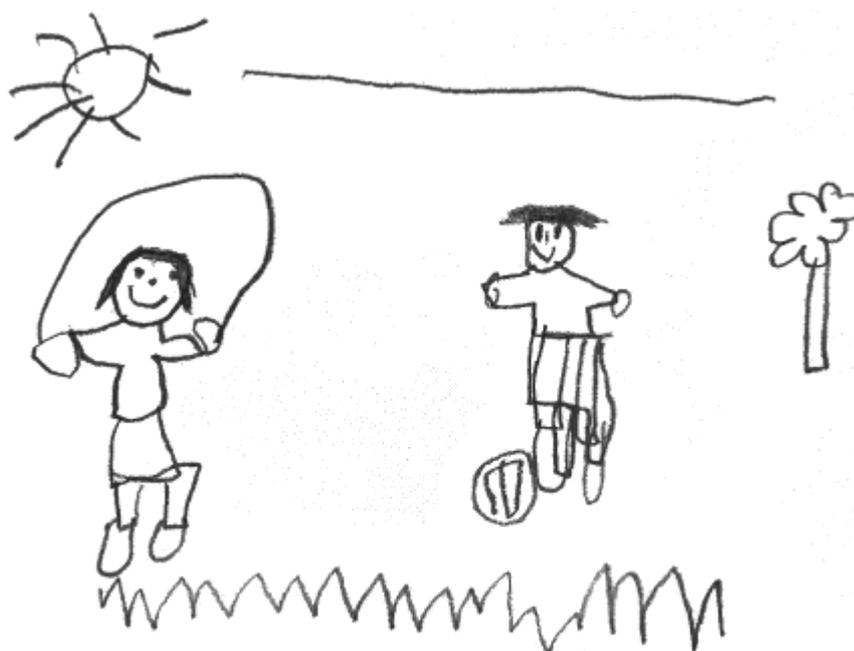


My child is starting school in September

What do I expect? What does my child expect?

We hope that these questions will be answered in this booklet, as well as in our 'Information for Parents/Carers' book, enclosed in your Welcome Pack.

Starting school is a happy and exciting time but it does need careful preparation. We hope that parents will work closely with school to make this happen.



How does my child start school?

Due to the unprecedented circumstances this year, we will not be able to offer our usual school visits in July. However, we do plan for you and your child to join us for a Stay and Play session on Tuesday 8th September, so you will both have an opportunity to see their classroom and explore it.

All children are offered a home visit in the first two days of term (7th/8th September). For the next two days, (9th/ 10th September), children will attend school for the morning sessions and stay for lunch, being collected at 1.15 pm. From Friday 11th September, children can attend full time.

Will I have a say in my child becoming full time?

Parents will be offered full time education for their child from 11th September 2020. However, the parent does not have to take this offer if they feel their child is not ready. They will not 'lose out' by making this decision. Legally, the child should enter school during the term after their fifth birthday.

What is a home visit?

The class teacher and teaching assistant offer each parent a visit to the family's home to meet each child in their own familiar surroundings. This gives the teacher and parent time to have a private conversation and for the child to share toys, thoughts and feelings in the security of the home. A visit is offered to each family and any parent not wishing to have a home visit should inform the school. The visits usually last about 10 minutes.

What happens when I first bring my child to school?

The class teacher and teaching assistant will be at the gate to welcome you and your child and answer any queries you may have on that first day.

I know that I am going to feel very anxious when I leave my child. What shall I do?

The staff will be there to care for your child and if you are concerned you are welcome to phone the School Office, where staff will be happy to check on your child and let you know how they are. If we feel there is an issue, we will always contact you.

What if I am late to collect my child?

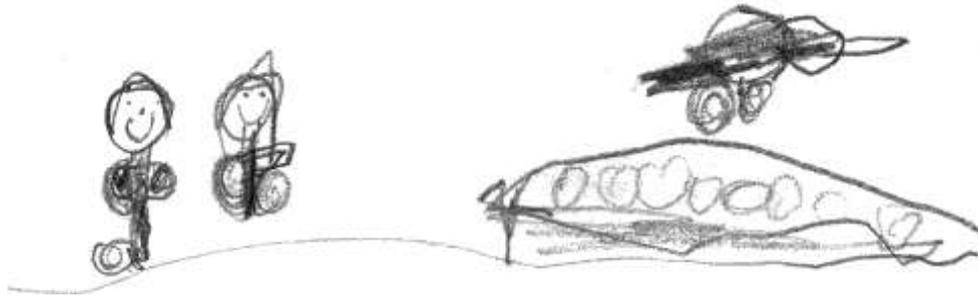
If you are unavoidably delayed, please phone the school office, so that we can prepare your child for a little wait.

Will my child have to ask to go to the toilet?

We will ensure that all the children have the opportunity to go to the toilet whenever they wish to go.

Will my child have someone to play with at play times?

