

Joining Tweseldown Q&A

Please find below the list of questions and answers which were discussed on our Zoom call.

What does my child need to know prior to starting Tweseldown Infant School?

It would be really helpful if they could know or do some or even all of the following:

- Know numbers of significance e.g 5
- Be able to share & take turns
- Use the toilet and dress independently
- Recognise and/or write their name
- Be able to join in with Nursery Rhymes
- Speak full sentences

When are the start dates for September 2021?

We start with a home visit which will be conducted from 6th – 10th September. We will then have half the class in for half day visits on the 13th and 14th and then the children will be full time from 15th September.

We have a contingency plan just in case we are still under Covid regulations. We would conduct the home visits over Zoom in the summer term. On 2nd and 3rd September we'll invite groups of 10 children from the class in for outside play visits. In the same groups they will then get to discover their new classroom on 7th, 8th and 9th September for half day visits. On one of the visits they will get to try school dinners for the first time too. The 10th September will be their first full day at school.

What are the normal school hours?

We open the doors at 8.35am and have a ten minute drop off window until 8:45am. The school day ends at 3.05pm. During Covid times, each class has a separate start and finish time.

How many children in Year R?

We have four classes in reception each with 30 Children. Even though we sound like a big school setting, we pride ourselves in creating a small school feeling. We really get to know the children and parents.

Will the children be given homework?

We encourage children to read every night. Towards half term they will be given a small amount of key words to learn to read at home. When they can read the set of key words they will be given another set. At parents evening their teacher will discuss with you areas and ideas to help your child progress in their learning.

What is your uniform?

Our children wear a blue cardigan or jumper with a white polo shirt and grey trousers, skirt, shorts or a pinafore. In the summer they can wear shorts or a summer dress.

What if my child is poorly?

We are trained to assess each child and administer first aid. If necessary we will call you to come and collect your child if they are really feeling ill.

What can they have for lunch?

Children are welcome to bring in their own packed lunch. We do offer a hot lunch on site every day cooked by our caterers Old School. They offer a meat or fish option, vegetarian option or Jacket potato with a variety of fillings.

What do they do?

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and the children's learning is play based with a few directed tasks and whole class activities too.

How do you deal with children when they are advanced in certain areas (high achievers)? Is there a different strategy to help these pupils?

Starting school is a big step for your child so we give them time to settle and take the first half term to informally assess your child. We then group children within our classes according to ability. We always start from the child's starting points so every child is supported and challenged according to their own needs.

How have you dealt with COVID 19 in regards to children in all years starting and finishing school each day?

We have grouped our school into individual class bubbles with their own bathroom facilities and separate play areas. Each bubble has its own start and finish times to minimise footfall on site.

Do you use drink bottles since COVID 19 and if so are children allowed them within reach all day?

All children can help themselves to their bottle throughout the day, we ask that they only bring in water and that they are taken home daily. Reception pupils have theirs in a tray and year 1 and 2 always have them on their desk.

Regarding toileting, do children in reception go to the toilet themselves or get help when needed?

We have toilets in our classrooms which encourages the children to go independently but of course we can help any children that need some extra assistance.

How does communication between the school and parents happen?

Our teaching staff greet you at the beginning and end of the day at the door which is your first point of contact. We are able to discuss matters over the phone if that is preferable and we have class email addresses which the teachers check regularly. We use an online platform called Tapestry which keeps you informed of your child's learning journey. You will be invited to attend a parents evening in the autumn and spring terms and will be given a written report in the summer term.

As I will be needing a childminder, do you know who the local childminders are that currently bring/collect pupils?

Once your child has a place we recommend you make childcare arrangements. There is a Facebook group you can join to see who operates from our setting. Alternatively we have a list of the childminders that we know pick up and drop off at our school which we can give you.

When do reading books start to come home?

As soon as your child starts with us we learn the Oxford Reading Tree characters names and books are sent home after roughly three weeks, every Friday.

What clubs do you offer before and after school?

Due to the current climate we are unable to offer our normal club timetable. We are hoping that by September we are able to offer them again. Last year we ran clubs such as story, lego, creative, cooking, construction, cheerleading and games. We had outside companies in to run clubs such as football, judo, tennis, French, Spanish, dance and drama.

How do you look after children with medical issues/allergies or additional needs?

We ensure that all of our pupils are treated as individuals and as such create a care plan with parents. With allergies, all staff and our kitchen are made aware so necessary precautions are taken.

Can my child bring in a snack?

We take part in the national fruit scheme, which means we get fresh fruit delivered daily to our site. You are welcome to supply your own fresh or dried fruit or plain breadsticks.

Will my child get a chance to do PE?

We let the children settle into their first term and their physical activity needs are met during their free flow outdoor play. Over the year we will send you information about when they will need a PE kit as more formal PE sessions start to take place.

What if my child is naughty?

We never use the word naughty. We encourage the children to think about their choices and use the phrasing good or bad choice. We are a positive school and always promote the positive behaviours we would like to see using stickers, house points, praise and certificates.

What if my child seems sad?

We will try and talk to them 1:1 and see if we can find out why in order to resolve the issue. We reassure them that it is okay to feel sad sometimes and work it out together.

When will I find out what class my child is in?

When your child's place is confirmed at Tweseldown in April, the class teachers start contacting nurseries for information about their friends and plan visits. We will also ask you about your child's friendships so that we can ensure they are in a class they feel happy to be in. We will then contact you in the summer term telling you what class your child will be in, who their class teacher will be and what dates your child will be able to come in and visit the school.

Where can I park when I take my child to school?

We have two designated car parks we encourage you to use when driving to school. The first is at Crookham War Memorial Hall which is located just outside our estate on Sandy Lane. Even with little legs, the walk is no longer than 4 minutes. The second is at the Holy Trinity Church which is located on Bowenhurst Road. This is a good place to park if you have a sibling at Church Crookham Junior School. Please see the map below.

