



STOKENCHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

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



01494 482112 [office@stokenchurchprimary.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@stokenchurchprimary.bucks.sch.uk) @stokenchurchps George Road, HP14 3RN

# Starting School September in 2025

## A welcome meeting for Reception parents



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# Headteacher's Welcome



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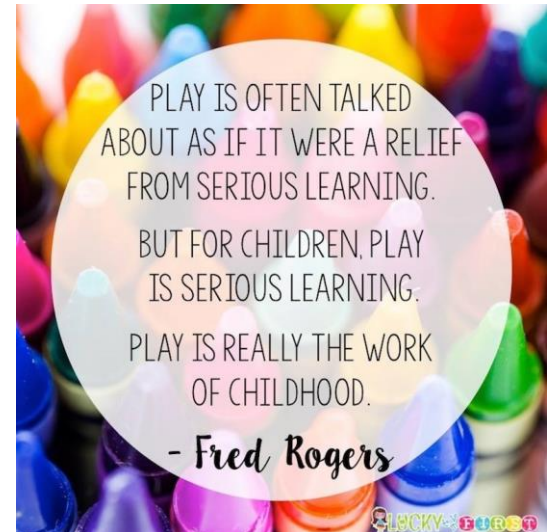
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# Early Years

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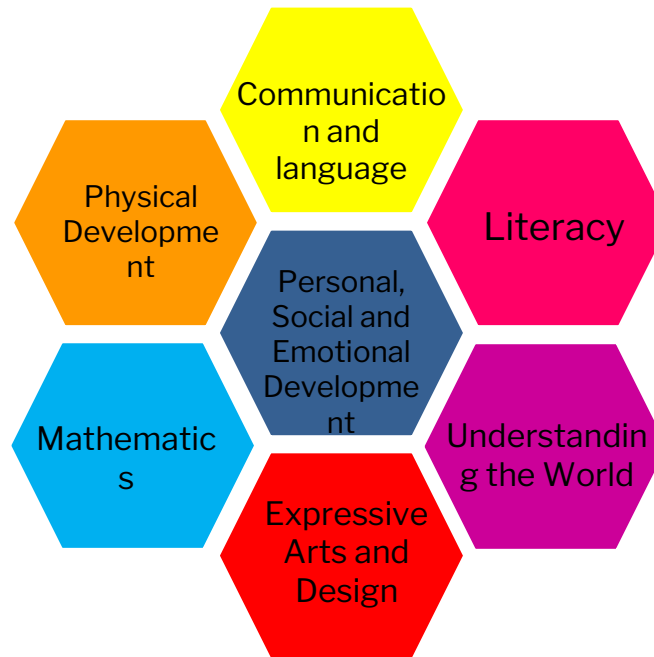
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**“The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets standards for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5 years old to ensure that children learn and develop well, and are kept healthy and safe.**

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 interconnected. 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
Wednesday 11th June	Welcome Meeting and EY's Tour	9.30 – 11.30	Parents	School Hall and EY's Provision
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Reception Read	4.00pm – 5.00pm	Parents and Children	EY's Provision
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Stay and Explore	4.00pm – 5.00pm	Parents and Children	EY's Provision
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Meet the Teacher	12.45pm – 3.00pm	Children	EY's Provision

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## Further Transition in September

Date	Event	Time	Who	Where
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	INSET DAY	SCHOOL CLOSED		
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	INSET DAY	SCHOOL CLOSED		
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	Settling in session	8.40am – 11.00am	Children	Reception Classroom
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	Transition 1 <i>Children to bring a packed lunch</i>	8.40am – 12.00pm	Children	Reception Classroom
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	Transition 2 <i>Children to bring a packed lunch</i>	8.40am – 12.00pm	Children	Reception Classroom
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	Transition 3 <i>Children to bring a packed lunch</i>	8.40am – 12.00pm	Children	Reception Classroom
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> and Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> September	Full days <i>Children to bring a packed lunch in the hall.</i>	8.40am – 3.15pm	Children	Reception Classroom

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**From Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September your child will be able to have hot school meals.**

**These can be ordered via parent pay. Details of this will be sent to you.**



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## Our preparations for a smooth start to school...

