

FAQs for prospective parents

Will you be doing settling in days for the reception class nearer the start date?

Yes, we will. We have 'stay and play' sessions which gives the children an opportunity to get to know their new friends and the grown-ups in the classroom as well. We also do home visits which enable us to get to know you and your child in a setting that they are most comfortable in.

How many children will be in the class?

We will have a maximum of 30 children per class. We have two classes per year group.

Our child will be one of the youngest in the year, will he join just like everyone else or will it be different?

All children start on a full-time basis from the beginning of term. We do this because we find that it makes the settling-in process quicker for the children.

What things can we do to make it a smooth transition for my child?

We will be sending out booklets of photographs and information about your child's new classroom and teachers in the Summer term. I would recommend looking at these with your child and talk to them about starting school. You could also do things like practice putting on their new uniform and reading stories about starting school.

What is the Early Years curriculum like?

We teach to the statutory Early Learning Goals which can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1007446/6.7534_DfE_Development_Matters_Report_and_illustrations_web_2_.pdf.

We teach this through the children's interests and key events such as Harvest, Christmas and Diwali. We observe what the children are interested in and plan accordingly. For example, if the children are interested in parties, we will plan role play parties and writing party invitations and cards.

What is a typical day like in Reception?

Our day focuses on learning through play. We do a daily 20 minute phonics lesson, a 15 minute maths lesson and a 15 minute topic lesson based on the children's interests or key events. During the rest of the day, we learn through play, with activities available to the children based on their interests and to help them to achieve their next steps in learning.

Do the children have plenty of access to outdoor play?

We have an outdoor area which we use every day and as part of our free-flow play. We are also lucky to have two trim trails which the children have access to every day as well as a castle to climb and a woodland area. This provides lots of opportunities for different types of outdoor play including developing the children's love of nature as well as gross motor skills.

What is your behaviour system like?

Please see our behaviour policy here: <http://www.eaton.norfolk.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Behaviour-Policy-Feb-19-review-3-years.pdf>. We implement this with a real focus on giving lots of positive praise to children.

What wrap-around care do you provide? Does this serve food?

We have a breakfast and afterschool club. Breakfast club is £4.20 per session and the hours are 7.30am - 8.50am. After-school club is £10.00 per session and the hours are 3.15pm - 5.45pm. There is food served which is included in the cost. Examples of the food served are: croissants, toast and pancakes for breakfast and cheese and crackers, fruit at after school club. This varies week by week.

We also provide a range of sporting activities for children Reception-Year 6 such as multi-sports and football and we also have a choir club after school.

I am out of catchment. Will my child be likely to get a place at your school?

Whilst we are typically full, we do frequently accept children out of catchment. Our catchment is expanding year on year and we currently have pupils who live in Norwich city and as far afield as Mulbarton.

What arrangements are there for lunches?

Currently, we have lunch in both halls; the infant hall and the junior hall which is split into key stages. We have midday supervisors who supervise the children at lunchtimes. Reception staff help children in the lunch hall for the first term to ensure that they are settled. We have two play areas, the junior and infant, which children are split into for lunch time outdoor play.

How long has the Head Teacher been at the school and what is the staff turnover like?

Mr Lowe has been here for 6 years. We have a low staff turnover, with the longest serving teacher having been here for 18 years and teaching assistant 20 years.

What support is in place for children with SEND?

We ensure that we meet the needs of each individual child through quality-first, differentiated teaching and interventions to help children who either need additional support in an area or those who have a high ability. This is reviewed each half term with the senco and senior members of staff in pupil progress meetings to ensure that we are doing as much as we can for each child to progress to the best of their ability.

In Reception, we have differentiated phonics groups to accelerate those who are exceeding and to further support those who need additional support as well as differentiated maths groups. In KS2, each child has a chrome book which enables the class teachers to support the children's learning at every level.

