

Starting School

Starting school is a big step and we hope to make the transition as smooth and problem free as possible.

With the closure of schools due to COVID-19 we have not been able to offer our usual transitions and settling in sessions in the Summer Term. I really want to reassure you that although this is happening in September now, it will be managed with the same consideration and care for you and your child. Please see the covering letter outlining our staggered start to school.

Full-time or part-time?

Children start school in the school year in which they turn five. We encourage all children to start full time as this supports a smooth transition however, if you feel your child is not coping i.e. he is extremely tired, please come and see us and we will discuss a staggered entry.

Session Times

Full-time hours are from 8.55am until 3.15pm.

At the start of the day, please line up in the large playground. We will meet you outside so you know where to go. You can see this on the PowerPoint I have emailed to you but on the first day in September I will meet you at the school gate and show you exactly where to go.

At the end of the session, children are collected in the same playground by the gate to our outside area. We will show you this on the first day.

School Uniform

This may be ordered from www.wovina.com

<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Red logo sweatshirt* White polo shirt* Grey/black trousers <p><u>Summer</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Grey/black tailored shorts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Red logo sweatshirt or red cardigan* White polo shirt* Grey/black skirt/trousers/ pinafore <p><u>Summer</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Red and white check dress

PE Kit

General: Black shorts, white t-shirt, black leggings/jogging bottoms, a red/black sweatshirt - no logos please and black/white socks.

Slip on or Velcro trainers. We really encourage trainers not plimsolls as they offer much more support to your child's foot during our PE sessions.

Other Equipment

Drawstring PE bag

School book bag

Sun hat (we spend a lot of time outside, therefore this is extremely important)

Shoes your child can put on and take off independently - We highly recommend no laces.

Please ensure all items have your child's name on please.

Parental Involvement

We value our relationship with parents highly and will do our best to include you in the learning journey. You, as parents/carers, are the first and most important educators and you will continue to play an enormous part over the next twelve years at least. The interest you take in your child's education and the value you place upon it are vital to his progress.

There are regular opportunities throughout the year for parents/carers to come into the school and talk with teachers and other staff but our day-to-day contact with parents/carers is our most important means of communication. Please talk to us immediately if you have any concerns. If you need more than a few words at the beginning or end of the day, we will arrange a convenient time. If you are working and do not bring your child to school, please contact the school secretary who will arrange for one of us to telephone you to talk through any problems. We also hold three parent teacher consultations per year. It is important that you attend these if possible, as they are an opportunity for us to discuss his progress, successes and any problems.

Some parents/carers help at school with reading and other activities, either regularly or occasionally and this is a great way to be involved. If you would like to come in to hear readers or help with any other aspect of the classroom, please speak to us. You may also wish to be involved in the school Parent Staff Association (PSA), which is another fantastic way to support your child's education.

Health

When your child starts school, you will find that he or she is quite tired at the end of day. This is quite natural and to be expected.

Home is the best place for a child who does not feel well. Please inform the school at the beginning of the day if they will not be attending because of illness.

If he has diarrhoea and/ or vomiting he must stay off school for 48 hours **after** he stops being ill.

It is school policy to contact parents if a child is unwell at school or has an injury that may require medical attention.

Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

The EYFS is the stage of education for children from birth to the end of the Reception year. Your child will have been following this curriculum at Preschool. The bases of the EYFS curriculum is, children learn best through **play and active learning**.

Monitoring Progress

Each of the seven areas of learning has its own set of **Early Learning Goals**, which determine most children's expected achievement by the end of the Reception Year.

The curriculum is organised into the following seven areas of learning the first three are Prima Areas and the following four are Specific Areas:

1. Personal, Social and Emotional Development
 - * Making relationships
 - * Self-confidence and self-awareness
 - * Managing feelings
2. Physical Development
 - * Moving and handling
 - * Health and self-care
3. Communication and Language
 - * Listening and attention
 - * Understanding
 - * Speaking

4. Literacy
 - * Reading
 - * Writing
5. Mathematics
 - * Numbers
 - * Shape, space and measure
6. Understanding the world
 - * People and communities
 - * The world
7. Expressive Arts and Design
 - * Exploring and using media and materials
 - * Being imaginative

Arthur's assessments would be by means of observations throughout the year. Each child has their own online Learning Journey shared regularly with them and you. As parents/carers you are encouraged to contribute to the online Learning Journey by adding a wow moment or commenting on school's contributions.

Getting your child ready for school

Here are some examples of ways you can help to be ready for school in September:

- Encourage your child to use the toilet independently.
- Encourage them to dress independently including his shoes and coat.
- Teach nursery rhymes (and sing them regularly!), colours, counting to 10 and simple shapes.
- Listen to what your child has to tell you. Talk with them about things you and they have done together.
- Join the public library. Share books, rhymes and poems. Develop an enjoyment of books.
- Encourage them to join in with activities, e.g. tidying away toys, baking, washing up or housework.
- Encourage them to explore the world around them through first hand experiences.
- Develop their sense of wonder about the world we live in.

Reading

Try to encourage a positive attitude towards books; let your child handle them and enjoy looking at them. If they see you enjoying reading, it will stimulate their own desire to learn.

Not all children learn to read at the same time. We value your help in hearing your child read at home every night. They will bring home a book together with a home communication booklet inviting parent's comments. Please take time to write in the booklet so we know how he is getting on with their reading at home.

Handwriting

We believe it is extremely important to develop your child's fine and gross motor skills and movements before asking them to write formally. A series of practical activities will help achieve this. It is important that they begin forming letters correctly from the start, we follow the ReadWriteInc letter formation and this can be found at the back of the handbook.

Other Information

Lunch

Every child in Reception and KS1 are entitled to free school dinners. The menu changes on a three-week rota with healthy and nutritious meals. It is a good idea to teach your child how to use a knife and fork before they begin school. If you are concerned about your child not eating during the day please speak to us, however children will be having a healthy snack and milk or water in the mornings and water is available throughout the day.

Snack

The children will enjoy snack every morning where they will have opportunities to try a variety of healthy fruits and vegetables and milk which is provided free from the government.

Pupil Premium Fund

If you match any of the following criteria please fill in the attached form. The money will help the school to provide a fully rounded educational experience for your child and others.

Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190).

Income support.

Income-based Jobseekers Allowance.

Income-related Employment and Support Allowance.

Support under Part VI OF THE Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit.

Working Tax Credit Run-On (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).

Universal Credit.

Finally, please feel free to seek advice or reassurance about anything that may be worrying you, no matter how trivial it may seem, there are no silly questions when it comes to starting school. Our aim is to make you all feel as confident and happy about the experience as we can.

We hope you have a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you and your child at our transitions in September.

Miss Thomas and the Early Years Team.