

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

We know that you may have many questions regarding your child starting school – and if this is your first child starting school, you may understandably be quite anxious. We have compiled some frequently asked questions and have answered them in as much detail as we can. We have also included information that current Reception parents wanted to know before their child started school. We hope the following information helps to answer some of YOUR questions.

### **What time does school start and finish for Reception children?**

School starts at 8:50am.

Reception children finish at 3.20pm.

### **Where do I drop off my child each day?**

Parents and children wait in the playground near the classroom door. At the start of the day a member of class staff will open the door and welcome the children into the classroom. Some children will initially find this difficult but we will work closely with you to ensure that this is as smooth as possible.

### **Where do I pick up my child?**

Parents and children wait in the playground near the classroom door. At the end of the day class staff will open the door and let each child out when they see the adult that has arrived to collect them. If you would like to speak to the class teacher, you will have the opportunity to after all children have been collected.

### **What do I (and you) do if my child is crying when I drop them off?**

We are used to it! Most children will cry at dropping off time at some point in the year as tiredness gets to them or they realise that attending school is long term.

We will ask you to try to release yourself from them asap and we will help you with this by trying to distract your child so you can get out of the Reception playground area as soon as possible. We promise you they will be ok within minutes. We do understand how upsetting this can be for all concerned.

### **What does my child need to bring to school every day?**

Named clothing – it is imperative that all items of clothing are named and therefore easily identifiable. Named water bottle (water only please, no juice/squash). Your child will need to bring a named bookbag – to take home any drawings, paintings, letters, learning log book and their reading diary and reading book.

### **What PE kit will my child need?**

Your child will need a named PE bag with their named PE kit in, this bag will stay at school during term time and be sent home at the end of each half term to be washed. They will need a white t-shirt, navy shorts and black plimsoles. Once PE timetables have been confirmed we will let you know which days your child will have PE sessions – you may want to consider NOT putting your child in tights or a close fitting pinafore on PE days in order for them to be able to get changed independently.

For further information on our school uniform please see our website...

[Overdale Infant School - Uniform \(overdale-inf.leicester.sch.uk\)](http://overdale-inf.leicester.sch.uk)

### **Will my child go out in the rain?**

Yes. We do use our outdoor space in all weathers. That means that they will need a coat and suitable footwear each day. We also ask that, if it is possible, please can you send a pair of wellies and a waterproof coat into school, we will keep these items in school so that your child can stay dry whilst having fun in wet weather.

### **Will my child spend their days playing?**

If your child tells you that they have been playing all day – great! They will have actually been learning all day and not realised it!

We will build our curriculum based upon the learning that is outlined in a new curriculum which is statutory from September 2021.

The framework sets out the three prime areas of learning that underpin everything in the early years:

- communication and language
- physical development
- personal, social and emotional development.

The four specific areas help children to strengthen and apply the prime areas:

- literacy
- mathematics
- understanding the world
- expressive arts and design

### **When and how will I hear about how what my child is learning/doing?**

Information is shared during the new parents meeting outlining a 'typical day' and areas of learning in our curriculum.

We send out information about what the children will be learning weekly this will be sent as a parent mail. You can also access information about the children's learning via the school website and the Reception year group page.

Near the beginning of each half-term, we will send out 'Learning logs' to parents to let you know the sorts of things that we will aim to teach your child during that half term. This is an opportunity to support your child further with their learning should you wish to do so.

We will invite you into school for open sessions within the classroom once the children are settled so that you can see and take part in the learning within the classroom. We also hold a number of activity mornings throughout the year so that you can learn with your child. In October we hold curriculum meetings for parents where we show you how we teach the children and how you can support your child with phonics. We will invite you to a 1-1 parents evening during the autumn term and the spring term where we will share information on how your child is doing, what their next steps in learning are and how you can support them. We hold weekly reading sessions for you to come into school to listen to your child read.

### **Will my child take part in messy play?**

We will use paints, glue, chalk, water, and the outdoor area. We do not expect a pristine uniform after that first morning so do not put that pressure on yourself! Just know that they are having fun whilst learning.

### **What happens if they have a toilet accident?**

Any toilet accidents will be dealt with as soon as we know about it. Please send into school a spare set of clothes for your child (e.g. pants, socks, trousers/leggings, t-shirt, jumper) in a named bag. We will use the spare clothes in school and will change your child. Their own wet/soiled clothes will be placed in a plastic bag and discreetly handed to you at the end of the day. We then ask you to send in a new set of spare clothes as soon as possible.

### **What will my child have for lunch each day?**

Our school dinner menus are on our website, please take the time to look at these with your child each morning and advise them of the choice to make for dinner each day. When your child comes into school each morning, class staff will ask your child to pick their dinner for that day (and help them to remember what they have chosen!). For more information about school dinners please see our website...

<https://www.overdale-inf.leicester.sch.uk/page/?title=School+dinners&pid=54>

### **How can I help to prepare my child for school?**

Talk to them, listen to them, play with them, make up stories with them, read books to them, sing songs together, help them learn to share and realise that they can't always get what they want, help to develop their independence—can they go to the toilet independently, get undressed and dressed by themselves, eat lunch/dinner without being fed by an adult, put their shoes and coat on independently.

Feel free to contact us at [newadmissions@overdale-inf.leicester.sch.uk](mailto:newadmissions@overdale-inf.leicester.sch.uk) if you feel you need to.