

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **1. How many places do you have in your Reception classes?**

We have two classes in each year group, with a maximum number of 30 children in each class. When devising the classes, we consider the information that is shared by the nurseries (such as friendships), ensuring there is an equal balance of boys and girls, the term of birth and the needs of the cohort.

### **2. What is the EYFS area like?**

The two reception classes are based in an open plan unit, but they do have their own classrooms for more formal learning. Children can access the shared area in between the classes and have the large outdoor area to self-initiate in. Both classes have a variety of resources representing the different areas of the EYFS curriculum.

### **3. What is the ratio of staff in EYFS?**

Each class has a fully qualified teacher and a teaching assistant. Depending on the needs of the cohort, additional staff may be deployed to work in the unit to support individuals. A higher-level assistant is available to provide additional speech and language support to groups or individuals.

### **4. I live near the school but do not have a West Sussex address. Does this mean I won't get into the school?**

Eastbrook is a very popular school, however as we are so close to the county border, we do not have a set 'catchment area'. The main criteria is a straightforward distance from your home address to the middle of the school site. Please see our Admissions policy for more information on the criteria used when the school is over-subscribed. If you do not live in West Sussex, you need to apply to your own local authority naming Eastbrook as one of your choices.

### **5. What other facilities do you have as a school?**

We are extremely fortunate to have access to a huge playing field located at the back of the school. This is used for playtimes, PE lessons, Sports day, our annual Fireworks Night and Summer Fayre. There is also a main playground for children to use during break and lunch times and for PE lessons.

The school also has an indoor swimming pool. A qualified swimming coach provides lessons for children during the Spring and Summer term, for pupils in years 1-6. Annual swimming galas also take place.

Music is very important in our school and we have a KS1 and a KS2 choir who have attended various events within our community. A music room is available for children to use which is well-equipped with musical instruments. Specialist music teachers are invited into school to teach various instruments such as harmonica, violin, drums, piano and guitar.

The school has a main hall where whole school assemblies normally take place and a dining hall where pupils eat.

## **6. What clubs are available before and after school?**

A variety of afterschool clubs have been available for children to join. These clubs have included: Lego, cookery, dance, Zumba, football, origami, board games, chess, choir, running, computing and rugby. Unfortunately, we are unable to run these clubs due to the current situation, but as soon as it is safe to do so, they will resume.

A breakfast club is available for children from 8.00-8.40 am. There is a cost for this and needs to be booked in advance via the school office. Children who attend Breakfast club will be escorted to class, ready for the start of the school day.

For parents requiring childcare after school hours, children can attend our Skoolz Out (afterschool club) which runs every day except Friday. Again, there is a cost for this and needs to be booked in advance via the school office. The club runs from 3.00-6.00pm. Staff will be available at the end of the day to collect the children from the classroom and take them to the afterschool club.

## **7. What do children have for lunch?**

We have our own chef, called Mr Disney, who cooks all the hot dinners. The children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are all eligible for a free hot meal at lunchtime through the Government's Universal Free School Meal initiative. When the children move into years 3-6, parents will need to pay for these dinners unless they are in receipt of free school meals.

On the school website, you will find the weekly options for the children. There is always a meat based, vegetarian or jacket potato option. A salad bar is also provided for children. If your child has any dietary requirements, our chef will be aware of this and will be able to alter the ingredients to meet these requirements. Children can also bring in a packed lunch if they do not like the choice on the menu. Currently, all our children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 eat in the dining room as a year group, at staggered times. Some of our older children either eat in the main hall or in their classrooms (due to current restrictions).

## **8. How do you communicate with parents?**

Parents in Reception will use the online learning journal called Tapestry. This app is an excellent way to see what your child has been learning in school and there is the opportunity to share what you have been doing with your child at home. Videos and messages can be shared on this app and is a great way to communicate with the Reception team.

Parents in years 1-6 have access to year group emails. These emails are checked regularly by the teachers. We also use Marvellous Me to communicate with parents where teachers can send badges or messages for good work.

If there is an urgent message that needs to be given to the teacher, contact can be made using the school email or via the school phone number.

