

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

- **How many children are in each class on average?**

Each classroom has the capacity to have 30 children. Most of the classes are full. Each classroom has a teacher and a teaching assistant allocated to it. The children in Reception also have a large outdoor classroom they use daily. They have such a wide variety of activities outside to support their learning, for example a writing shed, water table, construction area, stage and digging pit.

- **How does the school communicate with parents and build relationships with families?**

Usually, we love having a genuine 'open door' policy. However, in these unusual times, to keep everyone safe, things are slightly different. We love nothing more than getting to know the new children who join our school and their families. Miss Ward and Mr O'Brien meet every child as they come into school each day (whatever the weather) and again at home time. This is an important part of our job! We do have a weekly newsletter, termly parents' evenings and regular conversations with parents throughout the year. In Reception, the children each have a very special school diary where the teacher will add 'news' each week to tell you all the things they have been doing.

Ms Tappenden – our Family Support Worker – is always at the end of the telephone (or Zoom) too if you have any worries you would like to talk to her about.

- **What is the staff turnaround like?**

We pride ourselves on having a strong and stable staff team. Lots of our teachers have worked here for many years – often only leaving to start their own families before returning! Most of our teachers have begun their teaching career at our school, meaning that we are a very 'home grown' staff! Miss Ward and Mr O'Brien have worked at Hawkinge Primary School together for 13 years, Miss Ward worked at the school for 6 years prior to that!

- **What is the uniform and where do I get it from?**

Our uniform is dark grey trousers, shorts, skirt, pinafore with a white polo shirt and 'Hawkinge Primary School' maroon jumper, cardigan or fleece. Gingham summer dresses of any colour can also be worn. Most of our uniform can be bought from high street shops or supermarkets. The school jumper, cardigan and fleece that have our school logo on, can be bought from either Channel Uniforms Ltd <http://www.channeluniforms.co.uk> or Springers <https://www.springersonline.co.uk>.

- **How much time is spent outside?**

Children in Reception spend approximately half of each day outside. Break time and lunch time are spent outside, as well as a structured 'CIA' (child initiated activities) session every day in our wonderful outdoor classroom! For this reason, children are expected to bring a warm, waterproof coat, hat and gloves when the weather is cold and a sun hat when the weather is hot.

- **What are the school lunches and how much do they cost?**

Hot school lunches are free for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. You can decide daily whether your child has a hot school lunch or a packed lunch from home.

- **What childcare provisions are there before and after school?**

We usually run a breakfast club from 7:45. However, due to current guidelines and keeping everyone safe, it is likely that we will be running this only for families that really need it, e.g. if both parents

are key workers and start work before school. Usually we have also hosted an After School Club (led by Kent Play Clubs) however this has been closed since March 2020. Our breakfast club and after school clubs are both under constant review, in line with updating guidance, and will certainly be areas that we will be able to discuss with you nearer the time.

- **What extracurricular activities are available to Reception and KS1 children?**

We usually begin running clubs for children in Year 1 and Year 2 – we find that a full day at school is often enough for the children in Reception! At the moment, there are no clubs running at school due to the restrictions in place.

- **What level of understanding should children have before starting primary school?**

Children start school with a real range of abilities, interests and personalities – this is one of the main reasons that we love our job as teachers! Nearer the time to your child starting school, we will send home a ‘Starting School Checklist’ with some ideas of things you could be working on in order to get your child school ready. Some of these things might be, putting their coat on by themselves, trying to write their name, eating with a knife and fork, starting to recognise some numbers.

- **Do you have any facilities for children with extra needs?**

We understand that each child has different needs to the next child. All children will access the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum at their own stage and will progress at their own rate. We have highly skilled staff who regularly deliver intervention groups for those children who would benefit from them, for example Speech Link, Language Link and gross / fine motor skills. Before your child starts school, you will be able to talk to us about any specific needs that your child may have.