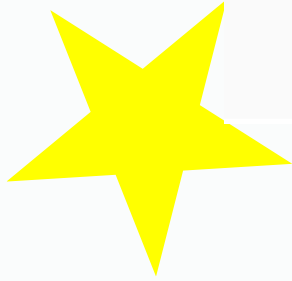


WELCOME PACK



Banister
Primary School
Belief • Pride • Success





Banister
Primary School
Belief • Pride • Success



Dear Parents,

We are looking forward to welcoming you and your child into our Reception cohort in September 2026.

We want this to be the beginning of a happy and successful time for you and your child and a supportive partnership with you. However, we recognise that starting school can be an anxious time for both children and parents and a time with lots of questions. The aim of this booklet is to provide you with practical information and some useful advice to help make your child's transition into the Reception class as smooth as possible.

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

*Kind regards,
Miss Heller
Assistant Headteacher*



ADMISSION AND INDUCTION CALENDAR

RECEPTION CHILDREN WILL START SCHOOL ON MONDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER.

<p>Wednesday 2nd September</p>	<p>Class stay and play. You and your child will attend a stay and play with the other children in their allocated class. This will either be 9 - 10am or 1:30 - 2:30pm</p>	<p>APPOINTMENT ONLY</p>
<p>Thursday 3rd, Friday 4th September</p>	<p>One-to-one 20-minute session with the class teachers. You can book a time slot at the Stay and Play in June or by telephoning the school office. Parents/carers to attend with your child. An opportunity to tell us about your child and to ask any questions.</p>	<p>APPOINTMENT ONLY</p>
<p>Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th September</p>	<p>Year R children are to attend school for a 2 hour time slot. This slot will run from 9:00-11:00am. If you have any queries about this, please contact the school office. Drop off is 9:00am and collection is 11:00am from classroom doors. Please see videos on the New to Year R page on the website if unsure. Children will be provided with water during this time. Parents to attend a workshop during the Monday session. More one-to-one parent meeting slots will be available.</p>	<p>ALL CHILDREN</p>
<p>Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th September</p>	<p>Year R children are to attend school for a 5 hour time slot, including lunchtime. This slot will run from 8:15-1:15pm. You will need to select a hot dinner choice when you drop your child off or send in a lunch box. Water and a snack will be provided. Drop off is 8:15 am and collection is 1:15pm from classroom doors. Please see videos on the New to Year R page on the website if unsure. More one-to-one parent meeting slots will be available</p>	<p>ALL CHILDREN</p>
<p>Friday 11th September</p>	<p>Year R children to attend all day. You will need to select a hot dinner choice when you drop your child off or send in a lunch box. Water and a snack will be provided. Drop off is 8:15 am and collection is 3:00 pm from classroom doors. Your child's class will be confirmed today.</p>	<p>ALL CHILDREN</p>
<p>W/B Monday 14th September</p>	<p>Year R children continue to attend full time</p>	<p>ALL CHILDREN</p>

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MAKING A FANTASTIC START TO SCHOOL

Being a parent is one of the most rewarding jobs in the world and we believe that you are their first and most important educators. The support and encouragement you give to your child throughout their school life will have a huge impact on their achievements and successes.

BELOW ARE A FEW IDEAS OF THINGS YOU CAN DO WITH YOUR CHILD, OR MAKE SURE THAT THEY CAN DO, WHICH WILL MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE TO THEIR EDUCATION RIGHT FROM THE START:

LISTEN TO AND SING LOTS OF TRADITIONAL SONGS AND RHYMES

LISTENING GAMES

TALKING TO PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE FAMILY

PLAYING WITH SHAPES

SAYING WHAT THEY WOULD LIKE

PLAYING WITH NUMBERS

BE WILLING TO HAVE A GO AT SOMETHING NEW

DRAWING AND COLOURING

RESPECTING AND GETTING ON WITH OTHER PEOPLE, WITH GOOD MANNERS



AND PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT – SHARE A BOOK TOGETHER EVERYDAY.

THIS PAGE GIVES FURTHER GUIDANCE IN HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD IN BEING SCHOOL READY. IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT ANY OF THESE AREAS YOU CAN DISCUSS THESE DURING YOUR 1:1 TRANSITION MEETING WITH THE CLASS TEACHERS.

This tracker helps you and your child prepare for school.

The Road To School



Speaking & literacy

- I like to read stories & look at picture books
- I am able to talk about myself, my needs & feelings
- I am practising recognising my name when it's written down

Listening & understanding

- I am able to sit still and listen for a short while
- I can follow instructions
- I understand the need to follow rules

Writing skills

- I like tracing patterns & colouring in
- I enjoy making marks
- I am practising holding a pencil

Sharing & turn taking

- I can share toys & take turns
- I like playing games with others
- I like interacting with other children

Everyone starts school with different abilities - your teacher will help you progress at your own level.

