

Frequently Asked Questions

What will my child's day look like?

We structure our days to meet our learners needs. Morning include more focused tasks to match the learners concentration levels, afternoons include quiet rest periods and lots of opportunities to create and explore.

How will you teach my child to read and write?

We teach learners to read and write using the same holistic approach as the rest of our curriculum. Large scale activities will be set up to entice our learners. Examples of these include writing invitations for you to join us for book week, reading clues in the garden to complete a treasure hunt or decorating enormous boxes in order to recreate the Three Bears cottage!

Both year groups follow the British Government's Letters and Sounds Programme, which is complemented with songs and games from Jolly Phonics. The learners will listen to whole class, small group and 1-1 stories. Ample time is spent communicating, playing sound games, singing songs, drawing, mark making and building up the gross motor skills your child will need for writing.

EY2 learners spend 20 minutes each morning in a group no bigger than 6 moving through the Letters and Sounds programme. This typically includes learning new letter sounds, playing word games, practicing letter formation and talking and listening activities. Each session is geared with the learners next steps in mind.

When ready, learners will begin to take home, home-school reading books. These books are based on your child's reading level and messages about their next steps will be shared in their home-school communication book.

Each class is allocated at least 1 session in our EY1/MP1 library. During this time the librarian will teach your child how to find their favourite stories which they will they will share with you at home.

What if my child gets tired?

All classes have a 'quiet area' which learners can access throughout the day. In the afternoon EY1 learners will take a short rest period, where they can choose to sleep on the beds provided, listen to the music or read quietly in the class book corner.

EY2 classes will undertake 'quiet time', where they can rest or engage in specific quiet activities that allow them time to process the mornings learning.

What if my child gets sick?

The school has a fully qualified nurse and medical room on campus. The learners are introduced to nurse Mina when they join the school and she often joins the class to support health based teaching. Mina will contact you if your child is unwell, so please ensure we have up to date contact details. Medicines can be administered by Mina if she has pre-authorized consent form.

How can I help my child to settle into his/her new class?

Make sure you are fully happy and informed before your child starts. Children are quick to pick up anxiety and nonverbal messages from adults. If you are confident, happy and self assured, so will your child.

Speak to your child about the transition, what they will see, who they will talk to, what they will need to bring as well as the name of their teacher. When you visit we will encourage you to show your child where the toilets are, how to ask for help and what to do if they feel sad.

In the time leading up to their first day make lots of positive comments about school, your child could draw a picture for their teacher or new friends and help to pack their school bag.

On their first day explain exactly what will happen; that they will come and play at school and that you will leave. Do not tell them you will be in school as this often causes more upset. Be clear and honest, you will leave when we sing good morning and return when we read a story before lunch.

Your child's teacher will help you to support the transition. Tears, unfortunately are normal, if not the first day sometimes as the week goes on and your child becomes tired. We find that the longer parents stay in the mornings, the longer it take for learners to settle, so be brave! We will contact you if your child becomes particularly upset or struggles to settle. Most learners do settle within a few minutes of their parents leaving and we will never leave you child to 'cry it out'.

What will my child eat?

Learners have the choice of bringing their own food or purchasing it from our school canteen. Learners will need a separate snack and lunch box. We encourage parents to provide 'healthy food'. Please no fizzy drinks, chocolate, sweets or fried food. Examples of lunch boxes can be found at the school Pinterest site or on your child's class website.

How will I know who my child's teacher is and how will they keep me informed?

Although learners spend periods of the day interacting with the other classes your child will still have a 'home base' which includes a teacher and learning assistant (LA). Your child's teacher will email you to welcome you to the class and this will include a photograph of the teachers and LA to share with your child. On your child's first day you be greeted by the teacher and at the end of the session a blue communication book will be provided. These books are used for personal messages between yourself and your child's teachers. Each week a curriculum updates is shared via the website and photographs and examples of learning will be shared regularly. Through out the year you will receive updates through reports, parent teacher consultations and learner led conferences. However if you have a particular concern please contact your child's teacher, who will be happy to make a mutually agreed appointment with you.

Is 'Discovery' time just playtime?

'Discovery' time takes place in our outdoor area, 'Creative' and 'Drama' rooms. The activities are carefully planned by teachers to link with the current IPC strands. Learners are encouraged to take ownership of this time, exploring and discovering the activities in their own unique way. Teachers use this time to scaffold and observe the learners, which then feeds back into our planning cycle.

What should I expect my child to do by the end of EY's

We treat all of our EY's as individuals therefore although we have learning outcomes through the IPC, what your child achieves will be unique to them. Typically we try to instil the development of the IPC attitudes listed above, which will give your child a firm foundation for Year 1.

