



Starting in Reception

This booklet is designed to help parents of new Reception children starting at Lyndhurst Infant School. It contains information covered at the introductory 'Parents' Talk' and should help your child make a settled start at our school. If you have any further queries not answered by this booklet, or by the school prospectus, please ask your child's class teacher.

Our aims

At Lyndhurst, our aims are that your child will:

- Be happy and feel positive about school;
- Feel safe and secure in their new environment;
- Fit in well with peers and make friends;
- Develop confidence in relating to and cooperating with new children and adults;
- Be polite, kind and considerate towards others;
- Become more independent and self-confident about tackling new skills and activities;
- Develop good attention skills and the ability to concentrate on tasks;
- Develop their vocabulary and communication skills, feel confident to express their ideas and know that their ideas will be valued;
- Achieve their best in all areas of the curriculum and be proud of their achievements.

The Reception Curriculum

We will be following the Revised Early Years Foundation Stage framework (EYFS) which consists of three *prime* areas and four *specific* areas of learning and development. The prime areas cover the knowledge and skills which are the foundations for children's development and future progress.

The Reception curriculum consists of;

The Prime Areas

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Communication and Language

The Specific Areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Further information regarding this can be viewed at;

<http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/parents/>

Methods of Teaching and Learning

The children will experience a lot of practical work and structured play activities which take place outside as well as within the classroom. The purpose of these will be to:

- Interest and motivate the children;
- Develop their feelings of security and confidence;
- Extend their vocabulary, and language skills;
- Develop their fine and gross motor skills;
- Develop their concentration and persistence;
- Develop their own thoughts and ideas
- Encourage their personal interaction with their peers so that they quickly form friendships and settle into their new environment.

The practical work may seem like play to the children, because we endeavour to make the activities enjoyable, but the activities are structured and provide a sound foundation for moving on to more formal, recorded work towards the end of the year. Activities are planned for both the indoor and outdoor areas throughout the year.

The children will follow topics each term to bring together the different curriculum areas. These topics are linked to the children's interests and may include: dinosaurs, fairy tales, space, minibeasts and traditional tales.

Assessment

All children are assessed on first entering school. These assessments are incorporated into the children's classroom activities so that the children are not aware that they are being assessed. These initial assessments enable teachers to track each child's progress and aid early identification of children with additional or special educational needs. Ongoing assessments are recorded in each child's individual profile, and these are shared with parents during the year and contribute to their final, end of year, report.

Uniform

Please ensure all school uniform is named.

Stikins are quick way to name items and last for ages!
Each order placed quoting the school reference number 12632 will provide the school with 30% commission.

<https://www.name-labels.com/?PARTNER=12632>



Our Induction Programme

Although your child may have attended a pre-school playgroup or nursery, there will be many changes for them to cope with when they start school, including:

- Becoming familiar with a new, large environment;
- Mixing with large numbers of children at lunchtime and in the playground;
- Having to share their teacher with a large number of children;
- Meeting and recognising many new adults, including teachers, teaching assistants and midday supervisors, as well as many new children;
- Following a more structured timetable with constraints on their movements and choice of activities;
- Coping with new experiences and routines and getting used to a longer, more tiring day.

To ease the children into these new changes we have planned a gradual introduction to the full school day.

Pre-school Visits

Your child will have visits in the term prior to starting school, as follows:

- 2 Visits – Meet the Teacher and Stay and Play
- Visit by teacher to the child's early years setting.

Starting School

In September our School Induction Programme will be phased over 1-2 weeks in order to accommodate, and settle, the large number of children starting in September. We will be running with four classes of up to thirty children in each. Over this period your child will be introduced into school life in phases so that by the end of the first full week During the first two weeks your child will be invited to start on a given date.

Teachers will be holding *Parent and Child Interviews* for the first two days of the term instead of home visits.

Attendance and Punctuality

If your child is ill, or absent for any other reason, please inform the school as early as possible on a daily basis, the phone number is 01903 235390. The school is unable to authorise absence for holidays except under exceptional circumstances, to be agreed by the Headteacher.

Punctuality and attendance are important to both your child's education and social wellbeing and should be 95%+. Their attainment at the end of Reception can impact on their attainment at the end of Year 2 and then GCSE!

Travel to School

The school is keen to promote sustainable ways of travelling to and from school. Children are encouraged to walk to school as often as possible. If you bring your child to school by car, you may wish to 'park and stride', i.e. park 10 minutes' walk away from the school.

When parking near the school gates, please be considerate towards our neighbours. Please note that there are parking restrictions in the vicinity of the school and parents are not able to use the school car park.

Playground Reminders

- Please avoid bringing prams into the school building as they add to corridor congestion and can be a hazard.
- Please ensure that *all children* who are waiting with you on the playground are carefully supervised and do not climb on equipment or hide in the bushes as this can be very dangerous. Our apparatus is for curriculum use only during the school day.
- *Please inform the school as soon as possible if there is a change in collection arrangements for your child.*

Playtimes

Drinks – please could your child bring a drink in a **named** refillable flask or plastic bottle.

Snacks – your child will be offered a piece of fruit to eat at playtime, as part of the government's scheme providing free fruit to infant schools, but *no sweets, biscuits or crisps are allowed*. The school operates a 'healthy eating' policy, so if you wish to give your child a snack from home, please ensure it is fruit or vegetables.

Toys – children should not bring toys from home into school.

Accidents – if your child has a fall resulting in a minor cut, bump or graze he/she will be cleaned up by a member of staff and kept in school. Teachers will inform you of any bumps to the head because of the possibility of delayed concussion. You will be notified of any serious injuries by telephone so that your child can be collected and given any necessary medical treatment. Please ensure that we have up to date emergency telephone numbers for contacting you in the event of your child being ill or having an accident.



Physical Education

Your child will need a t-shirt and a pair of shorts in a **named** draw-string bag. Your child will need plimsolls for outside P.E. in the Spring Term.

- Mrs Welsted's class (Starfish) have PE on Mondays.
- Mrs Rolfe (Turtles) and Miss Dawkins (Seahorse) have PE on Tuesdays.
- Mrs Eales (Octopus) have PE on Wednesdays.

The children also have Physical Development activities available throughout the day in the outdoor learning areas.

Planning, Preparation and Assessment. (PPA)

All teaching staff are required to have 10% of their weekly timetable as non-contact time for planning, preparation and assessments of the children in their class. We try to ensure the same member of staff covers each class each week so the children have someone they know.

It will usually be:

Mrs Bearham in Starfish Class (Fridays).

Miss Srouji in Turtle Class (usually Tuesdays)

Mrs Slaughter in Octopus Class (usually Tuesdays)

Mrs Sturges in Seahorse Class (usually Tuesdays)

They may also cover staff when they attend training courses.

Parental Help

Once your child is settled into school we welcome parental help. Please speak to your child's class teacher about this possibility. Any parent wishing to assist must successfully complete an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check.

We will do our best to ensure that your child has a happy and positive start to school life. If he/she does appear to be unhappy about anything to do with school please discuss this with the class teacher, or with another relevant member of staff, so that problems can be sorted out quickly.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Twitter for the latest updates!



Lunchtimes

Please let us know if your child has any dietary requirements e.g. can't eat pork, vegetarian etc.

Our school meals are provided by Chartwells. Menus can be found here:

<https://westsussex.mealselector.co.uk/Page/24/Download-current-menus.html>

Milk

All the children receive milk under their 5th birthday. After that, you can order it here:

<http://www.coolmilk.com/>