Play time can be a worrying time for some children. It is because of this that we take great care to give children confidence in the playground. This starts with the child's visits to school. All EYFS children are allocated a Year 6 buddy who will accompany them at break and lunch times. This will ensure that the children are well integrated into the school and get to know the older children. The EYFS teacher and teaching assistant will go out with the children at play time during the first week as necessary in order that the children are happy and confident and have a familiar adult to talk to.



What does my child do all day? When I ask, they say “Nothing, just played”.

When the day has ended you will be eager to hear all about school and your child's day. It is quite usual for you to get little information or hear remarks like “nothing much”. Children do not always see things in the same light as adults. Learning at school is designed to be challenging and enjoyable so that children want to learn. The school day is very carefully organised and the child's learning well planned.

At the end of the day your child will be tired and may be without much to say. There are many new things happening and filling their head. Be patient and wait until they are ready to share with you. Bedtime is often a quiet time to talk. You may be told that they just played. Rest assured that play is children's work. It is part of the planned curriculum. You will also be able to view your child's progress and activities in class on Tapestry, the online learning journal.



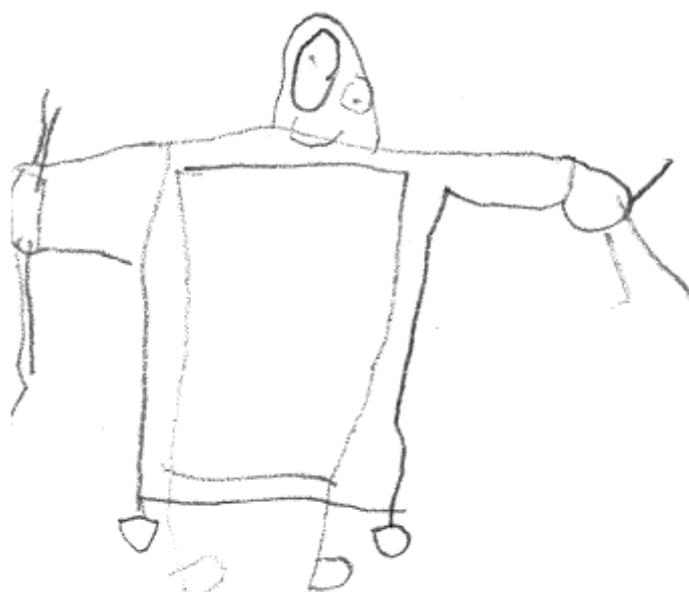
How can I best help my child?

As a parent you will want to provide the best for your child and support the learning in school. Your child needs us to work together as a team. Learning does not start when your child comes to school, but with you and it is taking place all the time. You are the child's first and most important teacher. We need to discuss things that we are concerned or worried about. In this way we shall provide a good education that your child will enjoy.

The greatest support that you can give to your child is to build their confidence. Try to give a little time each day to listen and share with your child their experiences. Have high expectations of your child that are reasonable and achievable. Do not be concerned if your child repeats puzzles, games and activities they did a while ago. We all need security from time to time. Often children will return to an old favourite book to re-discover and enjoy. Just try to make sure that a visit to the bookshelf or library will provide a variety of new and old books alike.

Expect your child to share things, talk and listen. Use everyday activities like cooking, laying the table, shopping, going out and about, washing up, gardening, bath and bedtime and all the DIY jobs around the house as experiences for you and your child to share. These activities contain reading, maths and science and you will be teaching your child many basic and essential skills. Singing songs, learning rhymes and reading stories to your child is an important base for learning to read, as it helps develop memory and sequence. Young children learn from a wide variety of everyday experiences.

When concerned about your child, even over the smallest issue..., talk to the class teacher.



How will I know if my child is making progress?

During the school year there will be parent/teacher consultation evenings where an appointment can be made to come along and discuss your child. However, in the Foundation class, progress is frequently discussed with you on an informal basis. There will also be regular updates on Tapestry, the online learning journal.

All children are assessed by the class teacher throughout the year within the seven areas of learning: personal, social and emotional development; physical development; communication, language and literacy; mathematics; understanding the world; and expressive arts and design. There will also be an end of year report sent out at the end of the Summer Term.



Does the school teach basics?

We firmly believe in teaching children the basic skills: reading, writing, arithmetic and many other essential skills. More details of our aims and methods can be found in the prospectus.

Your child will learn to share books from the beginning and will have his/her own book bag. They will be taught how to make choices and how to evaluate their own efforts and contributions. We shall hold high expectations of all children in terms of work and play and general behaviour. These expectations will take into consideration the needs of the individual and will be both reasonable and achievable.

Your child will be taught to recognise and form letters correctly using the Read, Write, Inc programme. On the back page of this booklet is an example of the style and formation of the letters and below are the number formations that we teach:



Once your child is settled at school, we will hold face to face meetings where we can share more information about the way we teach reading and arithmetic in school and how you at home can support it.

Can I help my child write their name?

