a notice board which tells everyone about who we are and what issues we have been discussing during School Council meetings. There will also be minutes posted on the board after each council meeting to keep everyone updated. You can also find out about the school council and the work we are doing at school in the Finlay School Newsletter.

Welcome to our school. We love coming here every day and hope that you will too.
Yours sincerely,

Finlay Community School Council

Nursery to Reception

Moving from Foundation 1 (Nursery) to Foundation 2 (Reception) can create anxieties for some children. With this in mind, the foundation stage team have devised a smooth transition programme that your child takes part in from Easter. This involves events like:

- ★ Sports day
- ★ Joint trips

In addition to this:

- ★ The Reception teacher visits the Nursery every week from March.
- ★ Nursery/Pre-School children visit the Reception classroom every week from May in order to build relationships and get used to their new surroundings.
- ★ Children from external childcare providers are given a separate transition timetable that commences in June.



In addition to this we also arrange Home Visits during the Summer Term. More information on the transition process is given in our 'New to Reception' parents meeting in the Summer Term

Infants (KS1) to Juniors (KS2)

Moving from the infants (Year 2) to the juniors (Year 3) can also cause worry for some children as it involves them arriving in a different playground which they may not be used to as well as the loss of an afternoon playtime. With this in mind, the teachers of these classes have devised a programme to ensure a smooth transition giving the children time to adapt to a new timetable. More information on this can be found in our Transition Policy

Year 6 to Secondary School & Whole School

Year 6 Transition is organised through individual secondary schools, therefore differs accordingly. All pupils have a day when they attend their new secondary school.

On this day all classes from Nursery to Year 5 will spend the majority of the day with their new teacher. They will complete an activity for display in their new class which will be present on the day they arrive.

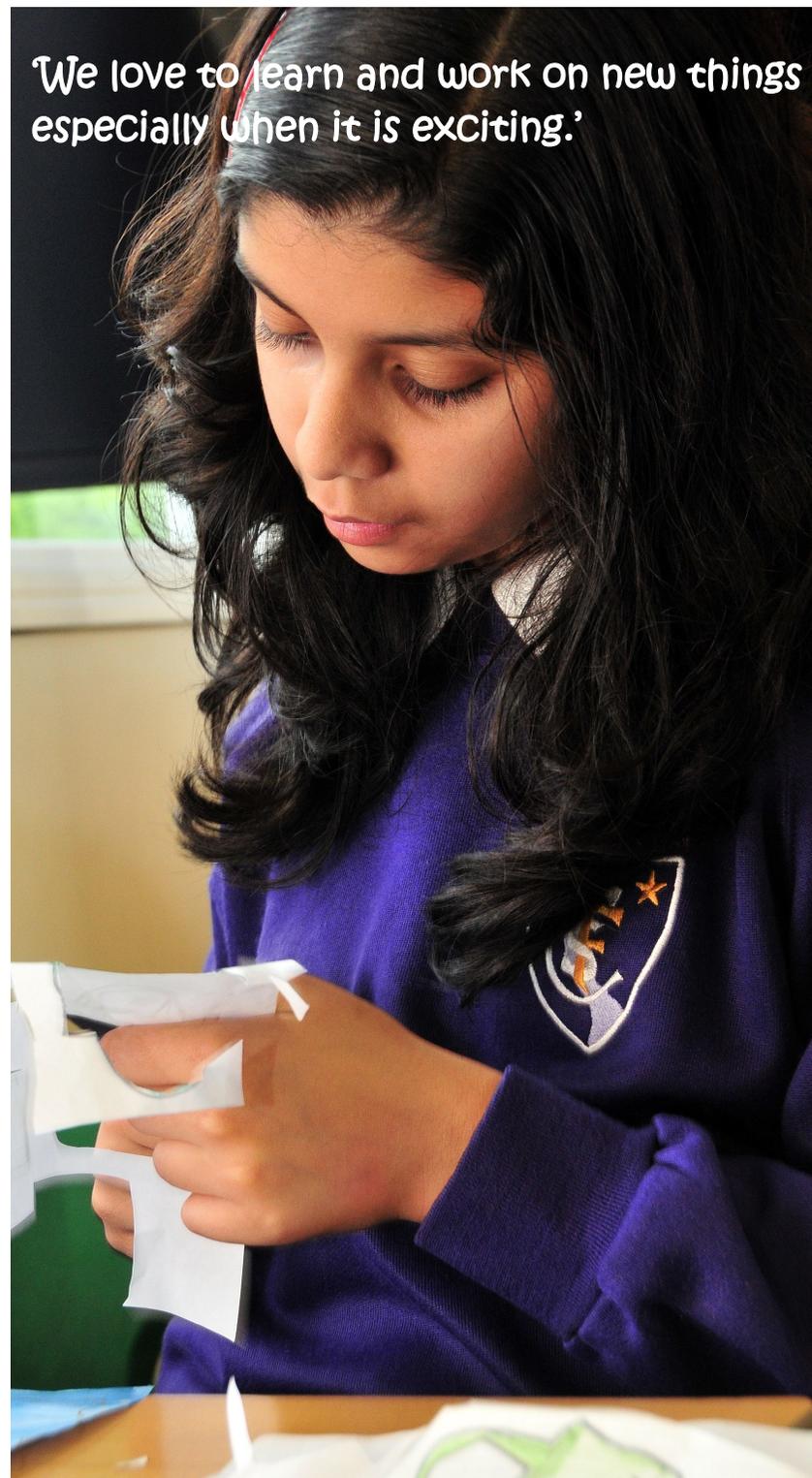




'I feel safe and happy at school'



'We love to learn and work on new things especially when it is exciting.'



