



MERITTON

BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



EARLY YEARS

Handbook

meritton.ac.th



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 01** Our School
- 03** Values-based Education
- 04** Our Early Years
- 06** The Seven Key Areas of Learning
- 11** Mindfulness Inspiration
- 12** Let's Get Ready for Early Years
- 15** English As A Second Language
- 16** Pre-Nursery
- 18** Nursery
- 20** Reception
- 23** The Role of Teachers
- 24** Reports
- 25** What's Next?



Our School



Meritton British International School

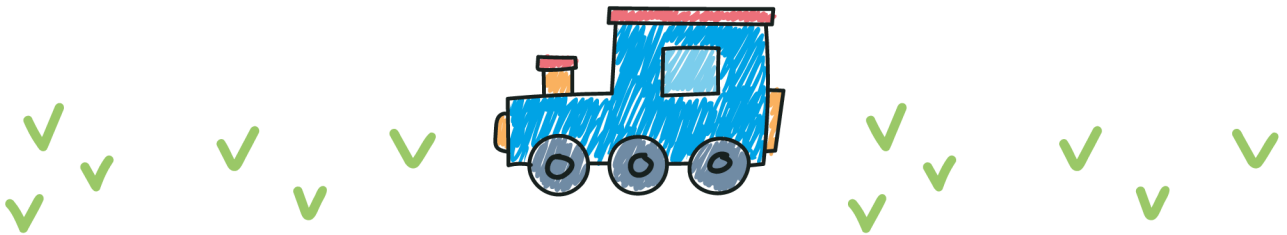
At Meritton, we believe children learn best when the curriculum balances academic excellence with strong values. Our approach combines a British educational experience with Values-based Education, fostering a growth mindset and nurturing well-rounded individuals.

Meritton is a community where respect, responsibility, kindness, and a positive attitude towards learning and life are central to everything we do.





Values-based Education



Values-based Education (VbE) is an approach to learning that puts values at the centre of everyday school life. It creates a strong learning environment that enhances academic attainment and develops students' social and relationship skills that last throughout their lives. VbE is about learning how to be a good friend, about respect, being responsible and resilient; about empathy, kindness and honesty. At Meritton, we model and integrate these qualities into everyday school life, helping young learners grow in confidence and maturity.



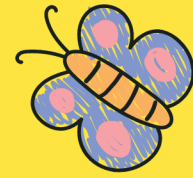
Values-based Education
VbE Quality Mark

Our Early Years

Starting Early Years is a very special time for both children and parents. For many families, it is also the beginning of becoming part of a caring school community.

At Meritton, we believe that a child's early years are the most important building blocks for a lifetime of learning. Our Early Years team is committed to creating a safe, nurturing, and inspiring environment where every child can thrive. We place great value on strong relationships between children, parents, teachers, and the wider community, working closely together to support each child's growth – intellectually, emotionally, physically, and socially.





Our Early Years programme follows the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), the UK's framework for supporting the learning, development, and well-being of young children aged two to five. It helps ensure that every child is well-prepared for their transition into primary school.

Through play, exploration, and creative activities, children develop skills across the seven key areas of learning. We also gently introduce them to important values and simple mindfulness practices, helping them to build confidence, kindness, and resilience from an early age.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to make these first steps in your child's learning journey happy, exciting, and full of wonder.



The Seven Key Areas of Learning



The Seven Key Areas of Learning are divided into three Prime Areas and four Specific Areas:

PRIME AREAS

(focus in early development):

1. Communication and Language
2. Physical Development
3. Personal, Social and Emotional Development



SPECIFIC AREAS

(develop as children grow):

4. Literacy
5. Mathematics
6. Understanding the World
7. Expressive Arts and Design

Communication & Language

- Speaking
- Listening
- Role play

Physical Development

- Gross and fine motor skills
- Malleable resources
(play dough and construction kits)
- Fasten shoes and coats
- PE
- Outdoor area, tree house climbing frame
- Pencil control



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Making friends
- Learning rules
- Learning daily routines
- Learning about other
- Cultures and respect
- Understanding boundaries
- Making relationships with adults

Literacy

- Reading and writing
- Phonics (Letters and Sounds)
- Recognising and writing own name
- Key reading and writing words
- Reading books and labels
- Independent mark-making



