

FAQ's September 2020 Intake



Are there going to be any transition days for my child?

Our transition process is very different to how it will be this year as usually before the school year ends we would have invited you in to meet the staff and see the setting. We would also have been inviting you in for stay and plays before your child's start date, however due to the current situation, we are unable to let any parents into the school building.

To try and combat this we hope you have found our communications useful. There is a tab on the school website specifically designed for children and families who are new to our school. Here we have given you the opportunity to see some images of our setting, photos and messages from our Early Years team and other useful information. You should have also received an induction pack hand delivered by your child's teacher, giving you the chance to meet face to face. We have also been making phone calls to you and have released class emails that you can communicate with us on at any time.

It is our intention to make another phone call to you after the school holidays and before your child's start date.

Taking government guidelines into consideration we are still in discussion about whether we can offer any other options for transition and will be in contact if anything changes or develops.

Can I come into school with my child?

Unfortunately not at the moment. However as soon as this is something we can factor in, please be rest assured we will be encouraging you to participate in school life with your child whenever feasible.

My child's start date is not convenient-can I change it?

We understand that staggering start dates for our Early Years children will not initially meet the needs of all families, however our aim is to ensure a smooth transition for all children. We always try to accommodate families wherever possible but in this situation we are encouraging families to respect their child's start date, so that we can put provisions and plans into place to keep everybody safe.

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How will you communicate with me about my child?

We are a very welcoming and friendly school and would normally invite you in to share concerns about your child, however communications will need to take place at social distance until further notice. This means that we may have more telephone conversations, however you can also email your child's class email.

We will endeavour to share your child's experiences on their first day in written form. However after their first day we will encourage your child to share this with you verbally.

In addition, your child's Learning Journey will be online through Tapestry. In your pack you should have received information about this. By filling out the permission form for Tapestry you will enable us to enhance parental communications with you about your child's learning at school and at home.

How many other children will be in my child's class?

At full capacity there will be a total of 30 children in Reception class and 26 children in Nursery class.

What does my child need on their first day at school?

We strongly advise children to wear a *school uniform*. Information about this can be found on the school website. Please don't feel obliged to purchase uniform with a school logo on as plain red jumpers and white polo shirts with a grey skirt or trousers are ideal.

A *book bag* is so useful to keep books, letters etc safe.

A *water bottle* is essential so that your child can access a drink throughout their time at school. (If your child is having a packed lunch, we do recommend that they have a water bottle that is separate from the drink inside of their lunch box).

Spare clothes (just in case) are encouraged as we only have a limited supply in school.

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How will I know what and how much my child has eaten at school?

LUNCHTIME FOR RECEPTION

Usually school dinner menus are available so that you can plan ahead and prepare your child for what is on offer that day. Given the current situation, at the moment, we will only be able to offer sandwich bags as part of the free school meals in the first instance, however you can always supply your child with a packed lunch.

Dinner staff are on hand to help your child. Our communications with dinner staff are good and it will be communicated to you if your child has struggled at lunch time in any way.

SNACK FOR NURSERY AND RECEPTION

Snack time is incorporated into our school day. Again usually we would offer your child a healthy snack, however until further notice we will ask that you supply your child with a healthy snack each day along with their water bottle.

NOTE: It is imperative that we are aware of any food allergies or intolerances before your child starts school.

What can I do to help my child get ready for school?

There is so much you can do to help reassure and prepare your child for school. There are ideas on the school website under the 'Welcome 2020' tab with a Powerpoint on 'Tips for starting school' to help you with this, covering independence and preparation.

Does my child need to keep social distance at school?

Your child will not be expected to maintain social distance with his/her peers. We will be working as an Early Years bubble, whereby children in Reception and Nursery can use shared areas and resources. Interactions with their peers is so important and we want to continue to adopt an Early Years ethos wherever possible.

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How will you keep my child safe in the current pandemic?

We are working as an Early Years bubble to eliminate cross contamination across the school. We are maintaining all government guidelines, with accordance to hygiene of equipment and resources as well as stringent hand washing throughout the day. Please contact us if you require more reassurance.

When does my child do PE?

Every half term your child's class teacher will produce a newsletter which will cover important dates including PE times.

If your child is in Reception then this will be once a week at the same time every week and your child will need to have a PE kit in school.

If your child is in Nursery then they will begin to do PE after the first term of settling. You will be given notice and reminders of these days as children will be asked to come to school in their sportswear.

What do I do if somebody else needs to collect my child from school?

Please ring the school office and offer a password if somebody new is picking your child up from school. This message will be passed onto your child's teacher so that they can reassure your child and safely dismiss them into the allocated adult's care. Without your parental permission and instruction we will not dismiss your child into the care of somebody new. It is important that the person collecting your child knows the password that you provide.

If you have any other questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Class Emails:

Nursery: yearN.als@annielennard.sandwell.sch.uk – Mrs Bavin

Reception: yearR.als@annielennard.sandwell.sch.uk – Mrs Brookes

Deputy Head: jennifer.rogman@annielennard.sandwell.sch.uk – Mrs Rogman