- ✓ **Welcome Meeting and EY's Tours** – opportunity to see the environment and find out more about what's to come.
- ✓ **Transition Sessions** – enabling us to build connections with our children and their 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...

From developing independence to promoting a love of reading, there are so many ways you can support your little one in becoming ready for school. Let's take a look at some simple things you can work on at home to help your child prepare for the transition into reception.

### What is school readiness?



School readiness is the term you'll likely hear a lot when talking about your child's upcoming transition into reception, how ready they are for it and the support they might benefit from ahead of it. It covers a really broad range of skills, characteristics and areas of development which lay the foundations for later learning.



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# Gross Motor Skills

## Core Strength

When your child starts reception, they'll participate in more formal sessions, such as whole-class phonics or one-to-one reading sessions. Core strength enables your little one to comfortably hold their position and maintain their posture, which is really important for their concentration. Developing core strength is also essential for developing agility, coordination and spatial awareness, as well as controlling large and small movements such as climbing, running, writing and threading or weaving. To support your little one in developing core strength at home, you can:

provide plenty of opportunities to run, climb and explore outside

ride bikes, trikes or scooters

garden together, using wheelbarrows, watering cans and any other gardening tools you have

create obstacle courses using cushions, crates, planks, cones or any other resources you have around the home

kick, throw and catch balls





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## Fine Motor Skills



Strengthening smaller muscles supports your child in being able to effectively manipulate writing implements, scissors, buttons, zips – the list is endless! There are so many ways you can support this area of development at home:

draw lines or patterns on paper to practise cutting

construct with building blocks

practise fastening zips or buttons

provide opportunities to make marks with pens, pencils, paintbrushes, chalk or fingerpaints

practise using cutlery

bake and garden together

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# Personal, Social and Emotional Skills

## Eating, Dressing and Hygiene

As your child will be spending more time away from you when they start school, it's a really good idea to support them in becoming as independent as possible when it comes to managing their personal needs.

Mealtimes can often be challenging, particularly if your little one struggles with wrappers or cutlery. Provide plenty of opportunities for your child to peel, chop and unwrap food together at home – all skills take practice and patience. It's also a good idea to practise unscrewing the cap on their water bottle or zipping up their lunch box if they'll be taking one. It's also a good idea to encourage your little one to explore new foods as their start date approaches, particularly if they're a fussy eater.



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## Personal, Social and Emotional Skills

Being able to fasten and unfasten their coat, pull their trousers up or down when they've been to the toilet, take their jumper on or off and change for PE is also really advantageous. Although their teacher and support staff will be on hand to help with dressing, it can be difficult to navigate with a class of 30 or more. Let your child dress themselves at home as much as possible over the summer, focusing on the basics and areas they find particularly difficult first.

Managing hygiene and toileting needs is another really important skill to master ahead of the transition into reception. Establish and embed a really consistent routine at home, including washing and drying their hands. You can use visual prompts or reward charts to remind and reward so that, hopefully, your little one is able to confidently navigate using the toilet independently by the time they start school.



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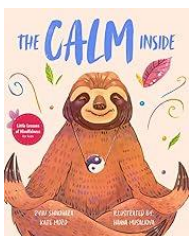


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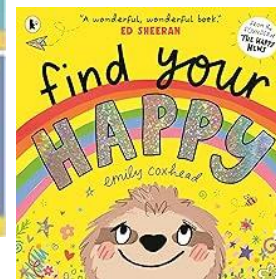
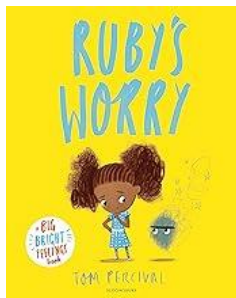
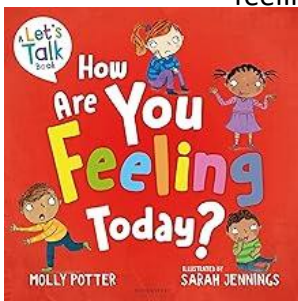
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## Personal, Social and Emotional Skills



