Gatley Primary School

Frequently Asked Questions for parents of new Reception Starters

What information will you need from me?

The school uses Parentmail to communicate with all of our families. You will be sent a login for Parentmail during the admissions process, and the school will request some information via this messaging service. This will include general /emergency contact details, information regarding medical conditions and permissions. Some form of ID will be required. Please see the Parents/Transition/Starting Reception section of our school website for additional instructions on registering with Parentmail. The school will be contacting any preschool settings to gather relevant transitional information to support the transition process for your child.

When will my child start school?

Transition is an essential part of starting school and aims to offer a variety of experiences and opportunities in order to prepare the children for starting full time education. Now, with the lifting of restrictions, we are looking forward to welcoming our families in person in a Covid safe way. This year, it is anticipated that the on-site transition process will begin in July and an activity schedule will be sent to parents.

Who will my child's new teacher be?

You will find out who your child's teacher is before the end of the Summer term. At this point your child's teacher will introduce themselves and welcome you and your child to Reception during Induction evening in July.

How many children will be in their class?

There will be 3 Reception classes and in each class there will be 30 children with one teacher and at least one member of support staff.

What will their classroom look like?

The learning environment, both outdoor and indoor, is split into 6 key skill independent learning areas which encourage children to actively develop, practise, reflect and extend their key and core skills.

What will my child need to bring with them?

Your child will need:

1. A packed lunch if you are not choosing to order a lunch from our providers online. Your child will be given a Gatley Primary School water bottle and we ask that you bring this (or an alternative water bottle) each day.
2. A PE kit in a bag (see our uniform policy on the website for more details) which will be returned at the end of each half term.
3. Suitable outdoor clothing for playtimes. A change of clothing in a bag is advisable, which can be left at school.

All items/clothing should be clearly labelled with your child's name.

What uniform will they need and where can I get this from?

Your child will need a school uniform and a PE kit. The school uniform policy is available on the website and branded items can be purchased through:

1. Monkhouse's in Cheadle Hulme: please click on the following link for a message from Monkhouse Schoolwear:
https://jrni.monkhouse.com/pdf/Parent%20Plan_Monkhouse.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=mautic&utm_campaign=outlook

2. Debonair Schoolwear in Wythenshawe: see http://debonairschoolwear.co.uk/

What are the times of the school day?

We operate a two wave of entry and exit times: Early 8:40am - 3:10pm and Late: 9:00- 3:30pm. Before starting in September, you will be offered the opportunity to select which entry wave you prefer.

Where will I drop them off and pick them up from?

Before starting in September, you will be offered the opportunity to select a designated entrance for your child. Aternatively, you may wish to use the schools staffed chaperone service which walk your child to and from school to designated locations in Gatley. More information can be found on the school website.

Will they be in a class with children they may already know?

The makeup of the classes considers a number of different aspects. Where possible children will be placed within classes with children who they are familiar with.

Will my child need a packed lunch?

As it currently stands, children in Reception will be given a school meal without charge as part of the government's Universal Free School Meal initiative. There will be separate information from our

school meal provider in due course. You do not have to take this option, you may wish for your child to bring a packed lunch instead.

What before and after school care is available?

The school works with a number of providers who accommodate extended day provision. These are run as separate organisations and therefore, are chargeable to parents. Gatley Childcare Limited works from the school site and Elm Road Breakfast and After School Club runs a pick up/drop off service to our school. Further information for both of these settings is available on the school website through the following link: https://www.gatleyprimary.com/parents/breakfast-and-after-school-club

What will the transition period look like?

The transition process will consist of a number of different opportunities and experiences for your child. In September, your child would start with a few hours per day, and work up gradually to spending a full day with their teachers and classmates. The school will contact you in due course in order to share this information, before the end of the Summer term in July.

When will we be able to come and visit school and meet my child's new teacher?

As part of your child's transition to school we will be organising induction sessions where you will have the opportunity to meet the Reception team, Government guidance permitting, in July.

Will a member of staff be able to help my child with dressing/toileting?

One of our school values supports the development of independence in children. Children who attend our school are encouraged to be as independent as they can be and this starts with personal hygiene. These routines and habits will developed with staff as part of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. It is always advisable to spend some time during the summer months practising with your child how to get dressed, put on their PE kit, coats and shoes and their toilet routines. More information will be provided on the school website to support school readiness.