

# Frequently asked questions

## What time does school start?

Children should be in the classroom at 8.45 a.m. Registration ends at 9.00 a.m. after which time your child will be marked late. It is important to develop good habits by arriving punctually every day. We run fine motor skills activities each morning called Busy Fingers and it is important that your child takes part in these.

## What should I do if my child is not well?

If your child is unwell then s/he should be kept at home. Please telephone school to let us know why your child is absent.

## What should I do if my child requires medication?

In line with the Local Authority Health and Safety policy, relating to the administration of medicines in school, parents are encouraged, in consultation with the child's doctor, to adjust the timing of the dosage of medicine to avoid having to administer the treatment during the school day.

Where there is no feasible alternative to the administration of medicine in school the parent must discuss the matter with the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher. School staff are not obliged to administer medicines, but the Headteacher usually agrees that a child can be given antibiotics at school if the child is well enough to come to school and is simply finishing a course of medication. Parents must fill out an appropriate form after the matter has been discussed with the Headteacher. Antibiotics must be clearly marked with the chemist's printed label.

Inhalers can be kept in school in classrooms, after discussion with the school about a child's particular needs.

## How can I help my child settle into school?

Bring your child to school on time. Arriving late can mean that your child misses important information about the lesson. It can also be embarrassing for your child and is disruptive for the class. If you do arrive late, bring your child to the school office, where a member of staff will accompany them to their classroom.

## Is there anything else they need to bring in for school?

We run forest schools sessions and children will need wellies, warm socks and rain jackets for these sessions. Please place labelled items in a labelled bag on their peg, (wellies on the floor below the peg). This will be sent home at the end of each term to check everything still fits and if replacements are required.

## Do you have a school uniform?

We do not have a school uniform but do ensure that children come to school dressed for being active. Trainers, or shoes similar to trainers, are ideal as school footwear, but wellies, walking boots, plimsolls and sandals are not helpful and can be dangerous if worn when running about. Pupils should wear clothing that is flexible enough and that will not get caught in PE equipment. We would also ask that a change of clothes and shoes remain in school, just in case clothes get muddy. If your child wishes to wear clothes that aren't suitable for PE sessions, they will be required to change in the break time before their session. All clothing should be labelled with the child's name.

## What if something gets lost?

Please make sure all clothing is clearly marked with your child's name so that it can be returned if found. We collect lots of lost property items each term. The lost property storage is in the playground. Unclaimed items are sent to a charity shop.

## Can my child wear jewellery in school?

For safety reasons children should not wear any jewellery in school. However, they may wear a wrist watch, which must be removed for P.E.

## What happens if my child has an accident at school?

Unfortunately, sometimes children do have accidents or become unwell whilst they are at school and we need to call you. It can add to your child's distress if we are unable to contact you. Please ensure that we have up to date contact telephone numbers for you and tell us straight away if these change.

## What happens at lunchtime?

A school meal is available. It is free for Reception, Y1 and Y2 children. You or child needs to inform the class teacher whether they will be having a school meal or bringing their own packed lunch. Packed-lunches are stored on a trolley placed in the main playground each morning. Please place the labelled lunch box on the appropriate class shelf of the trolley. We are a Healthy School, and packed lunches should reflect this. Also we are a nut free school. Lunch boxes should be collected from the same trolley at the end of the day.

## Is drinking water available?

Water and milk is available in the dining hall and from drinking fountains in the playground. Children should also bring water into school to drink in the classroom during the day. This water should be in a clear plastic container that has a securely fitting lid. It should be labelled clearly with your child's name. Water bottles should be taken home each day to be washed and refilled.

## Should my child bring a snack to school?

A snack of a portion of fruit or vegetables is provided by the school for Reception and KS1 classes.

## Is there any shade in the playground?

There is some shade in the playground. We recommend that during the hot weather your child brings a sun hat to wear in the playground and comes to school with sun protection applied.

## Can I park on the premises?

No. There is no parking available for parents and carers. Please park your car away from the school gates and never park on the yellow zig-zag lines. The area outside school becomes very congested and is then unsafe for children arriving and leaving school.

## Can I buy a book bag?

Book bags can be purchased from the school uniform shop. This bag will help to protect your child's book from the weather and accidental damage and are easier to store in the classroom than large backpacks.

## What else is my child allowed to bring to school?

Children should not bring toys, sweets, valuables or money into school. We cannot be responsible for children's property.

## What happens at the end of the day?

School finishes at 3.15 p.m. Children in Reception must be collected by a known adult from the small playground near the classroom. Please let us know if someone different from usual is collecting your child.

## When can I talk to the teachers?

Teachers are busy settling their classes first thing in the morning and can only receive the briefest of messages at that time. They are more easily available at the end of the day when they have dismissed their classes. Teachers are happy to make appointments to see you if you would like a longer chat. Teachers also meet parents and carers informally at coffee mornings and more formally at parent/teacher consultation days. Messages can be written into the class message book in the classroom.

## Do you have after school clubs?

After school clubs run by the school are not aimed at Reception children. The Newcroft Club is a separately run organisation.

## Do you have a school council?

Yes. All children are part of the school council. Meetings are led by our Year 6 children.

## Are children given homework?

We expect children to read at home every day and practise their keywords. Children should bring their book bag into school daily. Staff will change reading books as appropriate.

## What if my child has special needs?

We can meet a variety of special needs in school. Please discuss your child's needs with the teacher. The Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) will be happy to meet with you to discuss specific concerns.

## What if my child is acquiring English?

We have many children in our school who are learning English. We have some specialist staff who are available to help children in their acquisition of English as an additional language.

## What should I do if I am worried about my child's progress?

Ask for an appointment to talk to the class teacher about your concerns. If you are still anxious, please ask to see the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, the Deputy Headteacher or the Headteacher.