



STOKENCHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

AIMING HIGH ... FLYING HIGHER

Everything we do makes a difference to our children; empowering minds and shaping futures.



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Starting Nursery in September in 2025

A welcome meeting for Nursery parents



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Mrs Warner's Welcome



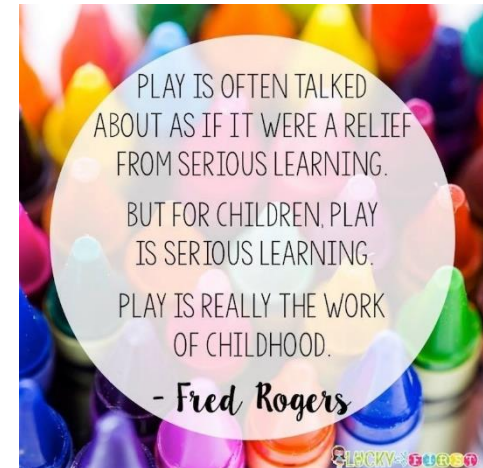
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Early Years

THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY

Play underpins the EYFS. It also underpins learning and all aspects of children's development. Through **play**, children develop **language skills**, their **emotions and creativity**, **social and intellectual skills**. For most children their play is **natural and spontaneous** although some children may need extra help from adults.



- ❖ Learning through play at **STOKENCHURCH** takes place indoors and outdoors.
- ❖ It is in these different environments that children explore and discover their immediate world.
- ❖ They practise new ideas, skills, take risks, show imagination and solve problems on their own or with others.
- ❖ Our play is safe and challenging.
- ❖ Our adults provide children with the opportunity to be supported and also the opportunity to extend their learning and development.

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“The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets standards for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5 years old to ensure that children learn and develop well, and are kept healthy and safe.

It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children’s ‘school readiness’ and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life.

There are seven
areas of learning in
the EYFS
Curriculum



All areas
of learning and
development are
equally important and
inter- connected. We
are here to help shape
well-rounded children.

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Early Years Curriculum

Characteristics of Effective Learning

Playing and Exploring

ENGAGEMENT

Finding out and exploring
Playing with what they know
Being willing to 'have a go'

Active Learning

MOTIVATION

Being involved and concentrating
Keep trying
Enjoying achieving what they set out to do

Creative and Critical Thinking

THINKING

Having their own ideas
Making links
Working with ideas

Areas of Learning and Development

Birth to 5 Matters Aspects

Prime Areas

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Making Relationships
Sense of Self
Understanding Feelings

Physical Development

Moving and handling
Health and Self-care

Communication and Language

Listening and Attention
Understanding
Speaking

Specific Areas

Literacy

Reading
Writing

Mathematics

Mathematics

Understanding the World

People and Communities
The World
Technology

Expressive Arts and Design

Creating with Materials
Being Imaginative and Expressive

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Making Progress...

- Our dedicated staff spend time building relationships with your children through quality interactions and purposeful play.
- Staff meet regularly to discuss your child's progress, discussing their skills, growth and development within the 17 areas of learning.
- Greater emphasis on improving children's language and vocabulary through increased opportunities for conversations, reading and discussions around their interests, skills and abilities within the broad range of activities in the provision
- Your child's health and wellbeing is paramount and our Early Years provision and curriculum is adapted to ensure all children feel safe, secure, happy and healthy.



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Transition in the Summer Term

Date	Event	Time	Who	Where
Tuesday 10 th June	Welcome Meeting and EY's Tour	4.00pm – 5.00pm	Parents	Nursery Classroom
Tuesday 24 th June	Stay for a Story	4.00pm – 5.00pm	Parents and Children	Nursery Provision
Tuesday 9 th July	Stay and Play	4.00pm – 5.00pm	Parents and Children	Nursery Provision
Tuesday 22 nd July	Stay and Play	4.00pm – 5.00pm	Parents and Children	Nursery Provision

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Further Transition in September

