Welcome to Great Berry Primary School: Pre- Entry Meeting

Introductions

- Thank you for returning the General Information Forms.
- Your packs should have been emailed to you. There is important information in the packs, so please read through the documents carefully. For example pick up procedures for the end of the day, how to report illness and the uniform policy.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework

What Is the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework is a government document that all schools and Ofsted-registered early years providers in England must follow. It sets standards for the learning, development and care of your child from birth to 5 years old. The standards ensure your child will learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe.

What Will My Child Be Learning?

The EYFS framework outlines seven areas of learning and development and educational programmes. There are three **prime** areas of learning, which are particularly important for your child's development and future learning:

- communication and language
- personal, social and emotional development
- physical development

There are four **specific** areas of learning, through which the prime areas are strengthened and applied:

- literacy
- mathematics
- understanding the world
- expressive arts and design

Early years practitioners also use your child's needs and interests to plan challenging and enjoyable activities and experiences.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework

Looking at what children choose to do, what their interests are and who and what resources they enjoy playing with provides adults with reliable information about children as individuals.

Observations are undertaken regularly as part of daily routines which will continue when they come to school in September.

The EYFS Framework is a clear, concise guide for assessment, It sets out the process and provides a blueprint and guidelines to help children develop as they should.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework

Three formal assessments take place during the EYFS:

- Two-Year Progress Check (this will happen between the ages of 24 to 36 months)
- Reception Baseline Assessment (at the start of the reception year)
- Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (at the end of the EYFS)

Your child's Early Years Foundation Stage Profile will be shared with you at the end of the EYFS. This will inform you of your child's progress and whether they have met or are continuing to work towards their early learning goals (ELGs). There are 17 ELGs your child is expected to achieve by the end of the EYFS.

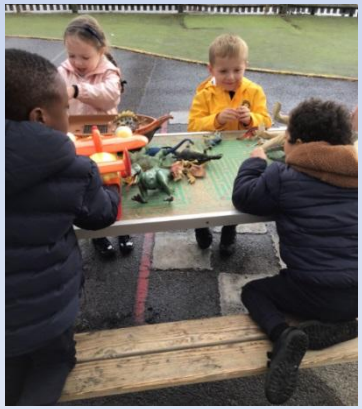
Foundation Stage Curriculum:

3 Prime Areas

- PSE- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
  - -Self- Regulation.
  - -Managing Self.
  - -Building Relationships.

- CLL- Communication and Language
  - - Listening, Attention and Understanding.
  - - Speaking.

- PD- Physical Development
  - -Gross Motor Skills.
  - -Fine Motor Skills.



Foundation Stage Curriculum:

4 Specific Areas

- Literacy
  - -Comprehension.
  - -Word Reading.
  - -Writing.

- Mathematics
  - - Number.
  - - Numerical Patterns.

- Understanding of the World
  - -Past and Present.
  - -People, Culture and Communities
  - -The Natural World

- Expressive Arts and Design
  - - Creating with Materials
  - - Being Imaginative and Expressive

How are these areas taught?

All of these areas are explored and delivered through a range of child-initiated themes which are topic based. This takes place in both the indoor and outdoor classroom where the children have the opportunity to develop and learn based on their existing knowledge and understanding.

Having a Positive start to the School Year

- The first day of term is **Wednesday 2nd of September**.
- Part time/full time – The children will be part time for the first two weeks. They will start the day at 8.30am and leave between 11:40 and 11.50am. During these two weeks every parent will have an arranged appointment with their child's teacher and learning assistant.
- During this meeting the teacher will discuss with you whether they feel your child is ready to start full or part time.
- If they are ready their first full day will be **Thursday 17th September** .
- After the first two weeks of attending part time the school will also provide wraparound care.

Free School Meals

- As from September 2014 all EYFS & KS1 (Year 1 and 2) children are entitled to a free school meal.
- Meals will be ordered in advance and you will just need to order on-line. A letter should be shared with you soon with simple steps about how to create your account for your child.
- If you want your child to have dinners every day you will be able to order up to 6 weeks in advance.

