



Aim High....Fly High

18th May 2021

Reception Class intake, September 2021

Dear families

We are looking forward to welcoming your child to Duxford school this coming September and I am writing to you now with some useful dates for your diary. The meetings and familiarisation sessions we have planned are a very important part of your child's transition into primary school, and we hope you will be able to come along. We also have a tab on the school website with information – and a video – about our Reception class. More information, including the Parent Handbook, will be added to the website over the coming weeks.

The arrangements detailed below are subject to any Covid-19 restrictions in place at the time. Some events may need to be held virtually or outdoors.

Information evening

There will be an information evening for new parents and carers (not children on this occasion please) on Thursday 24th June at 6.00pm – **this will be held virtually**. Mrs Shannon, our wonderful Reception teacher, will talk to you about the Reception class and will be able to answer any general questions you may have about your child starting school. There will also be representatives from the school office, DX and FODs to tell you about all aspects of life at school. A link for the meeting will be sent nearer the time.

Story sessions and Stay, Play and Lunch for children starting school.

We feel it is important for the children to begin to familiarise themselves with their new teacher and surroundings before starting in September. We would, therefore, like to invite all children to come along to story sessions and a stay, play and lunch session.

The story sessions are:

Wednesday 30th June, 2.15-2.45pm

Monday 12th July, 2.15-2.45pm

Please bring your child to the blue gate on St John's Street and the Reception team will meet you and take your child to the classroom or field. This year, these sessions are just for children. Children can attend one or both sessions. For pick up, please come to the same gate and your child will be brought out to you.

Thursday 8th July, 9.30 – 11.50am: stay, play and lunch session. This is an opportunity for your child to stay for a longer session and have a school dinner. Once again, drop off and collect your child from the blue gate on St John's Street.

More details about these sessions will be shared at the parent meeting.

1:1 Meetings

Individual meetings with families will take place on 2nd, 3rd and 6th September 2021 and booking information will be shared at the parent information meeting. 1:1 meetings are an excellent opportunity for parents to ask questions and talk to Mrs Shannon on a one to one basis about any issues unique to their child. We really value this opportunity which is why we have devoted time to this process at the start of the term.

Timetable for starting school in September.

The children will start school on Wednesday 8th September. We recommend that this be a gradual process to enable your child to settle into a new environment – even children who currently attend a setting fulltime find the move up to school quite exhausting. However, we also understand that some parents need their child to attend fulltime so that they can work. For these reasons, we will offer the following options on Wednesday 8th September, Thursday 9th September and Friday 10th September: 9am – 1pm or 9am – 3pm.

From Monday 13th September, most children will attend school for the full school day, 8.50am – 3.20pm. Some children may require a longer settling in period and this can be arranged on an individual basis. Please share your thoughts with Mrs Shannon at the 1:1 meetings in September.


Visits to playgroups and nurseries

Mrs Shannon usually visits children's current settings during the summer term but these visits won't happen this term due to Covid-19 measures. Mrs Shannon will contact settings via telephone or email unless you have asked her not to.

And finally...

It is very important that you and your child feel comfortable about the big step of starting school and we try to do everything we can to ensure it all runs smoothly. Please feel free to contact the school at any time over the coming months if you have any queries or concerns. You can email Mrs Shannon or me via office@duxford.cambs.sch.uk

We are very much looking forward to getting to know you and your child.
Kind regards



Suzanne Blackburne-Maze
Headteacher