Date	Event	Time	Who	Where
Tuesday 4 th September	Home Visits	9.30am – 12.00pm	Parents and Children	Your Home
Friday 5 th September	Home Visits	9.30am – 4.30pm	Parents and Children	Your Home
Monday 8 th September	Home Visits	9.30am – 4.30pm	Parents and Children	Your Home
Tuesday 9 th September	Home Visits	9.30am – 4.30pm	Parents and Children	Your Home
Wednesday 10 th September	Children start Nursery Transitional Sessions	8.30am – 3.30pm	Children (parents optional)	Nursery Provision
Thursday 11 th September	Children start Nursery Transitional Sessions	8.30am – 3.30pm	Children (parents optional)	Nursery Provision
Friday 12 th September	Children start Nursery Transitional Sessions	8.30am – 3.30pm	Children (parents optional)	Nursery Provision

From Monday 15th September your all children will attend their normal sessions at Nursery.

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Our preparations for a smooth start to school...

- ✓ **Welcome Meeting** – opportunity to see the environment and find out more about what's to come.
- ✓ **Home Visits** – enabling us to start to build connections with our parents/carers and children
- ✓ **Transition Sessions** – enabling us to start to build relationships with your child and understand the needs of our families
- ✓ **External Visits** – visiting nurseries/pre-schools can be helpful as it provides the opportunity for us to observe your child in a setting they are already familiar with. If you would like us visit your child, please come and speak to me today or email the school office
- ✓ **Meet the Teacher** – An opportunity for the children to meet their teacher without their parents or carers, and for the teachers to learn more about the children, enabling them to plan the first weeks of term based on what they know – interests, skills and abilities.
- ✓ **Further Transition** – ‘A soft start’ in September will allow the children time to settle in before the hard work starts!

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Being Ready...



The period before a child starts nursery can be an anxious time for parents. The following information is a simple guide to how you can best prepare your child for this exciting time in their lives!



Promoting Independence

Your child will really benefit from being as independent as possible when they start attending nursery. Of course teaching staff will always be on hand to help but children feel a real sense of achievement when they can accomplish things by themselves! For example, your child will have access to an outdoor space throughout the day so being able to put their coat on and zip it up independently will really help them. It also means that they can get straight to their playing and learning without having to stop and ask an adult for help!

Your child will also really benefit from having experience of spending some time away from you, such as going to a friend's house to play. This will really develop their confidence and independence and stand them in good stead when it comes to saying goodbye on that first session at nursery.



Social Skills

Being able to interact appropriately with other children and share resources is a key skill that will really help your child when they start nursery. Play dates with other children will help to promote these skills and you could arrange these with future classmates if possible. During the play date you can model useful social phrases such as 'my turn please' or 'let's share'. You could also join in with pretend play by starting the game off and then fade out as children get into character.



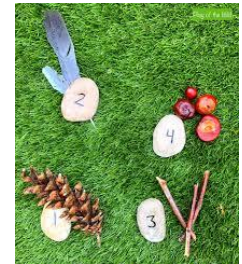
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Maths Skills

Being able to count verbally to at least 10 will be of great benefit to a child starting nursery.

- Practise counting up to ten, and backwards too.
- One to one counting can also be done incidentally throughout the day.
 - Counting steps as your child climbs the stairs.
 - How many lampposts are on the street?
 - How many houses have a red door?
 - How many pieces of fruit are in the bowl (and how many did we have yesterday)?
- To help your child understand what numbers mean, ask them to find the same amount of different items.
 - Can you find 3 spoons, 3 hats, or 3 socks?
- You can also sing counting songs
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/articles/zn67kmn>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HtNdJ6zWgZc>





Maths Skills

Shape, Size & Quantity

You could go on a shape hunt to see how many circles, squares, rectangles and triangles your child can find.

Talk about the shape and size of objects

- e.g. big car, little car, round ball, square table, rectangular book

Ask your child questions in play

- 'Can you pass me the biggest box?'
- 'Which one is the smallest shoe?'

Play with blocks and containers

- encourage your child to think about size, colour and shape.
- how many socks can you fit in the box?
- Which container holds the most, or the least, sand/water/beads etc.



You could look for patterns too.





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Maths Skills

Number Recognition

- A number hunt is a fun way to look for numerals
- You can look on doors, buses, cars, signs, at home, at the shops or on TV.
- You could also play 'I spy' but with numbers.



