

Transition to school

April 29th 2021

Where are we in the process and what is to come?

School offer acceptance

Deadline to accept the places at the allocated school: **30th April 2021**

Deadline for lodging an appeal: **18th May 2021**

Deferring

If your child has any SEND or you have other reasons for not wanting your child to start school in September you have the option to defer.

All children legally must be in school the term after their 5th birthday. Therefore if your child is born in February they must start in summer term after Easter holidays; if your child is summer born they do not need to start school until the following September but they will miss out on their reception year and go straight into Year 1. This can be detrimental to their development and therefore any decision to defer should be made with your child's teacher.



How will we prepare the children at nursery?

- Summer term provision enhancements -
School uniforms or the children to look at and photo displays; school photo, books; healthy eating lunchboxes; books and stories; increasing independence (clothes, shoes, belongings, eating, self care and toileting); Thinking and talking about growing up and moving on
- Where possible we will arrange visits from Foundation Stage teachers to Nursery
- We are unable to take children to their new settings, but Mrs Craigie is hoping to attend Stay and Plays at local schools
- SENCO meetings with parents of children with additional needs

What you can do at home to support your child

- Continue to support self-help skills and independence. Particularly in areas such as dressing and toileting
- Talk positively to your child about their new school. Dropping it into conversation every now and then
- Visual timetables – calendars help the process of understanding time and events
- If possible buy the school uniform together – make it a fun exciting day. Special time – take photos and share with family/nursery teachers

- Prepare your child by choosing a special lunch box or school bag
- Together make a plan for their packed lunch or look at school menu and encourage trying new foods. Tell them each day what they will be having for lunch and any changes to the routine
- Practice the journey to school and make it fun and a distraction if they are anxious
- If offered make sure your child attends their school transition visits – these are really important to help your child to become familiar with the setting and new teachers

- Meet up with other children/parents/carers who will be in the same school or class. You could see if your new school has a Facebook page to help put you in touch
- If your child seems worried or nervous ask them what they are worried about and remind them they can talk about it (this is very normal)
- Try not to get emotional in front of them. Arrange something nice for yourself to do as a distraction

Questions you may like to think about or ask at home visit or stay and play session

- Who will be my child's key person? What does this mean to my child/to me?
- What is the routine of the day? How much child led learning will there be verses adult led and what will this be?
- Will my child go out into main playground or stay in Early years? What about lunchtimes?
- How will you support my child when they are upset or need engagement from an adult?
- What are the main rules of the class and how are these enforced? (behaviour policy)
- How will I be involved in my child's learning?
- What can I work on at home? Will there be homework?
- How will I know about my child's progress and how often will this happen?

End of year reporting to parents

- A copy of your child's assessment and a transition comments will be forwarded to your child's next school in preparation. This will also be uploaded to Tapestry for you to see
- At the end of term you will be sent a link to your child's Tapestry online learning journal for you to download and keep as a record of their achievements.

Who to contact for any support

- You can always speak to your child's keyworker if you have any queries or concerns about the transition to school.
- We also have Mrs Craigie who is our Transition Coordinator; she has excellent relationships with all of the local schools and can help with various queries or concerns that you might have during this time.
- You can email Jane on transitions@blagdonnursery.reading.sch.uk or phone the nursery and leave a message for her.