

## Transition into Reception

Starting School is an important milestone for young children and their families. We view transition into school as a journey, building on children's experiences from home and pre-school settings. Families are invited to look around our school prior to applying for a place in school. It is important that families feel that Arden Forest is right for them and have the opportunity to ask any questions they may have.

In the summer term, reception teachers will discuss children due to start in school with pre-school settings. This enables key information such as friendship groups or additional needs to be taken into account when organizing classes. Once classes are established, staff from each class will visit their children in their pre-school settings where children are most comfortable. We receive children from a variety of settings and have developed positive relationships with them all.

We welcome parents and children to a "Getting to Know You" stay and play session before Induction Day where families come and play within the reception unit alongside staff. Parents also have the opportunity to attend a starting school information chat during these sessions.

A formal welcome evening for parents takes place in June when families get to find out about us in more detail and meet their child's class teacher. On induction day in July, families attend school with their child to get to know the Reception Unit and staff together. Parents also have the opportunity to share refreshments with other parents away from their child, where they can share their feelings and any questions with staff in school. Induction Day is also the chance for families to stay for a school dinner or bring a packed lunch to share with their child.

In September, Reception Staff carry out Home Visits. The visit is very informal and is aimed at giving families the chance to meet us in the comfort and security of their own home. We are able to chat to your child about their interests, their family, pets, etc and are also able to answer any questions families may have about starting school. It is great for us to see children in their home environment.

Children then start school on a part time basis with lunch, for one week only. Our younger children attend in the mornings with older children coming in the afternoon. This is an important step in getting to know staff, rules and routines. Children bring in a box of special things from home along with their learning journals from their pre-school setting. This provides security and gives children the opportunity to talk about things they are familiar with.

Through our carefully structured transition arrangements, we find that most children settle happily into our reception unit and offer continued support to those who need it.

Additional transitions arrangements can be put into place for SEN children around the needs of the child, after discussions with parents and outside agencies.