Further information on how we will, and how you can, help your child develop these skills can be found here:

<https://help-for-early-years-providers.education.gov.uk/areas-of-learning/mathematics>

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Fine Motor Skills



Fine motor skills involve small muscles working with the brain and nervous system to control movements in areas such as the hands, fingers, lips, tongue and eyes. Developing fine motor skills helps children do things like eating, writing, manipulating objects and getting dressed.



Suggested Activities:
weaving, threading
cooking
mark making
gardening



Further information on how we will, and how you can, help your child develop these skills can be found here:
<https://help-for-early-years-providers.education.gov.uk/areas-of-learning/physical-development/fine-motor-skills>

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Gross Motor Skills

Gross motor skills are the skills that children develop using their whole body. You can see this from a baby's earliest efforts to move and travel, to young children coordinating whole body movements. By using their whole bodies children become increasingly confident, agile and flexible.

Gross motor skills provide the foundation for developing healthy bodies and social and emotional wellbeing



Suggested Activities:

'Moving House' (imaginative play)

Obstacle courses

Whole body action rhymes

Movement moments



Further information on how we will, and how you can, help your child develop these skills can be found here:

<https://help-for-early-years-providers.education.gov.uk/areas-of-learning/physical-development/gross-motor-skills>

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Communication and Language Skills

Having a large vocabulary helps children learn more.

Words allow them to make sense of the world around them.

- Communication and language is a EYFS prime area which means that it's one of the important building blocks for all the other areas.
- If it's not developed early it's difficult to achieve later.
- Children's language skills are connected to their overall development and can predict their educational success.
- As speaking and listening develops, children build foundations for literacy, for making sense of visual and verbal signs and ultimately for reading and writing.



Suggested Activities:

Reading Stories, singing songs and rhymes

Narrating their play and your day

Painting, playing, baking

Exploring – nature walks, shopping trips



Further information on how we will, and how you can, help your child develop these skills can be found here:

<https://help-for-early-years-providers.education.gov.uk/areas-of-learning/communication-and-language>

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Listening and Understanding Skills

Communication requires 2 foundation skills, listening and understanding.
Children develop these by observing and reacting to others.

- This influences communication and talking later in life.
- Listening is different to simply hearing.
- It means interpreting different sounds, while beginning to understand social interactions.
- Understanding means processing what's being communicated, beginning with simple ideas and vocabulary.

Suggested Activities:

Listening treasure boxes (pots, pans, crinkly paper, shakers, bells, noise making toys)

Songs and rhymes which encourage sound play

Listening walks

Music and movement



Further information on how we will, and how you can, help your child develop these skills can be found here:

<https://help-for-early-years-providers.education.gov.uk/areas-of-learning/communication-and-language/listening-and-understanding>

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Personal, Social and Emotional Skills

Understanding children's emotions is critical to understanding their behaviour.

Early years children feel a range of emotions, but often cannot express, interpret or process them like us.

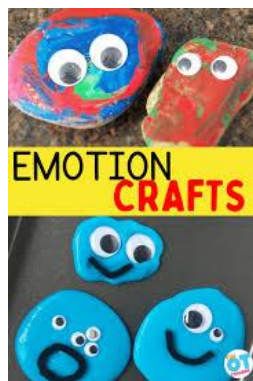
Behaviour can be an expression of feelings or emotions.

Relationships and Emotions

Spend time discussing the different emotions your child might experience when they start school.

This might include anxiety, excitement, worry, upset or some may even feel sad, cross or angry. *It is really important that your child understands that it is ok to feel all of these emotions and together you can work out how to understand them.*

With so many new things to navigate – teachers, environments, new friends, uniforms, new routines – *it's a good idea to talk about what they can do and who they can talk to if they have any big or uncomfortable feelings.*



Suggested Activities:

Naming emotions

Role play emotions, feelings and behaviours

Social stories linked to emotions

Talking about how you are feeling

Expressing your emotions (big and small)

Turn taking games

Sharing activities

Further information on how we will, and how you can, help your child develop these skills can be found here:

<https://help-for-early-years-providers.education.gov.uk/areas-of-learning/personal-social-and-emotional-development/emotions>

