



Starting Hook Infant School in 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is lovely to welcome you and your children if only “virtually” to Hook Infant School. Due to the current Coronavirus pandemic, we are unable to provide our normal transition events for your lovely children and yourselves, but we are going to do our best to ensure you have all the information you need before starting school in September.

Term Dates:

INSET – Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September 2020.

In school “Home visits” – Monday 7th, Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th September 2020 – slots to book via the ParentMail app.

Thursday 10th September: Whole day visit for all children born between 1st April 2016 – 31st August 2016 – exact times to be confirmed.

Friday 11th September: Whole day visit for all child born between 1st September 2015 and 31st March 2016 – exact times to be confirmed.

Monday 14th September: Full time attendance for all children, unless part-time attendance has been requested in writing and agreed by Mrs Walker.

Wednesday 23rd September at 9:05 am – Welcome to Year R parents meeting in the hall.

Half Term: 26th October – 30th October 2020.

Last day of the Autumn Term: 18th December finish at lunchtime.

Christmas Holiday: 21st December – 1st January 2021.

INSET: 4th January 2021

5th January 2021: All children return to school.

Timings of the school day will be confirmed as soon as the Government have announced the next stage of the lockdown lift, it is currently looking like bubbles of 30 children, entering and exiting school at different times.

Class Allocation:

You will have received a ParentMail informing you of your child’s class and teacher/s for the academic year 2020/2021, there will be four classes in Year R:

Butterfly Class: Mrs Walters - Class Teacher and Mrs Turner - LSA (Learning Support Assistant)

Ladybird Class: Mrs Payne/Mrs Tudor - Class Teachers and Miss Carter-Morgan – LSA

Bumblebee Class: Mrs Rutherford/Miss Tanner - Class Teachers and Ms Bougourd - LSA

Dragonfly Class: Miss Carter - Class Teacher and Miss Bale - LSA.

We have spoken to all our major feeder pre-schools regarding your children and have tried to group them into classes where they will have familiar faces from their respective pre-schools or nurseries.

Home Visits:

This academic year, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we will not be conducting Home Visits in the normal fashion. We will still be giving you the opportunity to meet your Class Teacher and Learning Support Assistant on a one to one basis, but at school instead of in your own home. This will be an opportunity for your child to not only familiarise themselves with the adults they will be taught by, but also their classroom surroundings. If you have ordered uniform from our online shop, this will be available for you to pick up at the same time as this visit, plus other information in a Welcome Pack. The dates for these visits are Monday 7th September, Tuesday 8th September and Wednesday 9th September, booking slots for these visits are available on the ParentMail app and we would urge you to book a convenient slot as soon as possible.

Getting ready for “Big School” how you can help at home:

We work closely with our feeder pre-schools and know just how much they have been trying to ensure your child is ready for the next stage in their education. We will be continuing to teach your children the same curriculum that they are currently following, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage and will be moving their learning on from where their pre-schools left off. Things you could be doing over the summer break to help your child be even more ready for school:

Personal hygiene: we would be very grateful if you could teach your child to independently go to the toilet and wash their hands afterwards.

Getting dressed and undressed unaided: the adult child ratio is much greater in school than at pre-school (1:15) and for PE lessons we expect your child to be able to get themselves dressed and undressed independently. Please can you buy Velcro fastening school shoes and ensure that your child's named clothes are easy to pull on and off. We will of course help your child if they are finding things tricky, but the more they can do for themselves the better.

Recognising their name: It would be really helpful if your child could recognise their name, not necessarily write it, but be able to pick it out from other names so they can self-register for lunches.

Know some nursery rhymes and traditional tales: It is very important for children to be able to recognise rhyme and also to be able to commit to memory songs, rhymes and poems. We would encourage you to sing nursery rhymes and to read some rhyming books to your child such as those by Julia Donaldson.

Read a story every day to your child: It's not just bedtimes that sharing a story can be fun. Reading to your child encourages their interest in books, helps them to learn new words, ideas and concepts, it also broadens their understanding of the world and stimulates their imagination.

Uniform:

We now have an online uniform shop, details of which have been sent to you via ParentMail app. On our website at www.hookinfants.co.uk > prospective parents > uniform, you can view the required uniform. We only sell the logo items, all other clothes i.e. shorts, socks, skirts, pinafores etc. can be bought in a variety of shops including Marks and Spencer, Asda and Tesco. We would like your child to wear "Clarks" type school shoes, no laces please and have ALL items, even shoes named.

Lunches and milk:

All children of infant school age are entitled to free school meals in Year R, 1 and 2 and free milk until they are five years old. There will be a choice of a meat or vegetarian option each day provided by HC3S, cooked on site. At the home visit, your teacher will explain how and where you can register lunch options each morning with your child. Currently we are not allowing children to bring packed lunches in from home, we will let you know as soon as this Coronavirus preventative measure is lifted.

I hope we have been able to provide the basic information you need before we welcome your child/children into school in September, we are all looking forward to meeting them and of course yourselves. Please use the video, found on our website www.hookinfants.co.uk prospective parents>introduction to Hook Infant School, to show your child what their Big School is like, especially as they have been unable to visit prior to starting in September and please do ring 01256 764487, if you have any further questions or concerns.

Kind regards

MDWalker

Mrs M Walker