

Holy Trinity Pewley Down School

(Infants)

Essential Guide for Year R Parents 2016

Most Commonly Asked Questions

- ❖ What Uniform do I need?
- ❖ Packed Lunch or School Dinners?
- ❖ What do I require for my child's first day?
- ❖ Your child's starting dates
- ❖ Is there anything I can do at home to prepare my child for school?
- ❖ Surrey County Council term dates (there will be some additional teacher training / Inset days and we will notify you of these).
- ❖ See also the Parents' Handbook which you will receive separately.

What Uniform Do I Need?

Winter Uniform: **Boys** - Grey Trousers. White polo shirt. House sweatshirt. Black/navy school shoes.

Girls - Navy or grey skirt/pinafore/trousers. White polo shirt/blouse. House sweatshirt/cardigan. Black/navy school shoes.

Plain navy sweatshirts/cardigans are perfectly acceptable.

Summer Uniform: **Boys** - Grey shorts. White polo shirt. House Sweatshirt.

Girls - Blue & white summer dress. House sweatshirt/cardigan

P.E. Kit: Navy PE shorts and house T-shirt.
Blue tracksuit bottoms. Trainers (only needed after Christmas).

Additional Items

We also have a school fleece (optional) to wear over the uniform when outside. Other items such as book bags, school hats, PE bags are also available to order from the school office. Please refer to the order form sent to you earlier this term and return it to the school office so that your order can be made up ready for you to collect during your child's visits.

Please ensure **all items (even socks and shoes) are clearly named** and that your child knows where their name is.

Second Hand Uniform

The PTA (FOPS) organise second hand sales a couple of times a year, or you can access stores of second hand uniform at any time - please contact the FOPS committee member responsible.

Packed Lunch or School Dinner?

Children may have a hot school meal or bring their own packed lunch. The school meal comprises main course and dessert - menus are provided in the weekly newsletter for the following week. We ask that you give at least one week's notice in writing if you wish to change from school meals to sandwiches or vice versa.

Since September 2014 school lunches are free for all infant school children.

If your child has a packed lunch please drop these off on your way to class on the shelf in the hall. Please note we are a **NUT FREE** school.

Children with any food allergies wear a special badge at lunch times to ensure all staff are aware of any intolerance. Please ensure that any allergies have been noted on the information you have sent into school.

Pupil Premium (free school meals)

Please let us know if you would have qualified for free school meals (eg, if you are in receipt of Income Support, Income Based Job Seeker's Allowance or, in certain circumstances, Child Tax Credit) as the school is able to claim additional funding (Pupil Premium). Children with parents in the armed forces and children adopted from care or who left care under a special guardianship order or residence order also qualify for Pupil Premium (see separate form).

What do I require for my child's first day?

Your child's first day at school will no doubt be a very new and exciting day for him/her and possibly an anxious one for you. We do our very best to make the transition to 'big school' as easy for the children as possible. We would like to reassure you that we understand the difficulties the children may face and that it may take time for some of them to adjust to their new surroundings.

Things they need to bring with them.

- ~ A drink of water in a named flask - no squash or juice please
- ~ P.E. Kit in a named P.E. Bag - trainers, house T-shirt, shorts
- ~ School book bag

In the first few weeks we apologise ahead of time for the amount of paperwork that will come your way. It is really **essential that you check your child's book bag regularly.**

Our school is committed to ensuring that the children obtain their required 5 items of fruit or vegetables a day. We therefore provide each child with an item of fruit or vegetable at break time. There is no need for them to bring a snack for break time.

Timings

On your first day please bring your child to the classroom at 9.30am through the double doors in the playground. From then on children can arrive from 8.40 am for all children to be in class by 9.00 am. The children's stay at school is staggered (please see enclosed letter for your child's induction timings). Children going home at lunchtime will leave at 1.15 pm. Willow class come out of the side gate entrance and Hazel class through the double doors. For those children staying full time school finishes at 3pm. Please do not stand too close to these exits as it is difficult for teachers to see that each child's parent is present to collect their child. We teach children to say when they can see their adult so please ensure that your child has done this.

If your child is being collected by anyone other than yourselves, or is attending an after-school club, please note it in the appropriate class Message Book. These are kept on the bench by the double doors each morning.

Your child's start dates - September 2016

We stagger the starting dates of the children to allow them the opportunity to settle properly and for the team to start building strong relationships from entry. We firmly believe that this gradual transition ensures all children a successful start to school.

All Reception children

Part time from Wednesday 7th September

Children with birthdays September - December

Full time Monday 26th September

Children with birthdays January - April

Full time Monday 10th October

Children with birthdays May - August

Full time Monday 31st October

In consultation with your child's class teacher decisions can be made to extend the time a child attends part time.

Is there anything I can do at home to prepare my child for school?

Starting school can be as nerve-racking for parents as it is for the children. Will my child make friends? Will he/she like her teacher? Will he/she cope with the work?

One of the first things to remember is that a child who is independent, confident and has high levels of self-esteem will cope with school life better than a child who depends on others for their every need. Helping your child to develop these traits will make the transition to school much easier. However, these are some things that you can do to make starting school an enjoyable and stress-free experience.

Before Starting School

- Talk positively about the school. Come to the Summer Fair to help your child become more familiar with his/her surroundings.
- Make sure all your child's items of clothing are clearly labelled and that he/she knows where the labels are.
- If your child is to have a packed lunch, have lunchboxes at home. This will make sure that your child is confident to open and close the box and unwrap food.
- Listening skills are very important. Help your child to develop these skills by asking him/her to carry out simple instructions and tasks for you at home.

Don't be concerned if your child does not want to talk about what he/she has done at school; this is very normal. They tend to forget as they are so busy and involved with all that is new around them!