Members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) are available, on the playground, at the start and end of the school day.

### **9. How do you support children when they first start your school?**

Before the children attend school in September, the Reception class teachers spend time phoning all the nurseries to discuss each individual pupil. The teachers may visit some of the children in their nursery to introduce themselves. In addition, home visits normally take place in June/July, dependant on circumstances.

Taster sessions are organised in June/July for children to come into school and visit their new classroom. These sessions last only 45 minutes and are normally half the class at a time. This enables the staff in the class to get to know the children and to form positive relationships with them.

When your child starts school in September, a staggered start is planned. At first, children attend either a morning or afternoon sessions with half classes, building up to whole classes and full time.

### **10. How do you support children who have Special Educational Needs?**

To support children with Special Educational Needs in school, our SENCo (Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator) works closely with class teachers and other staff to ensure that teaching and classroom practice is planned and adapted to meet the needs of individual children. We understand that you know your child best, and will encourage families and children to be actively involved in planning and reviewing support, so that parents and carers understand how their child is doing and know what they can do at home to help their child. We also work closely with other professionals, for example the Speech and Language Therapy Service, School Nurses, Learning and Behaviour Team and Social Communication Advisory Teachers to access specialist knowledge and advice from other professionals when this is appropriate.

### **11. How do you manage behaviour?**

At Eastbrook, we believe that all children have the right to learn and to be listened to in a safe and nurturing environment. There is an emphasis on promoting positive behaviour however, there is a clear consequences framework that is applied consistently across the school. We encourage children to reflect on their behaviour and discuss what they could have done differently. Children have access to a School Link Assistant who can support them with their behaviour. Additional information can be found on our school website, under key policies.

## 12. What rewards do you have in place for children?

In the table below, you will find the different types of rewards we use:

Name of the reward	Why is the reward given?	When is the reward given?	Who gives the reward?
<b>House points</b>	Academic attainment or progress Could be related to Learning Values	During lessons or group work. During assessment and marking.	Any member of staff involved in children's academic learning.
<b>Golden beads</b>	Positive behaviour generally relating to one of the Learning or Community Values.	Any part of the school day. The child is asked to put a golden bead in their class pot. (If the child is not in class at the time, they put it in at the soonest supervised occasion)	Any member of staff
<b>Golden recognition</b>	Outstanding, consistent contribution towards one of the Community or Learning Values	During a year group assembly. Five children chosen by each class teacher each week.	Class teachers
<b>Star of the week</b>	Any of the above consistently shown across the week.	Certificate given to child during celebration assemblies.	Given out by the head teacher. Chosen by class teachers.
<b>Individual class rewards</b> E.g. Stickers, raffle tickets, star of day, prize box etc.	Any of the above, as decided by individual class teachers	Often at the end of the school day. May be during the school day, as decided by individual class teachers.	Class teachers
<b>Marvellous Me (Years 1-6)</b>	For any of the above. For representing the school For good attendance	During lessons or after pupil has seen member of the SLT.	Any member of staff
<b>Tapestry (Reception only)</b>	'Wow' moments of learning shared with parents These messages are sent throughout the day by the teachers. Parents/carers can response to these messages.		

## 13. What homework do you give to pupils?

In EYFS, the children are set weekly phonics practice and home challenges via Tapestry (an online Learning Journal that tracks children's learning between home and school). Consolidating phonics at home continues in Key Stage 1, alongside reading and maths homework which is set weekly or fortnightly, depending on age. Children can also select homework activities from across the range of Foundation subjects. This allows parents and children some choice and flexibility about which tasks to do and when to complete them. As a school we like to promote creativity in our pupils, so homework can be presented in many ways and this is displayed and celebrated throughout our school.

#### **14. How has the school adapted to COVID-19?**

A thorough risk assessment was carried out before the school opened in September. We have made changes to the school day including staggered drop off and pick up times. A one-way system has been introduced in the corridors and year groups bubbles have been created. Children are encouraged to wash their hands regularly, throughout the day, as well as additional cleaning of surfaces. This is regularly reviewed and may change depending on the government guidance.