

# Welcome to Alverstoke Infant School



## School Information Booklet

*Please note some information may be subject to change  
depending on the current COVID 19 situation*



# Starting School

Starting, or changing school is a big step for you and your child.

At Alverstoke Infant School we aim to make the transition between settings as smooth as possible.

Our aim is for: -

- children who are happy, confident and secure
- children who are motivated and enthusiastic
- children who enjoy learning
- children who know how to learn

Parents are a vital part of this! You can support your child in the learning process by talking, encouraging and doing things together.

Most children settle into school with few difficulties, but some take a little longer and need more support and encouragement. It all depends on the individual child.

By working together we hope to provide a sound foundation for your child's future. Your child brings to school an enormous amount of first hand experience and we intend to use this as a starting point from which to build your child's learning. We aim to make school an extension of home and previous setting, and ensure a smooth transition.

## What to wear



Our school uniform is a red school sweatshirt or cardigan, and grey or black skirt /trousers/shorts. We also have red t shirts and red or white polo shirts. In the summer, girls can wear red gingham summer dresses. Some items can be ordered from the school office.



Sensible shoes that children can do/undo themselves – not trainers.

P.E. kit (in a named PE bag):

Black shorts, red t shirts, socks and plimsolls (no laces). Children work in bare feet in the hall. Long hair needs to be tied back and earrings taken out or covered with micropore tape.

**Please name all items of clothing.**

For health and safety reasons no jewellery is allowed in school. Children may wear small stud earrings.

## The School Day

<b>8.40am</b>	Classrooms will be open with a teacher present.
<b>8:50am</b>	Children must be in classrooms. The school gates will be closed just after this time.
<b>11:45 – 12:45pm</b>	Lunchtime
<b>3:00pm</b>	End of school.

Year R children are collected from the paved area outside the Year R classrooms. The gates will be opened for you at 2.55pm.

Teachers hand over each child to the person collecting them. Please let the office know if there is a change to the person picking them up.

## Lunchtime

School dinners are free for all children and we encourage all pupils to take up this option. The dinner menu will be sent home at the beginning of every term and on a daily basis you can choose which main course you would like your child to have. Our school meals are lovely! They are cooked on site and meet national health and nutrition guidelines. Children are given help to collect and cut up their food where necessary, but please help us by practising this skill at home. Children are encouraged to try everything, but will not be forced to eat anything they don't like. They are usually hungry by lunchtime and so eat most of their food, but you will be told if your child does not eat very much.

If children prefer to have a packed lunch, we ask that they don't contain sweets or chocolate (a small chocolate biscuit is fine). As we often have children with nut allergies, we ask you not to send in food containing nut products such as peanut butter or chocolate and hazelnut spread.

Children may drink milk and water in school. Milk is free until your child's fifth birthday after which there is a charge. Please register your child for school milk on the following website:

[www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com)

Water is available for children to drink throughout the day. A water bottle is supplied initially for all the children, which staff will refill each day. All children are offered a piece of fruit to eat each day.

## Traffic Congestion

Local roads become very congested at drop off and pick up times. To ease this congestion, we operate a voluntary one way system when coming into and driving away from school - please drive towards school via the village and Paget Road and leave via Ashburton Road.

Please do not park on the single yellow lines around school and avoid turning and reversing near to the school gates.

We would like parents/carers to sign and abide by our Parkwise Promise and display a sticker in the car window.

## Medical Matters

If your child cannot attend school due to illness please inform us the same day by email, telephone or letter.

If your child has been sick they should remain at home for at least 24 hours after they have been sick or until they are better.



It is important to tell us if your child is suffering from allergies or health conditions. This should be recorded on their admission forms. Please update medical information as the need arises.

Be vigilant for headlice! They can be a problem in all schools if not dealt with straight away. Advice is available from the school office.

Please do not send cakes or sweets into school as a treat to share with other children (for example when it is a birthday). This is in line with our healthy eating policy and to protect children with food allergies.

## Personal Information

Please try to remember to let us know if personal circumstances occur which may affect your child, for example a death in the family or a service deployment. We will try to offer support if necessary, and will always adhere to our confidentiality policy. Mrs Diane McEwan is our Child and Family Support Worker. She can be contacted via the school office if you need advice or support from her.

## Emergency Contacts

In case of illness or an accident at school, it is very important we have an emergency contact number in case we cannot contact you at home. Please notify us if any of your details change.



All parents with parental responsibility for their child are entitled to receive information and reports about their child. Please let us know if there is a court order in place which would override this. If separated parents require an extra copy of reports, information about parents evening, etc please make this request through the school office.

