



Chillerton and Rookley Primary School  
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## Welcome to Chillerton and Rookley Primary School

We hope that you will find all the information you will need to help settle your child into our Reception class and answer some of your questions, and make you feel welcome. If there is any further information you require, please ask. We offer many visiting sessions, such as visits, open days and activity days throughout the year.

For some children, starting school will be the first time that they have been left with another person in a place other than home. At Chillerton we aim to make this process as smooth as possible.

Receiving the acceptance letter for your child's place in September can stir up all sorts of emotions. As well as being exciting and a relief that you have the place, sometimes, knowing that they are starting school for the first time can be a daunting prospect, as it is the next stage of your child growing up and building on their independence. You may also feel that it is a long way off and you are waiting in limbo for what feels like an eternity. I want to just reassure you that although the situation with the lockdown is continually changing and we cannot set events and dates at the moment, as things progress, we will be putting things in place to help to make your child's transition into school as smooth and natural as we can so it feels perfectly normal to them.

### **Home Visits**

To ensure a smooth transition into school, we will arrange to visit you and your child at home before they start school.

Parents and children often feel more relaxed in their own home, and parents appreciate having time to talk on a one-to-one basis. It helps to develop a relationship and build trust in a more relaxed environment.

Children always remember and talk about a home visit long after the event; it is a special occasion in their lives and enhances the practitioner-child relationship.

### **Preparing your child for school**

Starting school is much easier and happier if children are independent and can do many things for themselves.

Encourage your children to do as much themselves as they can.

Can he/she...

Dress and undress themselves?

Use the toilet independently and ask to go there?  
Tidy up after himself/herself?  
Recognise their own name?  
Feed himself/herself with a knife and fork?  
Share toys and equipment?  
Sing some nursery rhymes?  
Practise counting to 10?  
Listen well and follow simple instructions?  
Loose a game without getting angry?



#### How can I help my child prepare for school?

Encourage your child to be as independent as possible even if it takes far longer for them to get ready.

Get them used to a routine of reasonably early to bed and up early enough to have stress free time to get ready for school

Never threaten them with school Be positive. Show it to them as an enjoyable experience.

## **What's it like at school?**

### **The School Office**

The school office is open between 8.45 am and 12pm each day. The office staff are able to provide information regarding County, Governor or school publications; medical matters, admissions, school visits, trips and events; welfare matters including provision of free school meals and anything else which is not directly connected to the actual teaching of your child.

### **The School Day**

School opens at 8.30 am

Registration is at 8.35am

Lunch is 12.10pm -13.00pm

The afternoon session begins at 13.00pm and ends at 3pm.

### **Break time**

There is a 15 minute break in the morning. Milk is free to all children until their 5th birthday and can be purchased thereafter (forms are available in the school office). Children under the age of 7 are given a free piece of fruit every day.

## Meals

All pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2 are entitled to a free school meal.

Children are also allowed to bring a packed lunch in an appropriately named container.

**We are a “nut” aware school**, due to various allergies. Consequently no nut or citrus products are allowed in lunch boxes, this includes peanut butter and certain chocolate spreads. If in doubt, consult a member of staff.

As a healthy school, we encourage children with packed lunches to have a healthy well-balanced meal. No chocolate/ sweets/ fizzy drinks please.

Children up to the age of 5 are provided with a 1/3 pt milk daily at morning snack time (provided you have completed a Cool Milk form). After the age of 5 a Cool Milk scheme is operated. Parents are given a leaflet explaining that milk can be purchased by them.

A portion of fruit is also provided daily for all children in Key Stage 1. Key Stage 2 pupils are encouraged to bring in a piece of fruit for morning break. Every child should bring a named plastic water bottle into school. We encourage the children to drink water regularly throughout the day.

## Illness and absence

Please inform us if your child is absent from school for any reason on **(01983) 721207, by 9am**. Following a bout of sickness or diarrhoea, we ask that you keep your child at home for a full 24 hours after the last episode.

Should your child become ill in school, we will try and contact you as soon as possible so that they can be collected. Please remember to inform the office of any medical conditions or allergies that relate to your child so that we can be aware of them.

## Safeguarding

The school has a duty of care to all children to ensure they are safe and free from harm. If your child has any accidents, or has hurt themselves please let their key person, or relevant members of staff know.

## Collection Arrangements

When you register your child for school, you will be asked to provide the names of anyone who is authorised to pick up your child. You must inform the staff or school office if these arrangements need to change. (If we are in **any doubt**, we will not send the child home until we have phoned you.)

If you will be unavoidably **late** picking up – please telephone so that we can explain this to your child. We reserve the right to impose charges for late collection of children as your child will have to be placed within our after school provision.

## **Clothing**

There is nothing better than a child that likes to explore and this is heavily encouraged. Although we do provide aprons, we cannot guarantee that they will not get messy!

Please provide your child with a pair of wellies. These are to be left at school.

Please provide your child with a book bag. These help to protect books, letters and your child's work as they take things to and from home and school.

When it is sunny we advise that children wear a **sun hat** and **sunblock** that you put on at home. Please make sure that your child has an appropriate **coat** because we encouraged the children to learn both inside and outside in **all** weathers.

## **How we learn**

We believe that children learn through **play**. The children are encouraged to join in with all the activities, to be independent and to make choices. We offer a rich and varied curriculum in a safe but exciting environment. Every child develops at their own pace, but we aim to provide every child with opportunities that will help them to reach their full potential.

Our highly trained staff will be at your child's side encouraging them to engage in activities and making sure that they are happy, safe and secure so that they can learn in the best possible way.

We have a number of curriculum documents, statements and policies all available for you to see. Please ask if you would like to look through these documents. You can also ask any of our staff about the curriculum.

Please have a look at our website at [www.chillertonandrookleyprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.chillertonandrookleyprimaryschool.co.uk) where you will find lots of information about our school, including details on school uniform.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We really look forward to welcoming you into the school.