

Wednesday 29th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers of new Reception children,

We thought it would be helpful to provide you with some more information regarding this September when your child starts at Ecclesall Primary School. We know how difficult it is for all our families with no summer transition and this is why we are slightly extending our staggered start in September to ensure a smooth, happy transition for all our new children.

Week 1 (Tuesday 1st September- Friday 4th September) you will meet two members of staff (your child's class teachers or a Teaching assistant from Reception). This will be a "doorstop" visit instead of a home visit but it will allow you to talk through any concerns you have and also to provide information about your child's interests to help us settle them when they start.

Week 2 (Monday 7th September-Friday 11th September) we are having a whole week of settling in sessions instead of just three as is normally the case. Your child will either attend from 9-11am for the morning settling in sessions or from 1-3pm for the afternoon settling in sessions. We have adapted this week as we know it is very different this year. We will take this week very slowly and by having only 15 children in the classroom at one time will allow us to really get to know your child and get them used to the routines of Reception.

Week 3 (Monday 14th September-Tuesday 15th September) we will have all our Reception children starting for the whole morning but without lunch so from 9a.m-12pm. Then from Wednesday 16th September the children will be in full time with lunch.

Below are the meeting points and staggered start and end times for each of the three Reception classrooms:

	Class	Y	Class teacher	Meeting point for arrival and collection	Staggered start and end times
1	Polars	Rec	Mrs Ramsey / Mrs Goodwin	Via the grass bank near Reception patio. Please walk round past Y6 block and follow the path up the steps to the Reception gate	9am start 3pm end
2	Pandas	Rec	Mrs Firth	Via the grass bank near Reception patio. Please walk round past Y6 block and follow the path up the steps to the Reception gate	9am start 3pm end
3	Koalas	Rec	Mrs Hoole	Y1 path to the Y1 playground, walk to the Rec patio gate (please be aware of other adults when using this narrow path)	9am start 3pm end

Normally we would have parents into the Reception classrooms but as you are aware we are unable to do this due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We have to follow the strict guidelines from Public Health England, Sheffield City Council Health and Safety Team and the Department for Education guidance. The guidance is very clear and states “**Parents should only enter school buildings when strictly necessary, by appointment, and ideally only one at a time**”.

My staff will be on hand to help any children who are struggling to leave their parents/carers and because we have a Teaching assistant in each of the three Reception classrooms they can be taken into the classroom whilst the teacher continues to greet the other children and their adults. We do ask for your patience at this time and ask you to remember that social distancing rules apply while you are waiting for your child to enter school.

We would advise you to continue to watch the videos of the Reception staff (See Koalas, Polars and Pandas), the video tour of Reception and talk positively about school.

<https://ecclesallprimary.co.uk/new-reception-information/>.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uWqRnZ5cieCto2XPpV7wLDrj_OJWIu47/view (Tour of school)

<https://ecclesallprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Foundation-Stage-Guide-to-Parents.pdf> (Parent’s guide to Reception)

<https://ecclesallprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Guide-to-starting-school.pdf>
(Guide to starting school)

Please also read the wellbeing starting school document we sent out. Your child may also enjoy listening to the Reception staff reading the stories from over the spring and summer term (via the EPS website under our Curriculum section under Reception). It will also help for them to get to know the faces of all the Reception staff team.

<https://ecclesallprimary.co.uk/reception/>.

We know lots of parents/carers will be feeling anxious about their child starting school in September, but please feel reassured that we have a very experienced Foundation Stage team and Senior Leadership Team who will be there to support you all the way. We are really looking forward to getting to know you and your child in September.

Kind Regards

Emma Hardy

Head Teacher

Ecclesall Primary School

Nicole Ramsey

Deputy Head Teacher

Ecclesall Primary School

Guy Willatt

Deputy Head Teacher

Ecclesall Primary School