

Preparing for School Transition



School Offers

- The deadline for accepting your child's allocated school place is Monday 1st May.
- You should accept the place through the Parent Portal at Brighter Futures for Children. If you submitted a paper application, you must accept using the online acceptance form www.reading.gov.uk/acceptdecline
- We encourage you to accept the place offered, even if it is not your preferred school, as accepting will not affect your child's waiting list position(s) or the likelihood of your winning an appeal. If you decline your child's place, admissions will only withdraw the offer where you are able to demonstrate there is alternative provision in place for your child's education.
- Please let us know if you are offered a place at an alternative school or if you have deferred so that nursery can look to accommodate your child in our numbers for September.

Waiting lists

- You may have decided to put your child on the waiting list for your preferred school place and are waiting to hear where you are on the list.
- When you accept the school place offered, your child's name is automatically added to the waiting list of any higher preference school.
- Your child's position on a waiting list is not affected by you accepting another school place offered to you. On the acceptance form, you are asked whether you want your child to remain on the waiting list of your higher preference schools

Primary school allocations

<https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Primary-Allocations-tables-for-All-Schools-2023-.pdf>

- Above is a link to a table which shows how many places a school has to offer in their reception classes; usually this is 30 if one form entry or 60 if two form entry.
- It also shows how many children have been allocated a place at that school and if there is a waiting list and how many children are on it.
- You may find this is useful information to see how big your child's class will be.

When do I want my child to start school?

- Children can start full-time at school from the September following their fourth birthday. However, they are not legally required to start full-time until the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday (i.e. statutory/compulsory school age).
- If you do not want your child to start school in September 2023 the following options are available:
 - Defer their place up to (but not beyond) the point at which they reach statutory/compulsory school age.
 - Request that your child be “offset” to start Reception Class in September 2024, rather than September 2023 (i.e. educated outside the year group suggested by their date of birth).

Dates for the admission process

- National Offer Day for on time applications 17 April 2023
- Deadline for parents to accept 1 May 2023
- Closing date for receipt of appeals 15 May 2023
- Appeals to be heard if submitted by the deadline June – July 2023
- Admissions round ends 31 August 2023

Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

- If your child has special needs, but does not have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), they will be considered for a place at your preferred school in the same way as any other child.
- If your child has an EHCP to support their special needs, you should apply through the SEND team and discuss their primary school transfer with your case officer as your application will be considered differently. You may wish to speak to your SEND case officer for more information.

What will happen next?

- Schools will send out school transition pack which will give you information about the school e.g. school uniforms, times of the day and outline the process of what will happen up until they start school in September.
- Schools will probably offer some play and stay visits to the school in the summer term.
- Nursery will contact your child's allocated school and arrange for the new school to come to nursery to see all the children allocated that specific school and speak with nursery key persons.
- Children with SEND will have additional meeting booked with the SENCO and parents to discuss in more detail what needs to be put into place ready for your child to start.

How will nursery prepare the children for transition to school?

Summer term provision enhancements in nursery-

- School uniforms dress up and photo displays of everyone going to each school
- school photo books
- healthy eating lunchboxes
- 'Starting school' books and stories
- Increasing independence (clothes, shoes, belongings, eating, self care and toileting)
- Thinking and talking about growing up and moving on

Information sharing

We will speak to your child's new school teachers and team leader to discuss your child's:

- Likes and dislikes
- Strengths and areas for development within the curriculum
- Friendship groups of children going with them to same school
- Resilience and emotional development
- Strategies we may use with your child to help them learn or to manage their behaviour.
- We will have additional conversations/meetings with the school SENCO and with parents/carers of children with additional needs
- We will send to your child's new school their Tapestry online learning journal with a final observation/report about them and any other information that will help them to understand your child's level of development and next steps.

What can I do to support my child with their transition to school?

- Continue to support self-help skills and independence. Particularly in areas such as dressing and toileting
- Allowing your child to think about what they need/want and asking for help rather than doing everything for them.
- Talking positively to your child about their new school.
- Starting school is still a long way off; help your child to understand time and events by sequencing e.g. first it will be your birthday, then a holiday and then you will start school.
- Buy the school uniform together – make it a fun exciting day. Special time – take photos and share with family/nursery teachers

What can I do to support my child with their transition to school?

- Prepare your child by choosing a special lunch box or school bag
- Together make a plan for their packed lunch or look at school menus on the website and encourage/ practice trying new foods as well as using cutlery and eating by themselves.
- Practice the journey to school and make it fun and a distraction if they are anxious
- Make sure your child attends their school transition visits as these are really important to help your child to become familiar with the setting and new teacher.

What can I do to support my child with their transition to school?

- Meet up with other children/parents who will be in the same school/class. Many schools set up a Facebook page so you can arrange play days before the new term starts.
- Have a look at the school website and their PTA group to see what the focus is on fundraising and how well supported the school is by parents. There may be a summer fair/event you can go along to help your child become more familiar with their new school.
- If your child seems worried or nervous ask them what they are worried about and remind them they can talk about it (this is very normal)
- On the first day of school, try not to get emotional in front of them. Arrange something nice for yourself to do as a distraction.

Questions you might like to think about asking at a home visit or school visit.

- Who will be my child's key person? What does this mean to my child/to me?
- What is the routine of the day? How much child led learning will there be verses adult led and what will this be?
- Will my child have a staggered start in September? When will they be full time?
- How will I be involved in my child's learning?
- What can I work on at home? Will there be homework?
- How will I know about my child's progress and how often?

Saying goodbye

- At the end of term you will be given your child's Tapestry online learning journal for you to keep as a record of their achievements. This will be sent as a link by e-mail for you to then download onto your own device at home. We recommend you use a PC as phone storage may not be big enough and will be slow to download. You will only have a short window of time in which to do this before their file is deleted from our server.
- Please ensure any outstanding payments are fully paid before your child leaves.

And finally

We understand that leaving nursery for school is just as hard for parents as it is for the children and recognise you may have questions or concerns about how your child will manage.

You may wish to spend your last focus week meeting this term discussing any concerns with your child's keyperson who will be able to reassure you or raise anything with the school when they visit.