

# Starting School at Downview Primary School

## Frequently Asked Questions

Please also visit the school's website.

If you have any further queries or questions, please do not hesitate to make contact with us via the school office email [office@downviewprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@downviewprimary.co.uk) or Tel 01243 820511

<b>How many children are in Reception?</b>	There have three classes in Reception with 30 children in each. The class names are Strawberry, Blueberry and Blackberry.
<b>How many adults are in each class?</b>	Each class has a class teacher and a Teaching Assistant.
<b>What time is the school day?</b>	Our usual day is 8.40am-3.20pm At the moment this is different due to Covid restrictions requiring staggered start and finish times.
<b>Do the children wear school uniform?</b>	Yes. Downview uniform list is available on the school's website and may be purchased from JW Sports in Bognor High Street. In Reception we also ask that the children bring in a pair of wellington boots so we can go outside in all weathers. The children will also need a white t-shirt black/navy shorts and plimsolls or trainers for PE and a tracksuit (navy or black) for the colder weather.
<b>Do Reception classes do PE?</b>	We start PE straight away as it is important for the children's health and wellbeing. We encourage and praise the children to dress independently so they may come home with items of clothing on back to front, but they will never be left uncomfortable!
<b>How do the children learn phonics?</b>	We learn phonics through the Jolly phonics stories and songs. It is very important that the children say the 'pure sound' and not the name of the letter. We will send home phonic 'flip flaps' to support the children's phonic learning.
<b>How do the children learn maths?</b>	In maths, we adopt the mastery approach

	<p>which is also very practical so the children have a deep understanding of number and shape, space and measures.</p>
<p><b>When do the children start reading books?</b></p>	<p>As soon as the children enter school and are settled we assess their sound knowledge. When the children start to relate sounds to words and can recognise the Oxford Reading Tree characters they are given a reading book.</p>
<p><b>Do the children have homework?</b></p>	<p>We regularly send home different story packs and maths games for the children to play at home to support their learning.</p>
<p><b>Do the children have hot school meals?</b></p>	<p>Children in Reception are entitled to a free school meal every day.</p> <p>Chartwells provide all parents with a menu and you may elect for your child to be served a hot meal.</p> <p>We encourage children to try the hot meal but you can also provide a packed lunch for your child if you wish.</p> <p>If your child would prefer a packed lunch then please provide one. <b>Nut or nut products must not be included in packed lunches please.</b></p> <p>Reception staff are always on duty during lunch break.</p>
<p><b>Can the children have snacks?</b></p>	<p>Children in Reception are provided with a free piece of fruit or vegetable every day, usually during the morning. We encourage parents to send an extra fruit snack for the afternoon just to give them an energy boost.</p>
<p><b>Do you have a breakfast club?</b></p>	<p>Blackbirds run an on-site breakfast, after school and holiday club which many parents pay for.</p>
<p><b>How do you support high or low achievers?</b></p>	<p>Nursery providers will discuss the children's learning styles and abilities before the children start school.</p> <p>Once the children have settled we assess their knowledge, skills and understanding in a wide range of areas.</p> <p>The children work in mixed ability groups and we provide focussed interventions to support low achievers or high achievers to extend their learning.</p>
<p><b>What can we do to prepare our children for school?</b></p>	<p>Please practise with your children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to recognise their name including their</li> </ul>

	<p>labels on their clothes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- to change into PE kit and redress.</li><li>- to write their name.</li><li>- to use a knife and fork.</li><li>- to tidy away their toys.</li><li>- to go to the toilet independently.</li></ul>
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