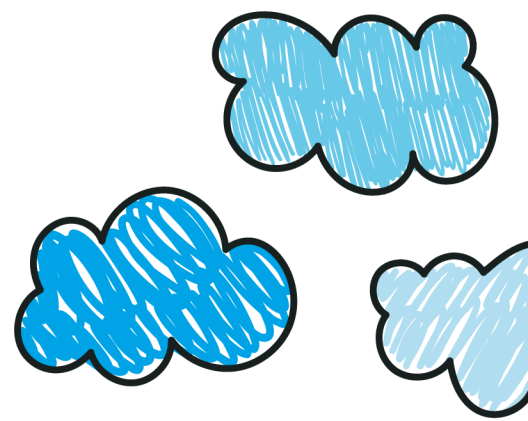
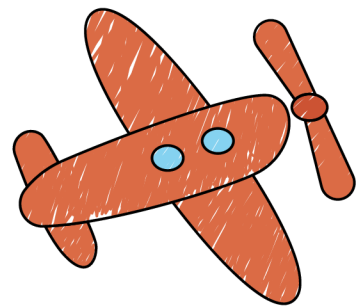


Mathematics

- Counting
- Recognising numbers and what they mean
- Calculation
- Shape
- Pattern
- Problem solving
- Measuring

Understanding the World

- Exploring
- Investigating
- Learning about other cultures, places, things that happened in the past and living things
- Constructing
- Field Trips





Expressive Arts and Design

- Role play
- Art
- Painting
- Drawing
- Dance
- Music
- Singing
- Story
- Imagination



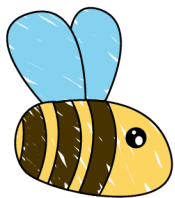
Mindfulness Inspiration

By introducing mindfulness early in life, we equip children with tools to develop inner calm, balance, and resilience —skills that will support them well into adulthood.



Through simple, meditative techniques, daily mindfulness at school fosters self-regulation, good judgement, and patience. It complements our values-based and enquiry-led approach by encouraging self-awareness and thoughtful reflection on the impact of one's actions.

Mindfulness also provides practical strategies for emotional regulation. For instance, when children experience '**big**' feelings, taking three deep breaths can help them pause, reset, and regain a sense of control.



Let's Get Ready for Early Years

What to Expect

Helping Your Child Feel Ready

Talk to your child about what their first day at school will be like. Let them know it will be fun, with lots of new things to do and new friends to meet!

Let's Get Organised

Packing for a Great Day

Please label all your child's belongings, including the outside of their large bag. Each day, pack:

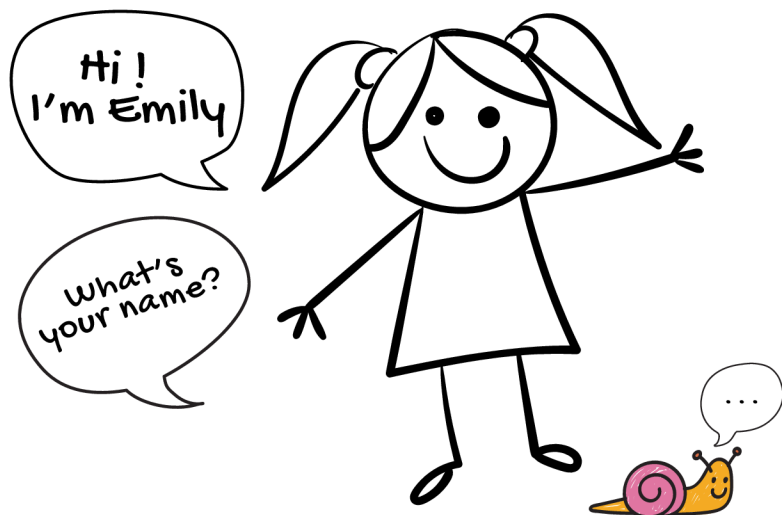
- A water bottle
- A toothbrush & toothpaste
- A spare set of clothes

This will help your child feel ready and relaxed for the day ahead.

Practice Makes Perfect

Building Independence

Help your child practise opening and closing their bag and water bottle, and putting on their shoes. Being able to do these small tasks will make them feel more independent and confident at school.



I Know My Name

Helping Your Child Feel Proud

Teach your child to recognise their own name, especially on their bag and clothes. It helps them feel confident and take care of their things.



That's My Teacher

Getting to Know Each Other

Use the teacher's name when you talk about school with your child. Hearing it often will help them feel more comfortable and familiar when they arrive.

Saying Goodbye

Creating a Positive Routine

Set up a simple and happy goodbye routine. Give your child a big cuddle, tell them when you will be back, and say goodbye with a smile.



School Attendance

Every Day Matters

It's important for your child to attend school on their booked days (unless they are unwell).

Coming regularly helps your child:

- Learn new skills
- Build friendships
- Grow their confidence

Good attendance sets up good habits for life.

Arriving on Time

Starting the Day Calmly

Arrive on time so your child can join in with the morning activities and feel part of the class smoothly.



Home Time

Chatting About Their Day

Please arrive on time to collect your child. After school, ask them open questions like:

- "What was the best part of your day?"
- "What did you play outside?"

This shows you are interested and helps your child share their experiences with you.





English as a Second Language



My child doesn't speak English yet.
Will this be a problem in class?