### 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.



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## Reading, Writing and Maths Skills

When they start reception, your child will start to learn how to read, write, count and work with shape, space and measure. To give them a head start, you could work on:

- reading stories (including stories about starting school)
- recognising numbers to 5 or 10
- forming the letters of their name
- singing number songs
- using language like 'more', 'less', 'bigger', 'smaller', 'heavier' and 'lighter'
- writing their name
- looking for print in the environment
- counting in sequence to 20
- completing jigsaws and puzzles
- identifying shapes
- counting using 1:1 correspondence

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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



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## Your preparations for a smooth start to school...

- ✓ **STARTING SCHOOL ACTIVITY PACK** – Complete this together and talk to your child about how this will help their teacher learn lots of interesting facts about them.



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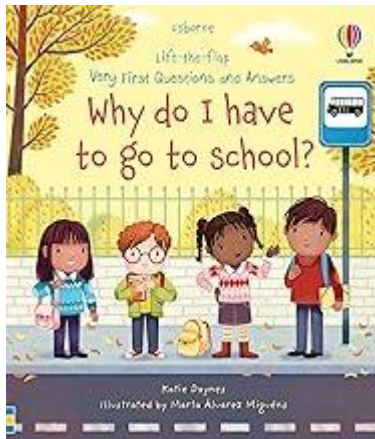
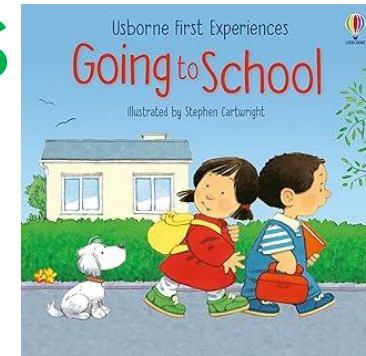
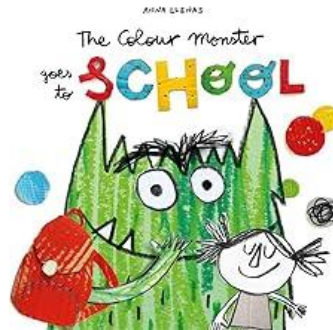


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## Helpful Books



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Help your child to...

## Key Skills

- **Dress and undress themselves** (buttons, zips, shoes)
- **Use the toilet independently** (flushing, washing hands and asking to go)
- **Write their name** (practise mark making with chawks, paints, fingers in the sand)
- **Count and recognise numbers to 10** (spot numbers in the environment)
- **Carry their own bag, lunch box and water bottle all at the same time**
- **Use a knife and fork** (very helpful for school dinners)
- **Listen and follow simple instructions** (eye contact and responding to adults)
- **Wait their turn** (encourage as much as possible)





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# 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.

If you have been informed that your child qualifies for Pupil Premium you may be entitled to free school uniform. The Pupil Premium Lead will contact qualifying parents.



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## School Uniform List

- Grey or black skirt or tunic or trousers
- White blouse or buttoned shirt (not polo shirt)
- School tie (elasticated option for Reception - Year 2). *Please check with the office if any are available to purchase from school, or purchase through [PMG](#)*
- Bottle green jumper or cardigan (*logoed jumpers and cardigans are available to purchase through [PMG](#)*)
- Grey, black or white socks (*not trainer socks*)
- Grey or black school shoes (*low heeled*)
- Optional green / white check cotton dress for summer
- Long hair must always be tied back but only with a suitable plain-coloured band
- Hair bows must be an appropriate size and plain coloured, in line with school colours.