Well being at Great Berry

- The school nurse takes over from the Community Health Visitor.
- They screen the children in the term they turn 5. This involves various health checks which take place at school.
- We will advertise and let you know when the Nurses are taking part in drop in sessions. However, we can refer to the school nurse if you have any concerns or you feel this is something your child will need and benefit from.

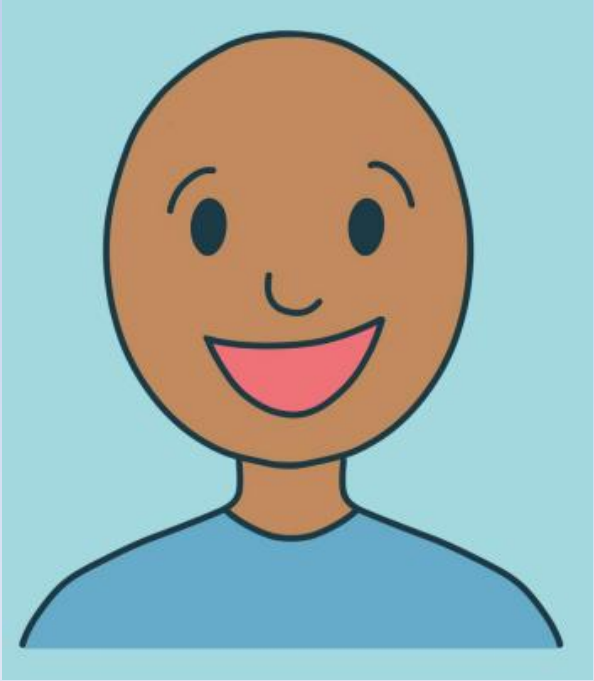
Who will be my child's teacher?

- Letters will be sent home to inform you of who your child's class teacher is before the 6 weeks holiday.
- These letters will be sent to you via an email in early July.
- If your child has any allergies or medical needs, care plans may need to be set up. If you feel your child may need this please contact the school for a phone call appointment before the holidays.

First day at school

- The first day of term is Wednesday 2nd of September.

What will happen?



First day at school

- You and your child should arrive at Great Berry and wait outside the blue double doors for between 8:30-8:40am. You will hear a bell when the doors open.
- These doors are located to the left of where we are today, so please have a look when leaving our meeting.

First day at school

- When you have walked through the blue doors you will need to walk down the main Key Stage 2 playground to reach the Early Years Playground which has blue and red fences around it.

First day at school

- All of the Early Years Staff will be waiting to meet you and your children and will stand at the gate.
- The class teachers will greet your children at the gate and direct them towards their Learning Assistant to line up and go inside the classroom.
- The Learning Assistant will be able to give them a special badge to wear so that we can become familiar with all of the children's names.
- We would ask that you stay outside the gates so that we can help the children to settle into their new environment.
- Once you have dropped off your child to us, please feel free to leave and we will be happy to take things from there.

First day at school

- The children will not need to bring any equipment with them during their first two weeks at school.
- **Please** can you prepare a spare bag of clothes to be dropped off on the first day and kept on their peg throughout the year in case of any accidents!
- This does not need to be school uniform and can be spare leggings or trousers that you have at home.
- We will not start our PE sessions until after the first half term to enable the children to settle into their environment and adjust to our rules and routines. So, please don't worry about bringing PE kits to school until we later advise you.
- Your child will need a Great Berry bookbag for every day use, but please do not get your child to bring it with them in the first two weeks.
- Please bring your child's book bag to the appointment with your child's class teacher that will be allocated to you as we will need to fill up the book bag with important documents needed for when the children begin to attend school on a full-time basis.

First day at school

- When the children do bring their bookbags to school, can we please that you do not attach any keyrings to it as sometimes this can cause accidents.

- If the children are holding/swinging their bookbags this can sometimes cause the keyrings to catch other children by accident.

- We also only have a small amount of space to keep the bookbags and when keyrings are attached it can reduce the amount of space we have to store them.

First day at school

- We understand that this can be an emotional time and day for all of the lovely parents, so if you feel you are not quite ready to leave the PTA will be holding a coffee morning which will be signposted on the day so you know where to go.
- Please just remain patient with us during the first two weeks of drop offs and particularly on the first day as it can take some time to greet each child.

