



Start to School in September

This year we are offering a gentle start for your child in September due to the difficulty in organising our usual transition programme during the summer term. We believe that the timetable we have planned will really help them to settle into their new school environment, adjust to new routines and get to know new friends and teachers. Due to the current uncertainty around the pandemic this proposed plan (see below) will mean we are unlikely to make any changes and will allow you to plan ahead. We will of course inform you at the earliest opportunity if changes need to be made.

	Ash Class	Elm Class
Week 1 Monday 7 th to Friday 11 th September	Your child and one adult from their family are invited to spend a 2 hour 'Stay and Play' session one morning this week. This will include time to play in the Foundation Stage Block, a tour of the main school and a school lunch.	
Week 2 Monday 14 th to Friday 18 th September	Ash Class will come to school this week Monday to Wednesday mornings 9 – 11am then Thursday and Friday afternoons 1 – 3pm.	Elm Class will come to school this week Monday to Wednesday afternoons 1 – 3pm then Thursday and Friday mornings 9 – 11am.
Week 3 Monday 21 st to Thursday 24 th September	All children will attend school this week for morning sessions from 8:45am to 12:30pm. This will include eating lunch in school.	
Friday 25 th September	All children will be invited to spend their first full day in school from 8:45am to 3:00pm. All children are hopefully now ready to begin full-time school from this point. We appreciate that some children may need to continue part-time attendance; please do come and talk to us if you feel this would benefit your child and support their transition into school.	

We will shortly be posting your child's 'Starting School' booklet which will tell them who their new teacher will be and which class they are in. It also contains photographs of their new school. Once you know which class your child is in you can use the above transition plan to prepare for September.

What are the benefits of a gentle transition?

- A busy Reception classroom with lots of children and adults from day one can be overwhelming therefore the smaller, quieter groups give them the space and confidence to play and get to know each other.
- Staff working with a smaller group of children enables them to get to know each individual well and means they can give more dedicated time if they need extra support.
- Giving each child a positive first experience means they are more likely to remain settled in the long run.
- The taster session week provides the children with an opportunity to explore their new and unfamiliar environment with a trusted adult. It is also a lovely opportunity for you to get to see their world and have time to talk to the Early Years staff. The school lunches are yummy too!