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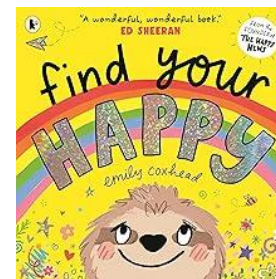
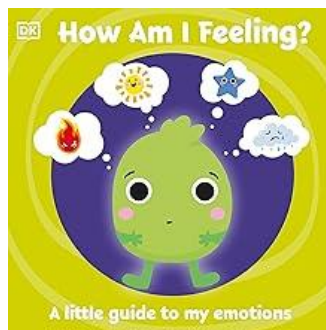
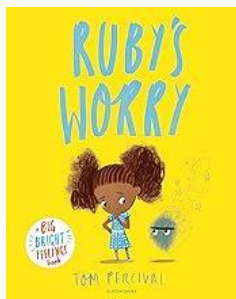
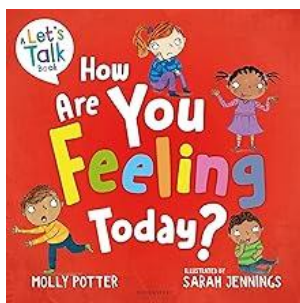
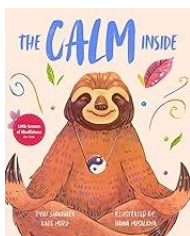


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Helpful Books for exploring feelings...



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Your preparations for a smooth start to school...

- ✓ **BE POSITIVE** – You may question why we have included this point but children pick up on vibes more easily than you think. If you are negative or anxious, this will be picked up by your child so try to have these conversations when children are not present.
- ✓ **KEEP TALKING ABOUT SCHOOL** – Talk to your child about school.
- ✓ **STARTING SCHOOL PICTURE BOOKS** – These are great for any children who are feeling anxious or need some support with the transition.
- ✓ **ESTABLISH A ROUTINE** – This is going to be pivotal.
 - ❖ *Towards the end of summer, begin to implement a good bedtime and morning routine. Swap out screen time for stories in the evening to ensure children get a proper nights' sleep and wake up bright and ready for the new day.*
- ✓ **BELONGINGS** – Involve your child in preparing their things for school.
- ✓ **COUNTDOWN CALENDAR** – Visual reminders can have a positive effect on change



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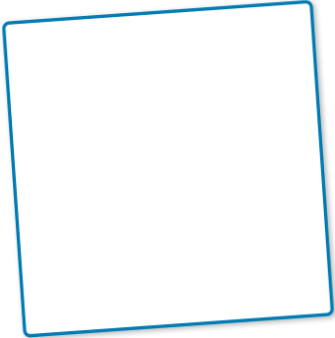


Your preparations for a smooth start to school...

✓ STARTING NURSERY ACTIVITY PACK

- Complete this together.
- Talk to your child about how this will help their teacher learn lots of interesting facts about them.

All About Me!

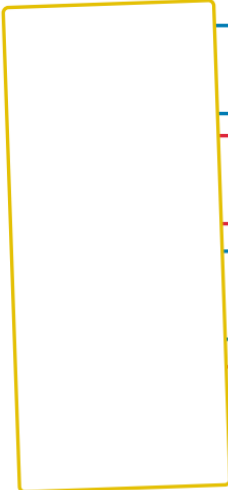


My name is...

I am years old.

My Mirror

Draw a picture of what you see when you look in the mirror.



My eyes are...

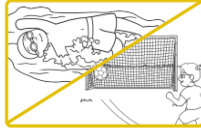

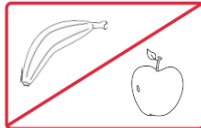
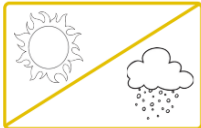
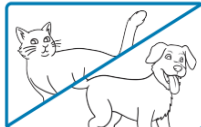

My hair is...

My skin is...

My favourite feature is...

Would You Rather?

Colour in which of the following things you would rather have/eat.