First day at school

- What will happen when all of the parents have gone and the children go into the classroom?

The children will hang up all of their personal belongings onto their own named peg. Each peg label will have their name and a picture so that the children can easily identify which one is theirs.

First day at school

They will become familiar with their classroom setting. They can explore areas of the classroom, find out where the toilets are and get stuck into some child initiated learning in both the classroom and outside area.

First day at school

They will sit on the carpet and learn which space is theirs.

First day at school

They will have a playtime in the Key Stage 1 playground with the pirate ship.

First day at school

After they have had a full morning of fun, all of the children will be collected from the blue double doors between 11:40 and 11:50am. We will walk the children up to you and ask you to wait behind the doors.

The children will line up one by one in a line and when your child gets to the front if you could wave to us so that we can get to know all of your faces. We would also ask that you stand in a similar place each day.

Lunchtimes

- You will be invited to join your child for their first lunchtime at Great Berry.
- **Wednesday 16th September.**
- This will be held in the school hall and you will need to order a meal or bring a lunch for your child.
- A letter will be sent home during the first week in September to inform you of the details of the meeting and how to order them a lunch online.
- After the first lunch, we will invite you to attend a meeting on Zoom to tell you a little more about the daily lunchtime arrangements.

Communication

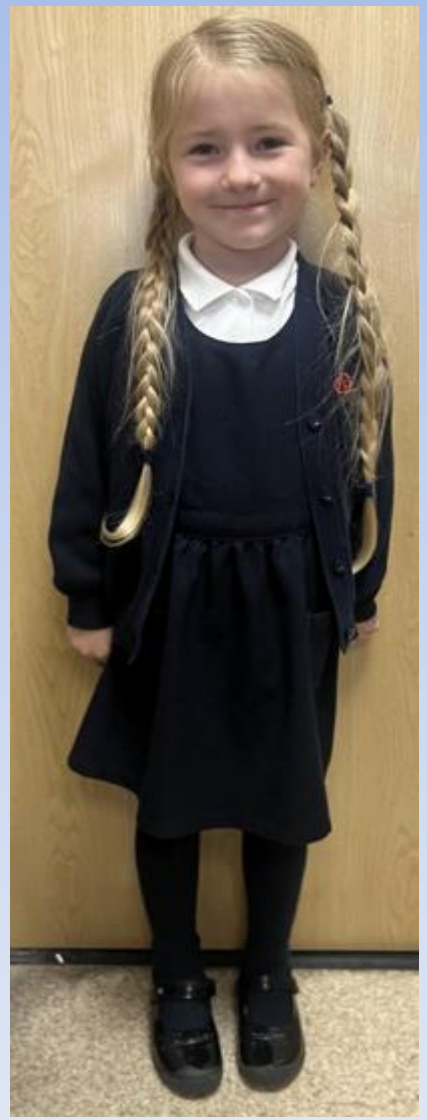
- This is a very important aspect of school life.
- Letters will be sent via SchoolsBuddy or in book bags so please check both regularly.
- www.greatberry.co.uk
- Appointments and messages can be made and left with the office or at the end of the school day.
- The payment for trips etc is also available through SchoolsBuddy too. A letter with further details is included in your pack. Please complete and return to the office.

Great Berry School Uniform

- Uniform requirements. Children are expected to wear Great Berry Early Years School uniform.
- School Uniform can be purchased and ordered from the following website:
- http://greatberry.anagi.co.uk
- The uniform policy can also be found on the school website.
- As well as a labelled PE bag and kit could you please send in a set of spare clothes and underwear in a separate plastic bag. These will need to be kept a school in case of any accidents. (Although these are very rare.)
- Please ensure all is labelled.

Great Berry School Uniform: Winter Uniform

- Winter Uniform: All Early Years children will be required to wear the School's EYFS Uniform comprising of:
  - a Dark Blue sweatshirt (with the Great Berry School logo)
  - a White, short-sleeved polo shirt (preferably with the Great Berry School logo)
  - Navy Blue jogging bottoms or skirt
  - Black shoes only (the wearing of trainers of any kind is unacceptable)
- Children in Early Years do **NOT** need to wear a tie.



