

New Reception Families – September 2021 – Updated 16 June 2021

Normally, at this stage in the year, we would be inviting parents and their children into school for a range of events linked to induction. Unfortunately, in light of the government's announcement earlier this week regarding a delay in the final stage in the easing of restrictions and also due to increased transmission rates of COVID-19 in the local area at the present time, **we will not be able to accommodate visits to the school this term for parents or their children.**

We are, however, pleased to share with you here how we envisage your son/daughter's start to school will work in September. Please be advised that what has been planned may need to change in response to any national/local guidance or should circumstances demand it. Quite a lot of information follows but we hope that it will be useful to have this all in one place.

School visit for you and your child (2nd – 8th September)

You will be allocated a 30 minute slot for a visit to the school which will include up to 20 minutes with classroom staff. This will give you an opportunity to meet with the teacher and teaching assistant. Staff will be able to answer any questions you may have and show you the classroom. You will also have an opportunity to meet a member of our administrative team and purchase a school book bag and PE bag (these items are only available from the school).

Unfortunately, we will **not** be able to accommodate requests for specific times but all visits will occur at some point during the school day from Thursday 2nd September – Wednesday 8th September. We will let you know your allocated slot later in the summer term.

Stay and play sessions (9th and 10th September)

These sessions are an opportunity for the children to start to get to know the classroom staff and each other.

Parents/carers are asked to deliver their children to the classrooms at the times indicated below and can then pop out for two hours before returning to collect.

Thursday 9th September

Morning (9.30 – 11am) Autumn born children – stay and play session.

Afternoon (1.15 – 2.45pm) Spring born children - stay and play session.

Friday 10th September

Morning (9.30 – 11am) Summer born children – stay and play session

Staggered start to school

We have a tried and tested approach for the children's start to their time at our school that involves a staggered start. This has worked effectively in the past and gives staff an opportunity to really get to know the children, helping them to settle in to school.

Monday 13th September – Autumn born children start school full time (8.50 – 3.20pm daily).

Wednesday 15th September - Spring born children start school (joining the autumn born) but attend for the mornings only – 9.30am – 1.15pm.

Friday 17th September – Autumn and spring born children full time.

Monday 20th September – Summer born children start school (joining the autumn and spring born) for the mornings only – 9.30am – 1.15pm.

Wednesday 22nd September - All children attend full-time.

N.B. Autumn born = children whose birthday falls between September to December (inclusive)

Spring born = children whose birthday falls between January to April (inclusive)

Summer born = children whose birthday falls between May to August (inclusive)

School Uniform

We recognise that many of you will be keen to start buying school uniform. We would always advise parents to hold back on this as children tend to have a habit of growing rapidly over the summer holidays, but if you do want to start looking into what your child will need please see the uniform policy in our parent handbook on our website.

Lester Bowden/Stevensons in Epsom are the stockists of our branded uniform items, they are intending to open over the summer for scheduled appointments, we've been told these are booking up quickly so please do check this as soon as you are able to secure your slot. However, it may be preferable to order items from their website: www.stevensons.co.uk

Bumblebees or Ladybirds

Our Reception team will be using the information you have provided along with any information from the children's nursery/pre-schools to formulate our new Bumblebees and Ladybirds classes. Towards the end of term, we will let you know which class your son/daughter is going to be in. We will also share a short welcome video from their teacher.

Getting ready for big school

In preparation for coming to Tadworth, our Reception team would like to encourage our future Bumblebees and Ladybirds with mastering a few skills ahead of starting school:

- ★ Getting dressed & undressed
- ★ Using a knife & fork
- ★ Putting on/taking off their coat
- ★ Doing up & undoing buttons & zips
- ★ Managing personal hygiene – including flushing the toilet & washing hands afterwards

Please do not worry if your son/daughter is not able to do some of the things listed above but any progress your child can make in these areas will be a big help for when they start school. The other thing we are always actively encouraging parents to do is share lots of stories and books with their children.

We know that many of you already have a son/daughter at our school and therefore know the systems and routines but for anyone who is new it may all feel a bit daunting. Please do not worry. You will see, in no time at all, that we have a very caring, experienced and skilled staff team who will gladly respond to any concerns that you may have.