

Whiteley Primary School Induction Programme 2021

Virtual welcome meeting for parents: Monday 24th May 7pm (via Zoom)

This meeting is a chance for us to tell you more about our school and our induction programme. You will be given information on how your child will spend their day, and ways in which you can help your child make the transition into school. There will be information available about school lunches and the uniform, and parents will be able to use the chat function to ask questions.

Please note that at this point, we will not have decided on class groupings or be able to confirm which teachers will be in the YR classes for September. However, we will introduce you to some of the key staff you may find useful to know whilst your child is at school.

We will be asking parents to sign up for this meeting beforehand via Parentmail. The Zoom link for the meeting will be sent out nearer the time.

Meet the Teacher Events – after 21st June (if guidance permits)

By the 14th June, you should receive a letter to tell you which class your child will be joining in September. Your child will also be allocated to group A or B within the class which is used for the initial taster sessions to reduce numbers in the classroom. Subject to the guidance at the time, we are hoping to run a ‘meet the teacher’ event for the parents of each class towards the end of term. This will involve the use of a larger space such as the hall where your child’s class teacher can go through in more detail about the routines for the day when your child starts school and answer questions. We also hope to be able to offer parents the opportunity to see the classroom and other parts of the school following the meeting. **(Please note that these events are for parents, not children).**

Meeting 1 – 6.15pm
– date tbc

Meeting 2 – 6.15pm
– date tbc

Meeting 3 – 6.15pm
– date tbc

‘Home’ visits/ Individual meetings – after 21st June (if guidance permits)

Home visits are a valuable opportunity for your child to meet their new teacher and teaching assistant in their own environment. If guidance permits, we will be offering these later in the summer term. Nearer the time, we will write to all new YR parents to find out how many would like to take up this offer, and how many would prefer a meeting at school or a ‘virtual’ visit as we appreciate this may depend on your individual circumstances and also the Covid rates at the time. Further information will be given at the evening welcome meeting.

Daytime
appointments
(20 mins)

June/July 2021

Parent and child classroom visit/story session – Friday 3rd September

<p>This session is an opportunity for your child and one accompanying adult to come into school for a 20 min story session during the day. It allows the children to become familiar with their new classroom and the adults that will be working with them before they start school. Parents will be invited to sign up for one of the sessions later in the term – group A and group B will have a choice of two times (one morning session, one in the afternoon) so each session will have no more than 8 children at a time.</p>	<p>Friday 3rd September</p> <p>Children do not need to wear their school uniform for this session.</p> <p>One parent only to stay with the child</p>
<p>Stay and Play session (45mins) – Monday 6th September</p>	
<p>This is a chance for your child to spend a short session in the classroom with the adults they will be working with next year along with half of their class. Parents will need to drop off at the classroom door, using our one-way system. Depending on the guidance at the time, parents may wait in the school grounds near the front office or use the benches around Gull Coppice – please ensure that the office has your up to date contact details by this point.</p>	<p><u>Group A</u> : Monday 6th Sept (9.15-10.00am)</p> <p><u>Group B</u> : Monday 6th Sept (10.25-11.10am)</p> <p>Uniform optional</p>
<p>Additional drop in sessions may be organised during the afternoons the w/c 6th Sept on an individual basis for those children who likely to need additional transition activities prior to starting school.</p>	
<p>Starting School – first session – Tuesday 7th or Thursday 9th September</p>	
<p>Experience has shown us that it is useful to have smaller groups of children on their first few days of school so that they can be introduced to the classroom routines and become familiar with their surroundings without being overwhelmed. We have therefore arranged for Groups A and B to have a different half day session (without lunch) as their first ‘real’ school session in September – see opposite for times. It is very important that children attend this first session, and we would ask that they wear uniform and bring a book bag, PE kit and water bottle to help them get into routines. Drop off is deliberately later than the rest of the school to ensure a quieter start to the day for the new YR children.</p>	<p><u>Group A</u> – Tues 7th Sept</p> <p><u>Group B</u> – Thurs 9th Sept</p> <p>Drop off between 9.10 and 9.30am</p> <p>Pick up between 11.40 and 12noon</p>
<p>Starting School – Second session (Experiencing Lunchtime) – Weds 8th or Fri 10th September</p>	
<p>After their first session, children are invited to attend the next morning and stay for lunch to experience eating lunch together in the gym and going out for lunch play in their half-class grouping.</p> <p>Parents are then able to choose the pattern of induction for their child from the options overleaf.</p> <p><i>Please note that if parents choose induction option 2 or 3 which provides extended part-time sessions, you may choose to collect your child at 11.40am on the second school session, before the class go for lunch.</i></p>	<p><u>Group A</u> – Weds 8th Sept</p> <p><u>Group B</u> – Fri 10th Sept</p> <p>Drop off between 9.10 and 9.30am</p> <p>Pick up between 1.15 and 1.30pm</p>

Induction Choices

Experience has shown us that for some new Reception children, particularly those who have only just turned four, attending part-time for a period when starting school helps them to settle well into the new environment and cope better with the changes from the home or pre-school environment they are used to. With a cohort of 90 pupils, having some sessions at the beginning of the year where there are fewer pupils in at a time also enables the children to have greater support from the adults when learning the classroom and lunchtime routines. For this reason, for the first week of school, we operate a part-time timetable for **all pupils**. Following this, we then offer three choices to parents regarding the pattern of entry for their child. Detailed overleaf are the three options from which parents may indicate their preference for their child (option 1, 2 or 3).

