

Littledean Church of England Primary School

Starting School in the Foundation Stage

'Loving one another, building each other up'

Introduction

Starting school can be a very daunting and difficult time for children and parents. At Littledean C of E School we aim to make this process as easy and pleasurable as possible. With this in mind, children are welcomed into school before the official start date to familiarise themselves with staff, buildings, other children and resources.

Approach

The school has a governor run Preschool, Little Acorns, managed by the Early Years Co-ordinator. We have strong links with other child care facilities in the area. We organise a number of events for the new starters to meet and develop friendships with the current Reception children. These include:

- Forest School sessions at school every Friday for Preschool.
- Combined visits e.g. at Christmas.
- All children are invited to induction sessions during term 6.
- New intake meeting for parents in term 6. School information and details of school uniform, school meals, etc are available at this time. There is also a chance to ask questions and look around the school.
- Part time table at the beginning of Term 1, with time to integrate into the class.
- School also invites children from Little Acorns and other child care providers to events at school, such as the Christmas Play, sports day.

Expectations

The governing body and staff expect that on admission to the Reception class that (unless for specific reasons) children will be able to:

- Dress and undress themselves
- Put on coats and shoes
- Use the toilet unaided and manage their own hygiene
- Use a knife and fork
- Leave any individual comfort aid at home

Snack time

At Littledean C of E School we are part of the Free Fruit for Schools project which entitles children to one piece of fruit each day. They should therefore not bring their own snack unless there is a medical reason why they should not eat the fruit provided. All children will need a water bottle and will have access to clean water throughout the day. The cool milk scheme provides all children with a free carton of milk on a daily basis up to their 5th birthday. After this time, parents may opt back in by going to the cool milk website or contacting the school office for details. Parents who have free school meal entitlement may continue to receive free milk on request.

Induction

We understand that children can find starting school quite a tiring time as they become used to the changes in their routines. Therefore, we offer a part time and gradual induction which allows children to settle. During Term 1, children will attend school from 8.45 -11:45 each day. Once they are settled we will extend the day to take in lunch (8.45 – 1pm). Eventually, children will attend school on a full time basis. Discussions will take place between teachers and parents. We aim for this process to take 3 weeks but it is very dependent on individual children's needs.

General

Children are requested to not bring in any personal items such as toys etc. unless specifically asked to by the teacher. This is to avoid loss and/or damage to precious things. Children are able to bring these items in as part of their "All About Me" Box and talk about them to the class.

At Littledean C of E School we promote and encourage independence amongst all the children so we ask that children come into school on their own. There will be opportunity for parents to pass on

any necessary information to the member of staff on the door. At home time, we request that parents remain outside so that we can hand children over safely. Once this process is complete, parents are welcome to come in and discuss any concerns with us.

It is important that school have up to date details of contacts and any medical information. We also request that Reception children are picked up by an adult and that if this is not the parent we are aware of please contact the office to let us know who this will be in advance.

All uniform and PE kit should be labelled with the child's name.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Child Protection/Safeguarding
- Inclusion
- Early Years Foundation Stage
- Special Education Needs and Disability

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