## Holidays in Term Time

We strongly advise you not to take your child out of school during term time as this can affect the rate at which they learn.

There is no entitlement to take holidays during term time; apart from in exceptional circumstances (see our Leave of Absence policy on the website) and a fine may be levied for unauthorised absences.

Days out for special treats will not be authorised.

# The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

Children in Year R follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum which leads into the National Curriculum in Year 1. It is divided into 7 areas of learning:

1. Communication and Language
2. Physical Development
3. Personal, Social and Emotional Development
4. Literacy
5. Mathematics
6. Understanding of the World
7. Expressive Arts and Design

Many of you will already be familiar with the Foundation Stage curriculum that your children will have been following in pre-school. In Year R this will also be the structure as they move onto the later stages of the Foundation Stage curriculum, and this makes for a very easy transition from pre-school to school. Your child will be learning at the level that is appropriate to his/her needs. During Year R, your child's progress towards the Early Learning Goals will be assessed and recorded on our online learning journal (Tapestry). You can choose to receive updates via e mail, which is a great way of staying involved in your child's learning in school. You can also share progress that they make at home via Tapestry. At the end of the year, the Foundation Stage Profile informs your child's annual report.

## About Learning

Children learn at different rates and in different ways, and begin at different starting points. They are individuals with their own particular needs.

Children learn through play.

Children learn if they are given time.

Children learn through activity and first-hand experience.

Children learn through their senses. They will need to touch, examine, feel, weigh, measure, construct, build, discuss and experiment.

Children learn through enthusiasm and interest.

Children learn if they have opportunity to express themselves physically, practically, and emotionally. They need experience with sand, water, clay, wood, crayon, charcoal, paint, fabric, pencils ....

Children learn from practical apparatus and from games.

Children learn through interaction with others, through co-operation, through exchanging ideas, listening, helping each other, testing and trying things out.

Above all they learn when they are happy and motivated in well managed, secure environments both indoors and outside. If your child comes home and says they have been playing all day.....

**BE GLAD!**

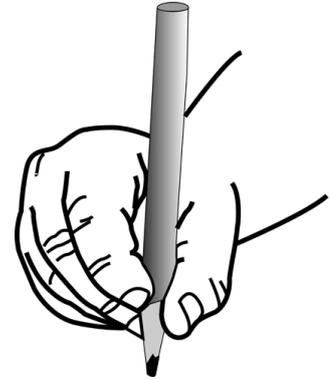


## Being 'ready' for school

It is helpful if children can use the toilet independently and manage most of their clothes when getting changed for PE (although help is always given when it is needed).

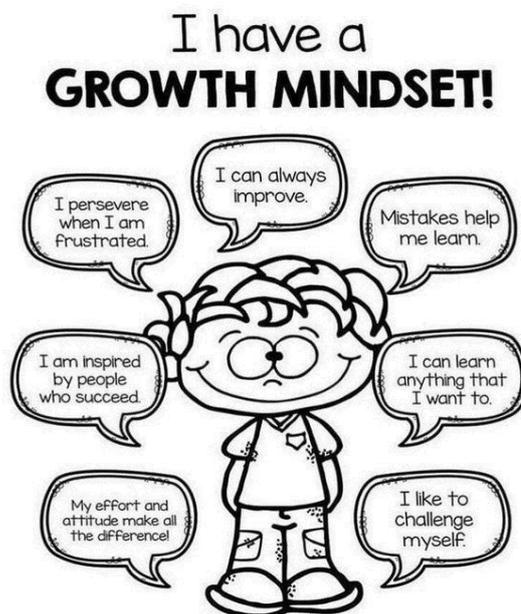
We have no expectations of where children should be in their learning when they start school, however if your child is able to write their name, it is helpful to do this with a capital for the first letter and lower case letters for the rest.

When holding a pencil, please get them to use a 'tripod' grip. An incorrect grip quickly becomes a habit and can adversely affect handwriting at a later stage.



The best start you can give your child is a positive attitude and an enjoyment of learning. To do this we recommend sharing books and stories; playing board games; singing songs and rhymes.

Ask and answer questions and point out interesting things to your child. Praise them for effort and for not giving up when a task is tricky. Share a belief that challenge is a good thing!



## Don't worry

If at any time you or your child have any concerns or worries, no matter how trivial they might seem, please let us know and we can hopefully sort things out. Please tell us good news as well.

We hope you will enjoy being part of our school community.