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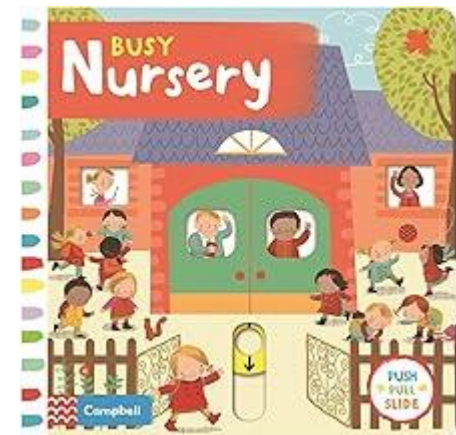
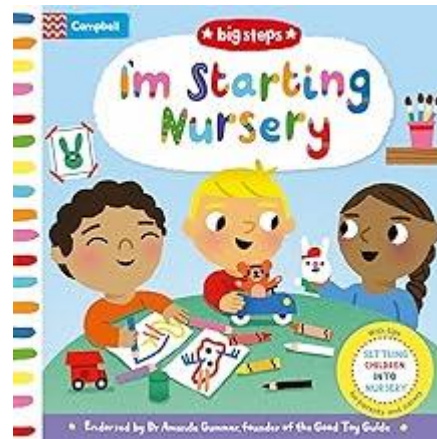
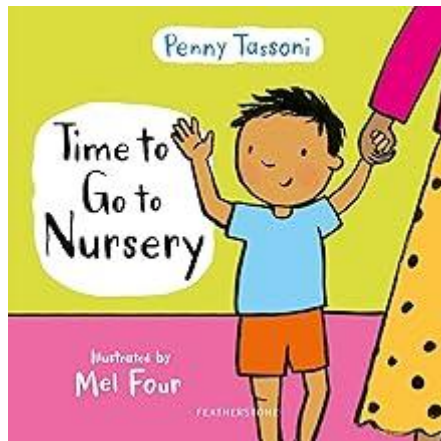
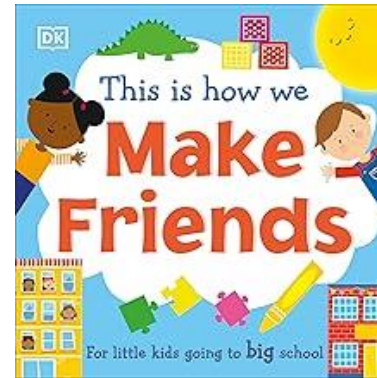
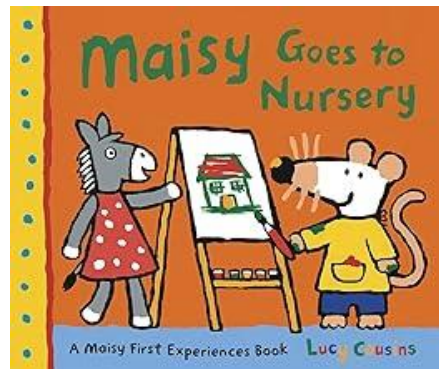


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Helpful Books for starting school...



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Key Skills

Help your child to...

- Dress and undress themselves (buttons, zips, shoes)
- Use the toilet independently (flushing, washing hands and asking to go)
 - Recognise themselves and their belongings
- Listen follow simple instructions (eye contact and responding to adults)
- Wait their turn (encourage as much as possible)



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School Uniform

Please help us to ensure all pupils follow our School Uniform Policy as below.

Our school uniform can be purchased from [PMG Schoolwear](#) from the store in the Eden Centre, High Wycombe and their website. Some second-hand uniform is available for sale in school.

If you would like to purchase second-hand uniform, please contact the school office. Please remember the importance of naming **ALL** of your child's clothing.



- Grey or black trousers (these can be leggings, jogging bottoms or shorts)
- White Polo shirt (can be plain or have the school logo)
- Bottle green jumper or cardigan (*logoed jumpers and cardigans are available to purchase through [PMG](#)*)
- Grey, black or white socks (*not trainer socks*)
- Sensible school shoes (ones they can move about easily in, and ones that won't come off during play)
- Indoor shoes (these can be plimsoles or slippers)
- Optional green / white check cotton dress for summer



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Additional Items

- Bag for with spare clothes including pants, socks, trousers, tops and jumpers
- Water Bottle (logoed bottles are available to purchase through [PMG](#))
- School cap/sun hat (logoed caps are available to purchase through [PMG](#))
- Lunch Box (for those attending full time)



Optional:

Wellies and waterproofs are optional.