NOT AT ALL. Many children at Meritton come from diverse language backgrounds, and we are experienced in helping them feel comfortable and supported as they learn English.

At school, teachers communicate in English at all times, as it is the main language of instruction and communication. Being surrounded by English every day helps children learn the language quickly and naturally.


To support this, we create a fun and engaging learning environment where English is introduced through daily routines and interactive activities such as storytelling, songs, and games. These experiences help children pick up vocabulary, understand meaning through context, and grow in confidence.

We also encourage children to use English in everyday situations, especially when playing and talking with friends. With time, they will become more comfortable and begin to use English as part of their daily life.



Pre-Nursery

Age 2+



Pre-Nursery is a magical year where young children begin to explore the world around them, build early relationships, and discover their sense of self.

Learning is centred around weekly themes, starting with "*All About Me*." We follow a play-based approach, where children learn naturally through exploration and meaningful engagement. Both indoor and outdoor play are essential, helping children build confidence, solve problems, and set their own goals. Our focus is on providing a nurturing environment where children feel secure, valued, and ready to take their first steps into learning.



Pre-Nursery

Example Timetable



09:00

DROP-OFF

CIRCLE TIME

LITERACY

SNACK

LEARNING CENTRE

PSYCHICAL & SENSORY DEVELOPMENT

WIND DOWN TIME

LUNCH

NAP TIME

MINDFULNESS

SNACK

STORY TIME

**CIRCLE TIME /
OUTDOOR WALK**

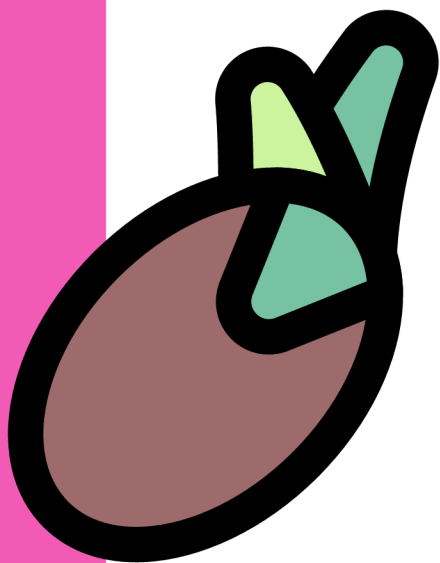
CONTINUOUS PROVISION

14:40

PICK UP

* The timetable may be adjusted if necessary.





Nursery

Age 3+

Nursery is a time of growing independence, curiosity, and communication. The seven areas of learning are carefully woven into daily routines and activities to support children's all-round development.

We focus strongly on building language skills, positive relationships, and confidence through a balance of adult-led and child-initiated learning. Children are encouraged to follow their interests, ask questions, and explore ideas, laying strong foundations for emotional, social, and academic growth. Our nurturing, inclusive environment ensures every child feels supported, celebrated, and ready for the next stage of their journey.



Example Timetable

08:30

DROP-OFF

CIRCLE TIME

SNACK

OUTDOOR PLAY

PHONICS

MAIN LEARNING ACTIVITY

WIND DOWN TIME

LUNCH

CARPET TIME

NAP TIME

MINDFULNESS

SNACK

GENTLE EXERCISE

SPECIALIST LESSON

END OF DAY ACTIVITY

15:00

PICK UP

* The timetable may be adjusted if necessary.





Reception

Age 4+

Reception is a meaningful and exciting year where children deepen their learning and prepare confidently for Primary School.

We encourage greater independence through daily routines and class responsibilities, helping pupils develop resilience and self-confidence. Literacy and numeracy skills are strengthened through structured phonics lessons, practical maths activities, and plenty of hands-on, playful learning. Mindfulness sessions support emotional wellbeing and self-regulation.

Our topic-based activities change weekly, keeping learning fresh, creative, and engaging. By the end of Reception, pupils are well prepared academically, socially, and emotionally for the challenges of Key Stage 1.



SCAN TO WATCH "A
DAY IN RECEPTION
CLASS" VIDEO.





Reception

Example Timetable



08:30

DROP-OFF

CIRCLE TIME

SNACK

OUTDOOR PLAY

PHONICS & LITERACY

TOPIC-BASED LEARNING

LUNCH

OUTDOOR PLAY

MINDFULNESS

NUMERACY

CONTINUOUS PROVISIONS

SPECIALIST LESSON

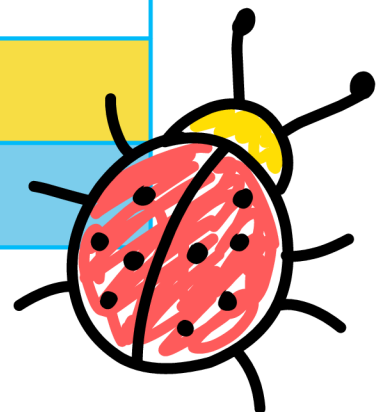
SNACK

15:10

PICK UP



* The timetable may be adjusted if necessary.