Interest in the world & new activities

- I enjoy learning about the world around me
- I am interested in exploring new activities or environments
- I like asking questions

Counting skills

- I enjoy practising counting objects
- I like saying number rhymes & playing counting games
- I can recognise some numbers when they are written down

Going to the toilet

- I can go to the toilet on my own, wipe myself properly & flush
- I can wash and dry my hands without any help

Routines

- I have practised putting on my uniform & getting ready to leave on time
- I have a good bedtime routine so I'm not feeling tired for school
- I'm learning to eat at the times I will on school days

What are you looking forward to the most?
Is there anything you're unsure of?

Self-care

- I know when to wash my hands
- I can wipe my nose
- I can ask for help if I don't feel well

Eating

- I can use a knife & fork
- I can open my packed lunch on my own
- I am confident at opening wrappers & packaging

Getting dressed & undressed on my own

- I can button & unbutton my shirt & use a zip
- I can put my own shoes & socks on
- I can change into my PE kit & put my coat on

Independence

- I am happy to be away from my mummy, daddy or my main carer
- I am happy to look after my things
- I am happy to play my belongings & look after school
- I am feeling confident about starting school
- I am feeling confident about starting school



school bus

WHAT MY CHILD NEEDS

SCHOOL
UNIFORM

A NAMED PE
BAG

A NAMED COAT

A CLEARLY
NAMED
BOOKBAG

SCHOOL WATER
BOTTLE

WE WILL PROVIDE THEIR FIRST BOOKBAG AND PE BAG. WATERBOTTLES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE AT A LOW COST.

OTHER ITEMS TO CONSIDER

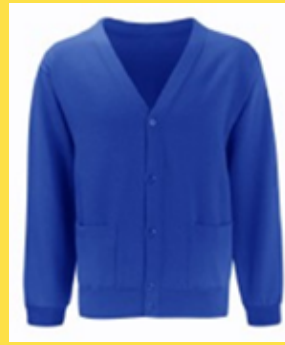
SPARE
UNDERWEAR /
SOCKS

WELLIES /
WATERPROOFS/
SUNHATS

UNIFORM TIPS

- Please label all jumpers and cardigans with a permanent waterproof pen. When names come off in the wash it makes it hard to return jumpers and cardigan to their owners.
- Little fingers struggle with little buttons on shirts, polo tops and cardigans. Practise doing and undoing buttons at home
- We recommend velcro or slip on shoes to start with, as children can then independently take their shoes on and off.

SCHOOL UNIFORM



UNIFORM IS AVAILABLE FROM SKOOLKIT OR KOOLSKOOLS. UNBRANDED ITEMS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT MOST SUPERMARKETS.

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PE SESSIONS

P.E. in Year R will be twice a week. We will confirm which days once the timetable has been agreed. We ask that PE kits come into school on the first day of term. Their PE bag can be left on their peg and we will send it home each half term for a good wash.



PE kit includes

Plain shorts

**Plain
T-shirt**

**Plimsolls or trainers
(Velcro please)**

**Plain warm jumper
and jogging trousers
(for cold weather)**

Children should not wear earrings on PE days

If they cannot be removed then we ask that you cover them at home with surgical tape so they are not caught on clothing or hair during PE

PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL ITEMS ARE NAMED AND ARE IN A NAMED BAG. THIS HELPS ENORMOUSLY WHEN EVERYONE IS GETTING CHANGED!



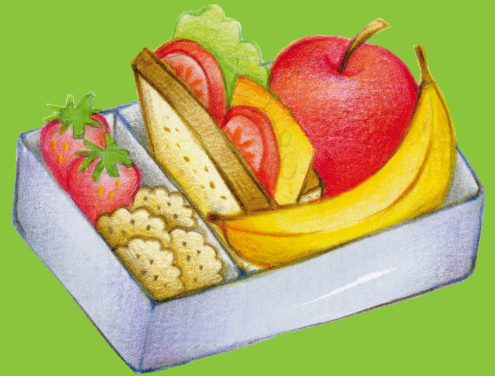
A TYPICAL SCHOOL DAY IN OUR RECEPTION CLASSES

THESE ARE APPROXIMATE TIMES THAT MAY CHANGE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR (EXCLUDING DROP OFF / COLLECTION)

8:15 AM	Come in, make lunch choice, hang coat up and do some morning activities.	
8:30 AM	Register and Phonics	11:30 AM Get ready for lunch (Lunch at 11:45am)
9:00 AM	Own learning and adult focused time	13:00 PM Register and Literacy
9:45 AM	Topic	13:15 PM Own learning time
10:00 AM	Fruit and Water (provided) Water always accessible	14:15 PM Reading comprehension
10:15 AM	Own learning time	14:30 PM Assembly
11:10 AM	Maths	14:45 PM Story time / Getting ready for home

SCHOOL LUNCHES

Your child can have a free school meal for their first 3 years of school and will also be provided with a fruit snack mid morning.



