

17 June 2021

Dear families

We are very much looking forward to meeting your child soon as they begin their primary school journey with us. We hope that your child are very excited and looking forward to seeing their classroom and meeting their new class teacher. We hope you are continuing to keep safe and well and ask that you share the attached photograph with your child to give them an idea of who the adults in the EYFS team are currently.

Setting-in sessions: important update

Due to the uncertainty with the current Covid-19 variant and restriction being extended, we have made the decision to move our normal staggered transition from July to August/September. This is something we had to do last year in order to successfully and safely transition students. We will write you further to confirm how the staggered start to reception will work but essentially, your child will spend one half-a-day session between Tuesday 31 August and Friday 3 September getting to know the reception teachers in a very small bubble. We will allocate you a morning or afternoon session and we will confirm the day and time of this session before the summer holidays. Your child's final allocated class will be decided and communicated on Friday 4 September and this will be communicated via a text message with a link to a letter confirming the class your child has been allocated. Your child will then start at the academy, full time, on Monday 6 September 2021.

New to EYFS Virtual Meeting

We will be hosting a 'New to EYFS' virtual meeting for all our new students and their families via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 6 July at 4:00pm. Please use this link: <https://tinyurl.com/c46d54d6> to join the meeting. You do **not** need to download the Microsoft Teams App; simply select 'Continue in this browser' after clicking the link. Here, you will have the opportunity to meet the reception staff, members of the senior leadership team and hear about what learning will look like in reception class. There will also be the chance to look virtually at your child's new classrooms and learning environment.

For families who are unable to attend New to EYFS virtual meeting, we will be posting our New to EYFS video on the academy website by 9 July 2021. This will further support the transition for you and your child and make them feel further excitement about joining the academy. The academy's Family Handbook 2021/22 will also be published on the academy website from Friday 9 July which includes information about teaching and learning across the academy, including EYFS. Our EYFS Curriculum Principles can be found by using this link <https://tinyurl.com/43ktdpj9> which gives a clear rationale as to how our students reach their full potential and become successful learners.

All About Me Sheet and Booklet

Staff are working hard to put plans into place to ensure that all our new students feel happy and ready to start school. The EYFS staff are very excited to find out more about their new students so we have enclosed a blank 'All About Me' sheet for your child to complete and return to school at the above address using the envelope enclosed. It would be great if this could be completed and returned by Friday 2 July 2021.

We would also like all families to complete the enclosed booklet over the summer holidays and keep this safe until your child's allocated settling-in session.

The EYFS class teachers have also completed the enclosed 'All About Me' sheet so your child can get to know a little bit more about our EYFS teachers before they start. As your child won't be allocated their class until the end of transition on 4 September, please share both 'All About Me' sheets with your child. A welcome video message will also be posted on the academy website by Friday 9 July.

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GDPR Images Consent Form

Please ensure you complete the enclosed form and return in the envelope provided (along with your child's All About Me sheet) by Friday 2 July 2021.

Other Important Information

Also, as previously communicated, we pride ourselves on having excellent relationships with our families and, in order to begin working in partnership, our Parental Involvement Worker Mrs Thelma Vinnecombe will contact you directly to discuss any questions you may have. She will also be able to provide you with information about free school meal applications, family dining and will answer any concerns or questions you may have about your child starting school.

If you would like your child to attend Early Breakfast Club (at a cost of £1.50 per day) from 7.40am, then please contact the school office who will add your child to the list. This will start on Monday 6 September for Reception students however, currently, places are limited due to restrictions. A free breakfast club is available if your child arrives between **8am and 8.15am**.

Students will need to arrive at their reception class doors between 8am and 8:15am. These doors are located on the far side of the building, under the canopy, up the steps and across the reception playground.

In order to ensure that your child settles in quickly, parents / carers need to leave their child at the classroom door and not accompany them into the classroom. We realise that starting school can be a little daunting for young children; however, in our experience, we have found that introducing routines as early as possible helps children to adapt to their new environment quickly. Please ensure that these guidelines are followed to ensure a successful start for your child.

Students need to be collected from the Reception classroom doors at 3:45pm each day. This is where you will collect your child for the remainder of the school year.

We are hoping to hold our **Tea and Tissues** session from **8:30am until 9:00am** on **Monday 6 September 2021** as we recognise that the first day can be an emotional time and it is an opportunity for you to talk to other parents and staff. However, this will be confirmed nearer the time if restrictions allow.

As we go outside every day, in all weathers, it is important that you send your child with a warm, thick, waterproof coat and wellington boots. The students can then keep their wellies at school in their own tray. Please also ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform and all items are clearly labelled with their full name.

If any changes are necessary due to advice from Public Health and should there be a need for the academy to continue to operate 'bubbles', then we will communicate these changes as soon as practically possible. This may include slight changes to the academy day including start and end times.

Thank you for your co-operation; we look forward to seeing you all soon and starting this exciting journey with you.

Best wishes



Mr Robbins-Ross
Principal



Miss Afshan
Early Years Lead



Mrs Little
Assistant Vice Principal and INCo.