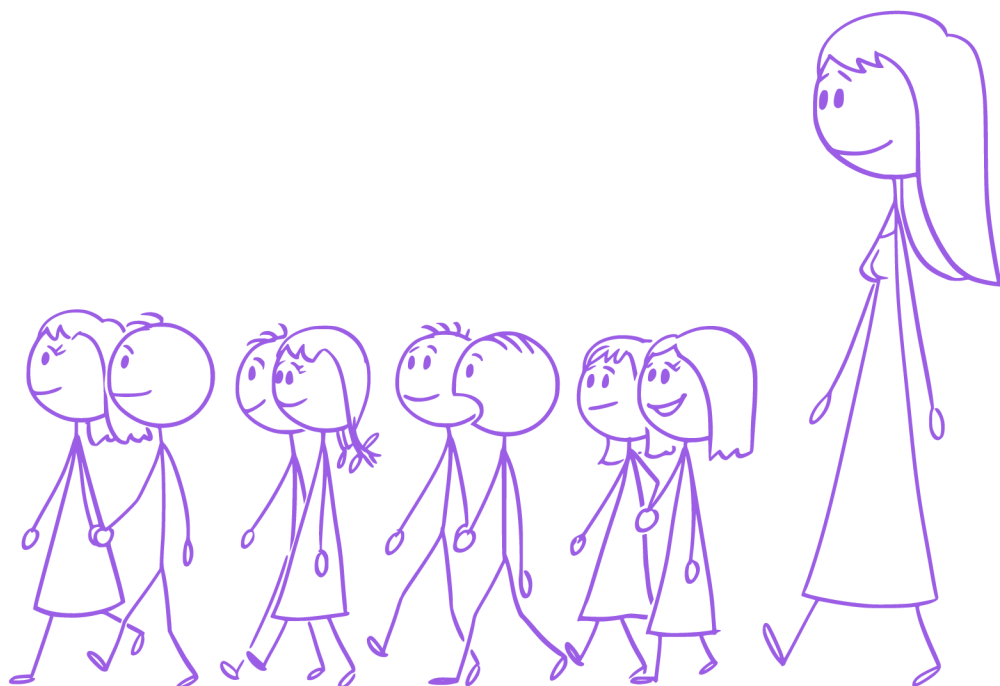




The Role of Teachers

Our teachers' responsibilities include:

- Creating a safe, inclusive, and engaging environment.
- Planning and executing educational activities that are tailored to the needs and interests of each child.
- Observing and documenting children's progress.
- Working collaboratively with parents to support the child's development.



Communication

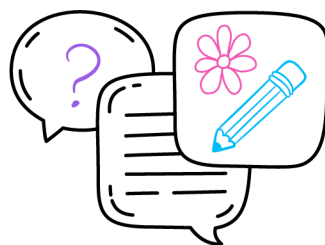
WEEKLY REPORT



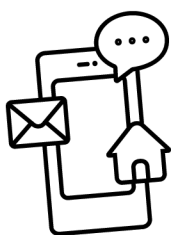
Parents can access the weekly report through the app on their devices – anytime, any day. Tapestry is specially designed for the Early Years Key Stage.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE

Twice a year (once per term), teachers will review your child's behaviour and academic progress, and will also be available to answer any questions you may have.



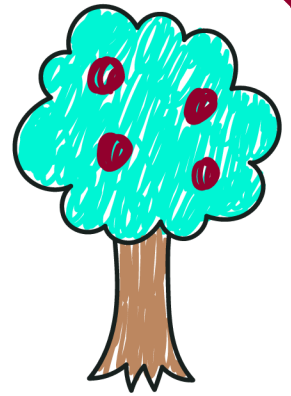
PARENT PORTAL



Our parent portal, accessible via the Engage School app, provides real-time updates on your child's well-being, academic progress, and after-school activities. Parents can also use it to communicate directly with teachers.

What's Next?

AFTER EARLY YEARS



UK's Early Years
Foundation Stage
(EYFS)

***Pre-Nursery to
Reception***

Cambridge
Primary
Curriculum



Year 1 to Year 6

Cambridge
Lower Secondary
Curriculum

Year 7 to Year 9

Cambridge
IGCSE
Curriculum

Year 10 to Year 11



Cambridge
International
AS & A Level

Year 12 to Year 13

Contact Us



admissions@merittonbritish.com



(+66) 93 167 9444



merittonbritish.ac.th



168 Moo.7, Nongkwai,
Hangdong District, Chiang Mai,
Thailand 50230

Office opening hours: Monday to Friday, 08:00 AM – 17:00 PM

*except public holidays

LINE APP



ARRANGE A VISIT