Nursery provide them but some children may prefer their own.



PLEASE LABEL EVERYTHING!!

We cannot stress the importance of this. If it is named, it will be returned, if it is not then it is very difficult to ensure that the right item will come back to you.

Please use labels that will not come off and check weekly that they are still legible.



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Food and Drink



Water

- Please ensure your child comes to school with a water bottle every day.

Snack

- All children will be provided with a healthy snack in the morning and afternoon. Our snacks include a carton of milk and a variety of fruit and vegetables.
- There is no need to provide and additional snacks unless this has been discussed with the class teacher.



Packed Lunches (for those attending full time)

- Packed lunches should support our school's healthy eating policy. Please note that our school is a **nut free** zone which means that all types of nuts are banned.
- Children should not have fizzy or flavoured drinks, sweets or chocolate in their packed lunches.

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Parents as Partners

- **Open door policy**
 - please come and speak to us regarding any problems you may have (after school is preferable).
- **Parent meeting in September**
 - information about the curriculum, day to day timetable (date to be confirmed).
- **Workshops**
 - there will be a variety of workshops throughout the year including phonics and reading.
- **Tapestry**
 - weekly blogs of your child's learning will be uploaded by our dedicated staff
 - we encourage you to share key moments/family fun on Tapestry for us to share in school
- **Parent evenings**
 - 1:1 meetings with the class teacher will take place in November and March.
- **'Stay Sessions'**
 - throughout the year parents will be invited to come in and play, read, create and share with their child.
- **Experiences**
 - throughout the year we offer a variety of experiences that enhance, inspire and excite the children's learning (reindeers, astronauts, emergency services, minibeasts etc) parent helpers are always welcome.
- **End of year school reports.**
- **School website, Parent Mail, Weekly School Newsletters.**



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September is here!



- From the moment you wake up, keep everything positive.
 - Be aware of your own emotions and anxieties.
 - You are their role model and if you aren't smiling, they probably aren't either!
- Make sure you have enough time to get ready.
 - Starting off the day in a rush can be stressful and will not help.
- Ensure everything is ready by the door.
 - Preparation is key.
- As you walk down the path for the first time, keep smiling.
 - There may be tears so acknowledge how your child is feeling and tell them you understand, but ensure them that it is going to be lots of fun.
- We encourage happy, swift goodbyes in the morning so please support us with this.
 - If we struggle to settle your child we will call you.
- Children walk into the classroom without you.
 - There is not room for all our grown ups inside. Please adhere to this.
- Do not be late for collection!
 - We shall bring your child on to the playground to meet you at the end of the day.



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A quick reminder...

Nursery Sessions (15 hour funding)

Mornings 8.30am - 11.30am

Afternoons 12.30pm - 3.30pm



Nursery Sessions (30 hour funding)

8.30 - 3.30pm with an hour for lunch between 11.30am and 12.30pm

*Our lunch hour will incur an additional charge of £6.00 per day

Further information on eligibility for the extended hours [can be found here](#).



Morning Sessions – drop off and collection at the cloakroom door, accessed via the early years gate.

Afternoon Sessions – drop off at the Early Years Gate, collection at the cloakroom door

Arriving at 11.30 for lunch – collection by a member of staff at the early years gate

Leaving after lunch at 12.30pm – collect from the early years gate

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Before you go...



Please remember to take:

- a 'Starting Nursery' activity pack.
- a 'Top Tips' information leaflet
- A 'Nursery Provision' leaflet which contains photographs of where your child will be in September

If you would like us to visit your child's setting please come and speak to me or email the school office.

Remember to sign up for the transition sessions:

- Stay for a Story <https://forms.gle/3XTPf4f3Qwd9Mm9Q7>
- Stay and Play <https://forms.gle/pTH5HaGH6XV5QhBW9>
- Home Visits <https://forms.gle/dqtmVqehH16dbSHHA>

Details of your home visit and transition sessions in September will be sent out in July.

During our 'Meet the Teacher' session you will find out more about our Early Years Curriculum. This will be within the first two weeks of starting school.



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