Holding the pencil, brush and crayon correctly is very important. As many parents like to help their children write their names, we ask that you use the script shown. Please try to teach your child to only use capital letters at the beginning of names and for proper nouns. If you are in any doubt, please do not hesitate to ask the teacher.

How can I help my child keep track of their belongings?

Please name clearly all belongings with your child's first name. It is very hard to know which child owns which blue sweatshirt. Please make sure that PE bags are of the old fashioned, draw string type. Please ensure your child has a pair of shorts, a T-shirt and Velcro trainers for PE.

Children have a lot to carry each day, so we are giving you an Offord Primary School rucksack and a PE bag to use.

Once the children are settled in class, we will begin our Forest School sessions. Wet weather gear and wellies will be required.



When will my child stay to lunch?

All children are encouraged to stay to school lunch or bring a packed lunch from the very beginning. It is a big step in settling in and we like to do it properly, so the child enjoys the experience and is happy. All children eat in the School

Hall. If children are bringing packed lunch to school, we would encourage parents to provide healthy food. Fizzy drinks, sweets and nuts must not be included.

For snack time the children have free milk until they are 5 and fruit, so it is not necessary to bring a snack to school. There is snack time every morning but not in the afternoons.

Children need to bring a bottle of water to school and are able to drink water whenever they wish. Please name your child's water bottle.

What are the school rules?

Our school rules exist to benefit all the people who use it and to ensure their safety. We have a policy for promoting positive behaviour. We believe that the way in which we behave and treat others is basic to all that we do in school. We believe caring for each individual is part of our education. Our high expectations extend to all. We expect everyone to be helpful, tolerant and to participate in making the school a good place to be. The 'Information for Parents/Carers' book and our website have more details.

What do I do if I have questions, or a problem?

Always talk to the class teacher who will do their best to help find a solution. It does not matter how small the problem it is always better to talk it through. If the teacher cannot help, they will seek other advice on your behalf.

Well, I think

Words of advice and comfort from the children who started school in September last year

- I liked doing art at the making table
- I liked learning to write
- I enjoyed exploring floating and sinking
- I am really proud that I've made lots of friends
- I love the school dinners
- I liked playing with my friends
- I enjoyed learning about space
- I love getting dirty at Forest School!
- I liked doing PE
- I enjoyed being kind to everyone

Please share these comments with your child.

We hope that you are looking forward to joining us and joining in with all that we have to offer your family. We shall do our very best to make you feel comfortable, secure and valued. Our aim is to provide your child with the very best education that our resources can provide. We expect that you will wish to be part of this partnership. Thank you for reading our starting school booklet.

a

Bounce: a-a-a-apple
 Handwrite: Round the apple, down the leaf

b

Bounce: b-b-b-beet
 Handwrite: Down the stem to the hole, round the tree

c

Bounce: c-c-c-caterpillar
 Handwrite: Curl around the caterpillar

d

Bounce: d-d-d-dinosaur
 Handwrite: Round the bottom, up as tall neck, down to the leg

e

Bounce: e-e-e-egg
 Handwrite: Lift off the top and scoop out the egg

f

Stretch: f-f-f-flower
 Handwrite: Down the stem and draw the leaves

g

Bounce: g-g-g-giraffe
 Handwrite: Round her face, down her tail and give her a curl

h

Bounce: h-h-h-horse
 Handwrite: Down the head to the hooves and over the back

i

Bounce: i-i-i-insect
 Handwrite: Down the body, dot for the head

j

Bounce: j-j-j-jack-in-a-box
 Handwrite: Down his body, curl and dot

k

Bounce: k-k-k-kangaroo
 Handwrite: Down the kangaroo's body, tail and leg

l

Stretch: l-l-l-leg
 Handwrite: Down the long leg

m

Stretch: m-m-m-mountains
 Handwrite: Make, mountain, mountain

n

Stretch: n-n-n-net
 Handwrite: Down Nobby, over his net

o

Bounce: o-o-o-orange
 Handwrite: All around the orange

p

Bounce: p-p-p-pease
 Handwrite: Down the plant and over the pease's face

q

Bounce: q-q-q-queen
 Handwrite: Round her head, up past her eyebrows and down her hair

r

Stretch: r-r-r-rabbit
 Handwrite: Down his back, then curl over his arm

s

Stretch: s-s-s-snake
 Handwrite: Slither down the snake

t

Bounce: t-t-t-tower
 Handwrite: Down the tower, across the tower

u

Bounce: u-u-u-umbrella
 Handwrite: Down and under, up to the top and draw the paddle

v

Stretch: v-v-v-vulture
 Handwrite: Down a wing, up a wing

w

Bounce: w-w-w-worm
 Handwrite: Down, up, down, up

x

Bounce: x-x-x-xerox
 Handwrite: Down the arms and leg and repeat for other side

z

Bounce: z-z-z-zoo
 Handwrite: Down a horn up a horn and under his head

z

Stretch: z-z-z-zoo
 Handwrite: Zig-zag-zig

z

Stretch: z-z-z-zoo
 Handwrite: Zig-zag-zig