Great Berry School Uniform: Summer Uniform

Summer Uniform: All Early Years children will be required to wear the School's EYFS Uniform comprising of:

- Navy Blue shorts, trousers or skirt
- A White, short-sleeved polo shirt (preferably with the Great Berry School logo)
- Navy blue striped dress or Gingham.
- Black shoes, without heels (no trainers).

Great Berry School Uniform: PE Kit

All Early Years children will be required to wear the School's EYFS PE Kit comprising of:

The children will only need **ONE** indoor PE kit as we do not do outside PE in Early Years.

- Navy Blue shorts or a skort.
- A White Sports T-Shirt with the Great Berry Sport logo.
- Black plimsolls.

Meet the Early Years team

Mrs Hatchett:
Classroom Learning Assistant

Miss Barrows:
Classroom Learning Assistant

What does a typical day in Early Years at Great Berry look like?

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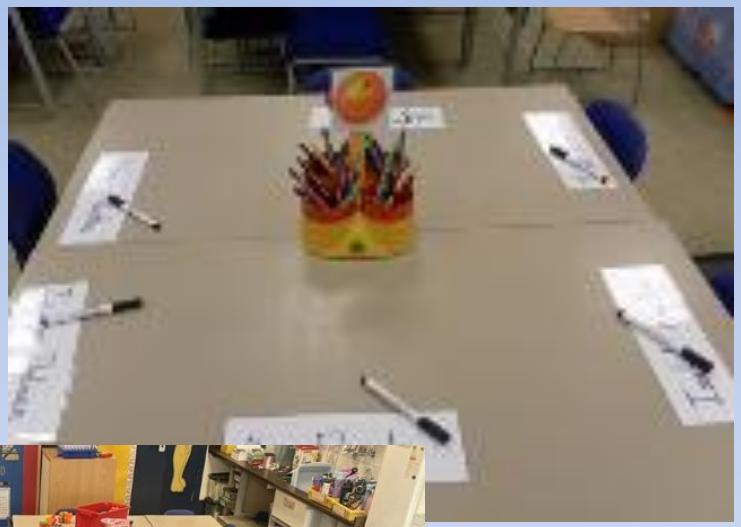

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Settling in Sessions

In your welcome email/letter and pack you should have received the dates for our meeting today and also the dates on which your child can attend 2 extra settling in sessions. The dates are as follows:

- Additional 2 Visits per child
  - Monday 29th June
  - Tuesday 30th June
  - Thursday 2nd July
  - Monday 6th July
  - Tuesday 7th July
  - Thursday 9th July

From 3:30pm-4:15pm

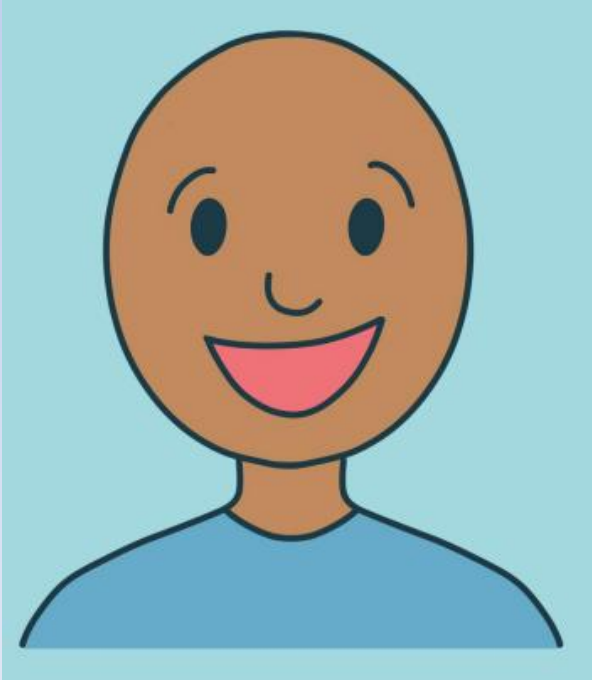
Stay and Play Session

On the first visit to Great Berry, you will be invited to stay with your child and explore the outside area and classrooms.

On the second visit, the children will come in by themselves to spend some time exploring their setting independently.

