

## Reception New Starters 2020: Frequently Asked Questions

*We cannot stress strongly enough that we will do our utmost to ensure that the transition to school is as smooth as possible. The circumstances that we all find ourselves in at the moment may mean that we need to do things in a slightly different way but this will not be to the detriment of providing every child with the best start to school life possible.*

### Can my child visit school before the end of this term?

Due to government guidelines, we are currently unable to have visitors into the school building. However, we are able to offer new families to GVP a short, external tour of the grounds to support you in familiarising yourself with the school layout. If you are a new family and would like to take part in one of these tours please email [EYFS-Sept2020@gamlingayvp.org](mailto:EYFS-Sept2020@gamlingayvp.org) Please be aware that tours will take place at specific times when there are minimal pupils in school and will be for individual families to ensure appropriate social distancing.

### When will my child start school in September?

Due to the current situation, we are having to slightly alter our usual arrangements for starting in September.

**Home visits** will take place during the week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> September. To follow social distancing regulations these will need to take place in your garden. Alternative arrangements can be made for these to be held on the school grounds if you would prefer.

Children and parents are invited to attend school for two **stay and play** sessions on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> and Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September.

Children will start school on a **part-time** basis on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September, with the opportunity to attend for two mornings, including staying for lunch and two afternoons. Pupils will then be offered the opportunity to attend full time from Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September. This is one week later than we would normally offer children full time, to enable us to ensure the whole school community is happy and settled. Children will have the opportunity to attend on a part time basis for a longer period of time if it is felt that this would benefit your child.

Exact timings for arrangements in September will be provided when classes have been finalised.

*Please note: the above arrangements are working on the basis that all children will be able to attend school as normal. Should social distancing measures still be in place then these date will have to change.*

### What is the school uniform and where can I buy it?



**Uniform**

- Royal blue school sweatshirt or cardigan (badge optional)
- Grey skirt, dress, shorts or trousers
- White polo shirt (badge optional)
- Grey or black socks or tights
- Royal blue check summer dress

**PE**

- Light blue collarless T-shirt (unbadged)
- Navy shorts

No need for footwear until summer term

Children may need a pair of trainers for special events e.g cross country, as well as for Forest School

School uniform with the school logo on can be purchased from [www.myclothing.com](http://www.myclothing.com)

<https://myclothing.com/gamlingay-village-primary/23837.school>

All other general items of uniform can be purchased from any outlet or supermarket.

## What does my child need for when they start school?



## What are the times of the school day?

The school bell goes at 8.45am in the morning and EYFS staff will open the green gate into the reception outside area. Parents need to say goodbye to their children at the door. The school day ends at 3.15pm, where again a member of staff will open the green gates and you are able to collect your children from the classroom door. Please note: current social distancing measures mean that we are currently operating a staggered start and finish time.

## Am I able to speak to my child's class teacher?

If the matter is urgent and will affect your child's day at school, you can catch your child's class teacher on the door at the beginning of the day. If you would like to talk in more detail, then please arrange a time after school. Teacher's priority in the morning is settling children.

If someone else is collecting your child, please do let us know. If your circumstances change throughout the day, then you can email the school office and they will pass a message on.

## Will my child be with their friends?

We recognise the importance of children being with familiar friends to support them in feeling happy and settled. We have liaised with local pre-school settings and will try to put them with at least one of their friends. Even if your child is not in the same class group as all of their friends, they will have lots of opportunities throughout the day to play and learn alongside each other, in the classroom and in the outside area. The classes work together as a unit and children can 'free-flow' between the two classrooms and outside area.

## Please can my child be with a specific teacher?

We have a fantastic staff of teachers and teaching assistants working at GVP. They will all build positive and nurturing relationships with your child, ensuring they are happy and settled during their time at school. In reception, staff work across both classes, so regardless of their named class teacher, children will have an opportunity to play and learn alongside all staff throughout the school day.

## What do I do if my child is late to school?

If you arrive at school after 8.55am please take your child to the school office which is situated at the main entrance to the school.

**How can I report my child's absence from school?**

If your child is unwell and cannot attend school please telephone or email the office to inform them. Holiday's during term time are discouraged. Should you need to take your child out of school, please complete an absence request form that is available from the school office.

**How can I prepare my child for school?**

The most useful things for you to be practising at home with your child is developing their independence and self-help skills. This includes dressing and undressing, putting on their coats and shoes, as well as using the toilet independently (including wiping!) and cutting their food using a knife and fork. Please also be guided by the 'Aiming High: Your child's journey to school' poster that we shared previously.

**Do I need to provide any drinks or snacks for my child?**

We ask that children bring a bottle of water to school each day. We provide all children with access to fruit throughout the day, so please do not provide any additional snacks.