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# School Uniform List

## PE and Games Kit

- Bottle green shorts (shorts are available to purchase through [PMG](#))
- White polo shirt (logoed polo shirts are available to purchase through [PMG](#))
- White or black trainers for outdoor PE
- Black tracksuit for Outdoor Games/PE



## Other equipment / optional items

- Bag for swimming/PE kit for hanging in cloakroom
- School book bag (logoed book bags are available to purchase through [PMG](#))
- Water Bottle (logoed bottles are available to purchase through [PMG](#))
- School cap/sun hat (logoed caps are available to purchase through [PMG](#))



## Optional:

Wellies and waterproofs are optional.

Reception ones are available to use 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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## Meal Times

### Lunch

- Reception children have lunch between 11.30am – 12.30pm
- They can either bring a packed lunch or have a hot school meal (*Please note, all children will need to bring a packed lunch when they first start school. Hot meals will be available from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September after the children have settled in.*)
- All Early Years children are entitled to a free school meal each day.
  - There will be a selection of different meals available each day, including a vegetar option.
  - Please let the office know if your child has any other dietary requirements
- Our hot school meals are provided by Millbrook Global Cafe.
  - Each family will be registered with an account in September
  - All hot school meals must be ordered in advance via [ParentPay](#).
  - The order deadline is midnight on Monday for the following week.
  - If your child has an allergy or dietary requirement, please ensure you check the allergen and ingredients list and only order a lunch that is suitable for them.
  - If you require any assistance with hot school meals, please contact the bursar via [school office](#).
- For information about how to apply for Free School Meals, [please click here](#).





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## Meal Times

### Packed Lunches

- 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.



### Snack

- Children will receive a free piece of fruit or healthy snack during the day.
- There is no need to provide an additional snack unless this has been discussed with the class teacher.

### Drinks

- Water is available throughout the day, including lunchtimes. Children can also bring a drink to school – Water only please.
- Children receive a free carton of semi-skimmed milk on a daily basis until they reach the age of 5 and should you like this to continue after their fifth birthday, this can be arranged for a small fee.





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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 60 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 t



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## 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.

## Class assemblies

- one per class in the summer term.



## 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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# STOKENCHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

## AIMING HIGH ... FLYING HIGHER

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

01494 482112 [office@stokenchurchprimary.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@stokenchurchprimary.bucks.sch.uk) @stokenchurchps George Road, HP14 3RN



Remember - learning is not a competition, children learn at different rates. For more ideas to help prepare your child for school, talk to your childcare practitioner.

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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.](#)

If you would like to apply for a place for your child in our Nursery, please see the Admission details for Nursery on the [Admissions part of the website.](#)

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**EYFS Nursery Class - Initial Interest**  
*Please note, we enrol children a term after they turn 3 years old and offer 15 hour and 30 hour funded spaces.*

**Pupil Details:**  
First Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Educational Needs: \_\_\_\_\_  
Medical Needs: \_\_\_\_\_  
Siblings currently attending school: \_\_\_\_\_  
Any special circumstances relevant to your application: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Carer Details:**  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please select which government funding you will be claiming:**  
Universal 15 hour funding      Extended 30 hour funding

**Please select the sessions you would like your child to attend:**

	Morning 8.30 – 11.30	Lunch* 11.30 – 12.30	Afternoon 12.30 – 3.30	Full Day (including lunch*) 8.30 – 3.30pm	*Please note lunch is charged at £5.00 per hour and your child is required to bring a packed lunch.
Monday					
Tuesday					
Wednesday					
Thursday					
Friday					

**Please select when/which term you would when you would like your child to start:**  
Autumn Term: September      Spring Term: January      Summer Term: April

Please note, our preferred pattern of attendance is either mornings, afternoons or full days, but we are able to be flexible and will try to accommodate your needs if we can. In such cases, the final decision as to when a child is admitted and on an individualised pattern of attendance, rests with the Nursery Manager. **Many Thanks, Mrs Warner**

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## Before you go...

Please remember to take:

- a 'Starting School' activity pack.
- a 'Top Tips' information leaflet
- A 'Reception 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.

In September during our 'Meet the Teacher' session you will find out more about our Early Years Curriculum

Enjoy your tour of our Reception provision