Settling in Sessions

What are the arrangements for the settling in sessions?



Settling in Sessions

Both sessions will start at 3:30pm. Mrs Inman will meet you at the blue double doors and give your child a sticker with their name on and register them.

From here the class teachers and learning assistants will greet you and your children at the blue doors and take them down to the early years playground.

On the first session, you are welcome to stay with your child until 4:15pm.

On the second session, we would ask you to return to the blue double doors at 4:15pm to collect your child and we will bring them back up to you.

What will happen during these sessions?

These 2 sessions will be a fantastic opportunity for your child to get used to their surroundings and explore their new classrooms for September.

We will have exciting activities set up in the outside area for them to play with and get to know what they like to do.

During this time, the class teachers take the children into their classrooms and look around. They will be shown the toys we have, the interactive whiteboard and where the toilets are.

We find this opportunity helps to prepare the children for September and help them to feel positive about what is to come!

What can you do to support your children with this transition?

Encourage your children to:

-Use the toilet independently, where possible.

-Practise washing their hands and dressing themselves.

-Carry their own bag and manage their personal belongings.

-Sit and listen to short stories or simple instructions.

-Encourage them to take turns and play co-operatively with other children.

-Encourage them to talk about their feelings and ask for help when they need it.

-Become familiar with everyday routines, such as snack or tidy-up time.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you and your child in September

Questions?

A Big Warm Welcome from Great Berry PTA

- You will automatically be a part of the Great Berry PTA when your child starts in September.

- The PTA meet regularly and bring together parents, carers and teachers working towards a common goal!

- We fundraise for new equipment, resources and workshops to enhance our children's education experience and the school's facilities.

- Over the past years we've funded the Christmas Panto for Yrs 1 - 6 (with a class party for EYFS), Year 6 Life Saving Workshops, Birds of Prey Workshop, plants for the outside wellbeing area, Cultural Week, Vinyl Sticker Maps for the Sports Hall, Science Week, A Guest Author and books for Reading Week, lunchtime equipment, Phonics Books, Year 6 Leavers Hoodies, Minibus, Gladiator visit for whole school and celebration assembly items amongst other things.

- We do this by organising and running events throughout the year including a Autumn Disco, Christmas Bazaar, Parent Gift Sales, Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Bonnet Competition, Family Afternoon Bingo, Summer Fete and more.

Parent & Teacher Association

GREAT BERRY PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA

PTA Event for the whole school

We welcomed Zack George otherwise know as the Gladiator 'Steel' into school for the day. During his assemblies, Steel spoke to all the children about being confident, following your dreams and the importance of our diet, exercise and keeping healthy.
Each year group then got the opportunity to ask Steel questions about being a Gladiator. We also learnt that before he was a gladiator Steel played professional rugby and in 2020 won the UK Cross Fit Open to become the fit-test man in the UK.

Thank you to our PTA for organising the day which we are Sure the children will remember for a long time.

Fundraising with the PTA

The Great Berry Primary School PTA is a registered charity and as such there are many ways we can raise money to help support the school. Below are some easy ways you can help us to raise these funds when shopping (more info available in your welcome packs).

easyfundraising

A cashback site with over 7000 retailers signed up to donate with every purchase you make.

STIKINS®

Have you ordered labels for your child's school uniform yet? School can receive 30% commission on every order placed.