Curriculum

At Finlay Community School, we teach a variety of different themes over the year. These themes cover all areas of the curriculum and in the summer term we have a whole school theme which culminate in our summer fair. Reception class learn six themes throughout the year, detailed on the school website.

Only subjects that link in a way which supports your child's learning are linked to the themes. Examples of these are: Literacy, Art, Design Technology, Computing & Music.



All children bring home a theme book at the end of each term with completed work. The children take great pride in their theme books, displaying the importance of teaching in this creative way at Finlay Community School.

The subjects which do not support the teaching of a theme are taught separately. These generally include: Maths, Science, Physical Education (P.E.).

Homework

The school has a clear policy on homework provision. All pupils, from Reception onwards, are given homework by their class teacher. Homework, mainly supports Literacy and Maths, especially learning spellings and times tables. It is important that parents support and monitor their child's homework to help enhance their learning. Research has proven that when home and school work closely together and where pupils are supported by an adult with their homework, they are more likely to achieve a higher standard.

Below is an outline of our homework timetable from Year 1 onwards. In Reception class, children are given sounds and words to learn each week. Reading books are sent home when the teacher feels the children are ready.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Spellings	Reading	Reading	Reading	Maths

Terminology

At times you may hear certain terms being used by staff. These are normally used in educational settings and mean the following:

Foundation Stage 2 is Reception Class

Key Stage 1 (KS1) is Years 1 and 2

Lower Key Stage 2 (KS2) is Years 3 and 4

Upper Key Stage 2 (KS2) is Years 5 and 6

Parents Evenings

We hold a parent's evening in the **first term** where you will be given a 5/10 minute appointment to talk about how your child has settled into his/her new class. Any concerns or questions you have can be asked during this time.

We also hold an open afternoon for parents and friends during term 3 & 4 so you have a chance to see how your child learns and join in some activities with them. During term 5 we hold an a second parents evening so you are able to discuss your child's progress with the class teacher. You will also have the opportunity to look through your child's work.

School Reports

School reports are sent out in July. The purpose of this report is to let you know how your child is performing in school, what their attitude to learning is like and targets to improve their learning. We will also let you know whether or not your child is performing below average, average or above average for their age.



Productions

At Christmas we hold a Key Stage 1 Nativity. The children perform one afternoon and one evening performance. We also hold a Key Stage 2 Production at the end of the year in July. These are popular events that all the children love being a part of and where you as parents can be proud of all your child has achieved especially in terms of confidence.

If you enjoy sewing, then help is always welcome in preparing the children's costumes. Please let your child's class teacher know if this is something you would be interested in helping with.

Tickets are always required for the evening performances as these are always limited due to restricted numbers in the hall in accordance with fire regulations. Due to this we provide every child with 2 tickets in the first instance but hand out extra tickets if they are available.



Office Times

8:15am – 12:20pm
12:20pm – 1:00pm Closed for lunch (answering machine)
1:00pm – 4:00pm

Absences

Children have a legal right to a full time education. If your child is absent from school due to illness you **must** let the school know via email, phone or letter. Our family liaison officer checks on pupils attendance daily and if your child’s attendance drops below 90%, she will make contact with you.

Attendance Figures

Attendance at Finlay has improved significantly in recent years and we now take pride in our high attendance figures. It is crucial that all children at *school, on time, every day* and all pupils should strive to achieve. Children must attend school 190 days and staff 195 days. As a result, there will be five in-service training days (INSET) when children do not attend school. Our current school attendance target is 97%.

Holidays

We appreciate that holidays cost less during term time and we do promote family togetherness. However, the Department for Education direct schools NOT to allow holidays during term time, under any circumstance. Therefore, we would encourage parents **NOT** to book holidays during term times.

Friends of Finlay (FOF)

We currently have an amazing group of Teaching Assistants (T.A’s) who organise our fundraising. However, we would encourage any parent involvement in supporting fundraising events at school. If you are interested please let your child’s class teacher know, who will pass your details on.

Class Assembly

Throughout the year your child will take part in a class assembly. All parents are invited to these on a Friday morning at 9.10am in the Main Hall. It is a chance for you to see what your child has been learning about in school.



‘We have lots of fun clubs to enjoy and amazing school trips.’



After School Clubs

At Finlay we understand the importance of children taking an interest in a subject out of school hours. To provide for this we organise a variety of outside agencies to run a number of clubs. These clubs do come at a cost for parents, however, we try to keep the cost for this down where possible. After School clubs run by the school take place on a Tuesday or a Thursday from 3:00 – 3:45 for KS1 and KS2.

School Trips

We offer a variety of trips outside of school to all year groups throughout the year. These are linked to their curriculum themes. Parent help is often required for such trips so if you would be willing to volunteer please let your child’s teacher know.

The cost of trips include transport and entrance fee where applicable. However, we do try to use the school minibuses where possible. Apart from the residential, all trips are kept to a minimum cost . We will always attempt to give you as much time as possible to pay for a school trip, but payment is crucial to enable these trips to go ahead.

Sport Competitions

Children who attend the football, netball and rugby clubs may be chosen to represent the school in competitions against other schools. Those children chosen for this are expected to attend every session in order to make sure Finlay School performs to a high standard and as a good team. We welcome parents to support their child’s team and if you are able to offer lifts for these then please let the teacher in charge know.



Sports Day

During June/July the whole school takes part in sports day. This is split into KS1 & KS2, both held on the same day. Family and friends are invited to come and support their children on the day. Children are required to wear a coloured t-shirt representing their team e.g. red, blue, yellow or green. Drinks, hats and sun cream are required dependent on the weather.

‘Every child is always involved which is wonderful.’