Your child can choose to bring a lunchbox to school if they prefer.

HEALTHY LUNCHBOX

Sandwiches

Fruit

Yoghurts

Healthy bars

Raw Vegetables

We DO NOT accept

**Sweets
bars of chocolate
cakes**

**We OCCASIONALLY
accept**

**Crisps
Chocolate biscuits**

**WE ARE A
NUT FREE
SCHOOL**



EXTRA CURRICULAR

WRAPAROUND CARE

BREAKFAST CLUB
FROM 8AM

AFTER SCHOOL CARE
3:00PM - 5:45PM

ADDITIONAL CLUBS (SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY)

**RANGE OF AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS
FOR EYFS - DANCE, ART**

**THEN FOR ALL OTHER YEAR GROUPS
DANCE, ART, FOOTBALL, ATHLETICS,
GYMNASTICS, ETC.**

3.00PM - 4.00PM

(INFORMATION ABOUT THESE CLUBS IS SHARED IN SEPTEMBER
VIA ARBOR)





USEFUL INFORMATION

ABSENCES

REPORT ANY LATENESS OR ABSENCES TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE ON 02380 393 313 OR EMAIL INFO@BANISTERSCHOOL.CO.UK



IF YOUR CHILD IS LATE, THEY WILL NEED TO SIGN IN THROUGH THE MAIN RECEPTION AREA.

TELEPHONE THE SCHOOL OFFICE EVERY DAY THAT THEY ARE ABSENT.

PROVIDE ANY MEDICAL DOCUMENTATION YOU MAY HAVE (EG APPOINTMENT LETTER/TEXT)



ALTERNATIVE PICK UP ARRANGEMENTS

IF YOU NEED TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ANOTHER ADULT TO PICK UP YOUR CHILD FROM SCHOOL, YOU MUST TELEPHONE THE SCHOOL OFFICE BY 2.30PM TO CONFIRM THIS.



COMMUNICATION



TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE GETTING THE COMMUNICATION FROM US ABOUT YOUR CHILD PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU HAVE SIGNED UP TO THE FOLLOWING

TAPESTRY

This will be updated regularly by the EYFS team, letting you know what learning is happening in the classroom.

COMMUNICATION

Our main form of communication to parents is via app or email – once signed up please check it is not going into your spam/junk inbox. We will send app login details to you in September.

PAYMENTS

WE USE AN ONLINE APP AS A SECURE METHOD OF PAYING FOR SCHOOL DINNERS, WRAPAROUND CARE AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS VIA. WE WILL SEND YOU LOGIN DETAILS FOR THIS IN SEPTEMBER.

SCHOOL OFFICE

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

02380 393313

EMAIL:

INFO@BANISTERSCHOOL.CO.UK

IF YOU HAVE ANY OTHER QUERIES, THEN PLEASE CALL OR E-MAIL THE SCHOOL OFFICE. THEY WILL MAKE SURE THAT THE MESSAGE GOES TO THE CORRECT MEMBER OF STAFF TO ANSWER YOUR QUERIES.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU AND YOUR CHILD.

PARENT WORKSHOPS IN SEPTEMBER

07/09/2026 FROM 9AM
(AFTER DROP OFF)
MONDAY

PHONICS, OXFORD OWLS
AND TAPESTRY WORKSHOP



Save the Date

23/06/ 2026 09:30 - 10:30

Children who attend Hopscotch Portswood, Paint Pots Howards Road, Paint Pots Portswood, Bright Horizons (Portswood & Southampton) and Sunshine Preschools / Nurseries to come for a stay and play with parents

30/06/2026 09:30 - 10:30

Children from all other provisions to come for a stay and play with parents.

07/07/2026 09:30 - 10:30

All Children to stay and play, parents to the main hall for a workshop.

20/07/2026 from 13:30

Play at the Common for parents and children

01/09/2026 - 11/09/2026

1:1 meetings with parents, 20mins (please book)

02/09/2026

Class stay and play - a chance for your child to stay and play with their provisional class with parents

07/09/ 2026 & 08 / 09 / 2026 09:00 - 11:00

Children to attend school (2hrs)
Workshop followed by coffee mornings for parents on Monday
More 1:1 meeting slots available

09/09/2026 - 10/09/2026 08:15-1.15

Children to attend school (5hrs) - lunch provided
More 1:1 meeting slots available

11/09/2025 8.15-3.00

First full day of school