

Starting School in September 2021

Frequently asked questions

For all queries regarding applications and admissions please visit [West Sussex Admissions](#). They process all admissions to state maintained schools in West Sussex and they are best placed to help you with these queries.

I'm worried my child isn't ready for big school

It is really important to remember that Reception is a continuation of pre-school. We use the Development Matters curriculum and provide opportunities through play for your child to develop and meet their milestones. Every child is an individual and we will find out as much information as we can from you and their pre-school prior to arrival so that the planning reflects the needs of the class.

My child can't wait for school and I really want them to be challenged

As part of their curriculum throughout Reception they will be taught 1:1 and in small groups. This includes the teaching of maths, phonics and reading. We ensure that all children are challenged and make as much progress as they are able.

What do I need to do before they start?

We only ask that your child can toilet themselves, change their clothes (for PE) and put their coats on independently. We understand that all small children have accidents and need a little help sometimes but they will need to be as independent as possible.

What is a staggered start?

In September we have two weeks to introduce the children into Reception. We do like to start slowly with smaller numbers so that the adults in the class can give every child some 1:1 attention. The first week of term we usually reserve for home visits and meetings with new parents.

When do I decide if I want full time or part time?

We ask you to make a decision after the staggered start. You just need to inform the class teacher.

Do they get a free hot meal at lunch time?

Yes. All Reception, Year 1 & 2 children are entitled to a hot school meal (Universal Free School Meals scheme). We do have to order these meals so we will ask you to book them. If you decide to send your child in with a packed lunch this is absolutely fine.

My child is a fussy eater

We will try to help your child try new foods. Sometimes being in school helps this process. If it is not working and they are not eating we will work with you to decide when it is time to move to packed lunches.

My child has allergies

Chartwells, the hot meals provider, can provide meals for special diets. Medical information is required for them to set up special meals. This is arranged between Chartwells and the parent. You would need to inform the school when completing our paperwork so that we can ensure that your child is safe whilst in our care. Staff have a wide range of training to support pupils with allergies and medical needs.

My child has medical needs

It is important that you communicate with us your child's medical needs as soon as you are offered a place. We have had training and experience in a range of medical needs, however, if additional training is required we would need time to organise prior to school starting.

Your question hasn't been answered? Please just contact the school office on 01403 752207