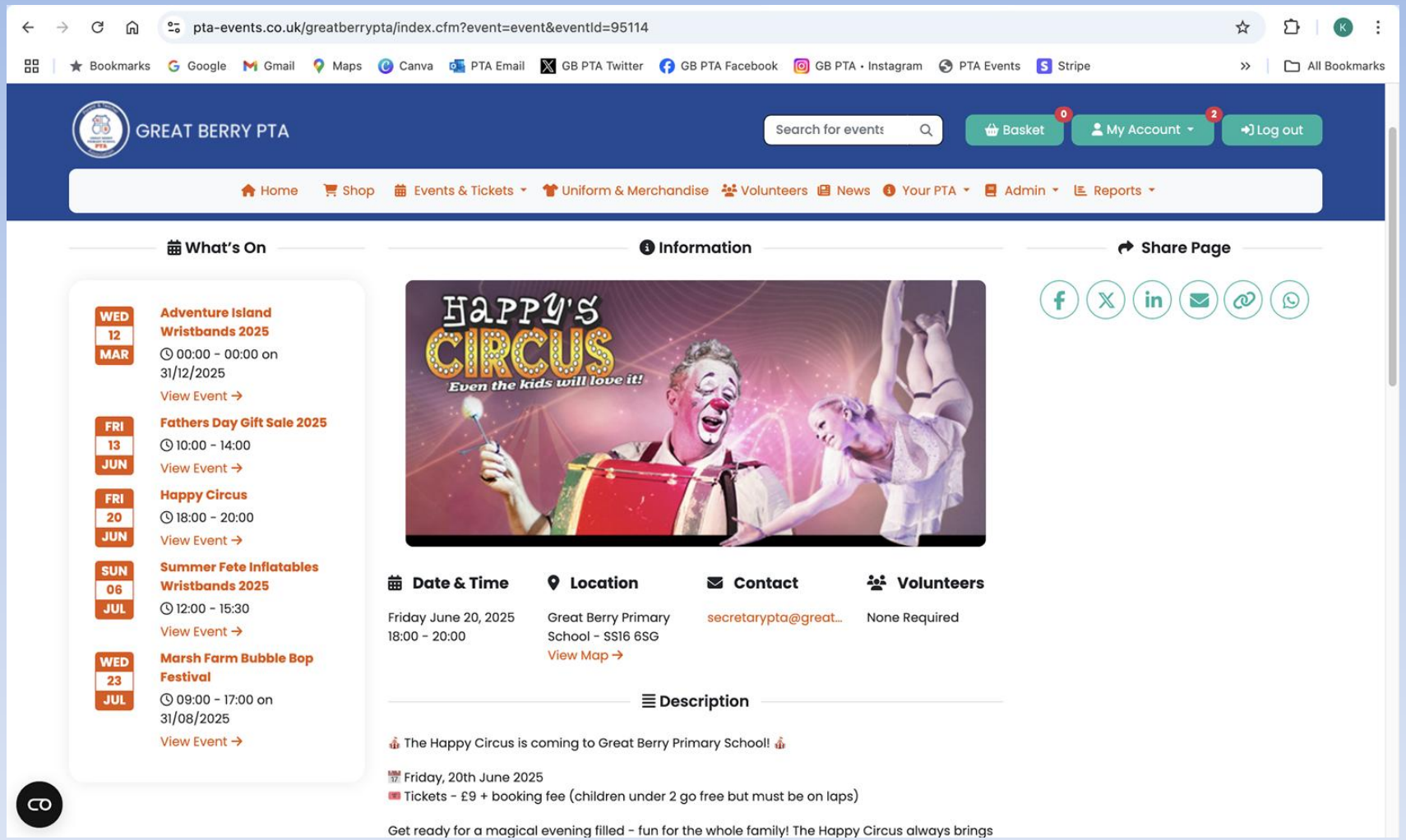
ToucanBox

ToucanBox will donate £5 to your school or nursery for every sign-up from your school's unique link. Plus, get your first activity kit for free.

Match Funding

- Hundreds of organisations offer their employees the chance to boost their fundraising efforts through match funding.
- Match giving, or match funding, is a simple way to maximise the fundraising efforts of individual PTA volunteers.
- Usually, a company pledges to match a sum of money relating to the amount the employee has either raised or donated to a charity.

We recently set up our own PTA-Events Page where you can view and book upcoming events throughout the year and even volunteer for events.



PTA Coffee Morning

- On Wednesday 2nd September there will be a coffee morning to welcome you to the school and the PTA.
- There will be a chance to discuss how to be involved and what to do if you would like to take part.
- So, after the children have been dropped off please make your way around to the PTA room if you would like to attend.
- There will be members of staff to take you the right place.

Social Media

For now, you could follow the Great Berry PTA on Twitter (X), Facebook and/or Instagram to check events which have happened this year and keep updated on upcoming events (including our Summer Fete on 5th July) / fundraisers too.

Thank you all for coming

If you think of any questions you would like to ask, please don't hesitate to email our school email address:

admin@greatberry.essex.sch.uk