In making your choice, we ask you to consider the following:

- The age and maturity of your child – how ready are they for school?
- Whether your child has difficulties in separating from you as parents when attending a pre-school or similar.
- Whether your child has experienced full time/full days in the pre-school setting and how they have coped with this.
- How well your child responds to the classroom taster sessions in the summer term.
- The adult to child ratio in a reception classroom is 1:15 within a class of 30 – this is one of the biggest differences between the pre-school/nursery experiences they may have already had. Our experience, and that of previous reception parents, is that children are far more tired after a full day at school than a full day at pre-school.
- Teachers plan the day in the first half term to ensure that part-time pupils do not miss key activities and teaching time, making the most of their time in school.
- All children are different – in making your decision, consider what is best for your own child and avoid comparisons with your child's friends. Some Autumn-born children would benefit from a part-time induction whilst some younger children may be ready for full-time. It will depend on the individual and their experiences and personality.

You will be sent an online form to let us know your option preference for September. Please note that the final decision regarding full time attendance will be made by the Headteacher, in consultation with parents. Our aim is to ensure that your child's first half term at school is a positive experience, laying the foundations for a confident and calm start to school life.

Please note that the choice you make may be altered in the Autumn term through discussion with the class teacher if this is in the best interests of the child. For example, if you initially choose option 1 but find your child is struggling with full time in September, you may drop them back to part time. Alternatively, you may choose option 3 and then find that your child is more confident and happy at school than expected and decide that it would be more appropriate for them to come full time earlier in the term. However, please note that we do not permit 'ad hoc' flexibility after the induction period: for example, pupils coming full time for occasional days, as this can be confusing for the children and does not support them in becoming used to routines.

Please note that all start times/finish times in *italics* are subject to change as we do not know yet whether schools will be expected to continue the staggered start/finish times in September. We are currently operating a 'window' for drop offs/picks up for YR as shown in the timings below.

Induction Option 1: One week part time - Full days from Thursday 16th September

Date	Group A	Group B
w/c 13 th Sept	Mon 8.45/9.05– 1.15/1.30pm inc.lunch) Weds 8.45/9.05– 1.15/1.30pm (inc. lunch) Thurs/Fri 8.45/9.05am – 2.45/3.05pm)	Tues 8.45/9.05– 1.15/1.30pm inc.lunch) Weds 8.45/9.05– 1.15/1.30pm (inc. lunch) Thurs/Fri 8.45/9.05am – 2.45/3.05pm)
w/c 20 th Sept	Full Time (8.45/9.05am – 2.45/3.15pm)	

Please note Friday 8th & Monday 11th October are INSET days (staff training days – school closed to pupils)

Induction Option 2: Three weeks part time - Full time from Monday 4th October

Date	Group A	Group B
w/c 13 th Sept	Mon 8.45/9.15 – 11.45am Weds 8.45/9.15 – 11.45am Thurs/Fri 8.45/9.15 – 11.45am	Tues 8.45/9.15 – 11.45am Weds 8.45/9.15 – 11.45am Thurs/Fri 8.45/9.15 – 11.45am
w/c 20 th Sept	Mon - Fri 8.45/9.15 – 11.45am	
w/c 27 th Sept	Mon - Fri 8.45/9.15 – 1.30pm (inc. lunch)	
w/c 4 th Oct	Full Time (8.45/9.15 – 2.45/3.05pm)	

Please note Friday 8th & Monday 11th October are INSET days (staff training days – school closed to pupils)

Induction Option 3: Six weeks part time - Full time from Monday 1st November

Date	Group A	Group B
w/c 13 th Sept	Mon 8.45/9.15 – 11.45am Weds 8.45/9.15 – 11.45am Thurs/Fri 8.45/9.15 – 11.45am	Tues 8.45/9.15 – 11.45am Weds 8.45/9.15 – 11.45am Thurs/Fri 8.45/9.15 – 11.45am
w/c 20 th /27 th Sept, & 4/11 th Oct	Mon - Fri 8.45/9.15 – 11.45am Friday 8th & Monday 11th Oct are INSET days	
w/c 18 th Oct	Mon – Fri 8.45/9.15 – 1.30pm (inc. lunch)	
w/c 2 nd Nov	Full Time (8.45/9.15 – 2.45/3.15pm)	