



## Starting School: Key Information

We understand that for every child, starting school is an important stage of their development and a big moment in their lives. At Oldfield, we are committed to working alongside families to ensure that your child has the best experience starting at our school. With lots of encouragement, understanding, and preparation, we hope to create a positive and welcoming start to your child's school journey.

We've included some key information to share with you and will be sending out additional details later this term, as well as welcoming all and any questions at the Stay and Play sessions.



### Stay and Play Sessions: School Visits

After your initial **Stay and Play session** with your child this term, we will be hosting additional sessions between **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>, and Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September**. These will be another opportunity **for both you and your child** to get to know the Reception Team and the environment.

During these sessions, your child will be able to interact with their peers and supporting adults, and you will also be able to familiarise yourself with the setting.

Please feel free to ask questions during the time that you are with us.

**Your allocated sessions for September and the timings of these will be emailed to you in July.**

### Starting School

We want to ensure that your child's start at Oldfield is as enjoyable and content as possible. Therefore, we will be introducing a gradual increase in school hours during the first few days to help them settle in and familiarise themselves with the routines, the setting, and the adults supporting them.

Reception children will have **their first independent morning session at school on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September**. This session will run from **8.45 until 12pm**. Please line-up in the **KS1 playground from 8.40am** and your teacher will be there to greet you and lead the children in. You can **collect your child from the classroom door at 12pm**.

**On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September**, the children will stay for the morning session as well as eating lunch with us, from **8.45-1.15pm**. Your child should bring in a **packed lunch** on this day.

**On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September, the children will get to enjoy their first full day from 8.40-3.20pm**. The school gates to the playground are opened at 3.15pm each day, so please make your way round to the classroom door and wait for the children to be dismissed. Your child should bring in a **packed lunch** on this day as well. A letter with a code to set up a Scopay account will be sent home at the end of the day and **school lunches will be available to order from Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September**.

Please inform the office if another adult has been given permission to collect your child, or if they are going to be attending Wise Owls.

What you need to bring to school:

**-A named outdoor suit/waterproof jacket & trousers/all in one and wellington boots** that will stay in school for continual use.

**-A named Oldfield water bottle**. These are available to purchase from the school office.

**-A fruit or vegetable morning snack**. If this is loose, can it be stored in a **named pot**. Please note that **grapes must be sliced in half** and there are **no nuts permitted**. **(The afternoon fruit snack is provided)**.

**-A named Oldfield Book Bag**. Please do not bring rucksacks.

-We would really appreciate you packing a **spare pair of pants and socks** that can be stored in your child's drawer at school in case of any accidents.



### Top Tips: Helping Them Be Successful, Independent Learners:

- Encourage them to turn their body and face someone when they are making conversation with a child or an adult.
- Help them to acknowledge and share their feelings. "I can see you're frustrated. Do you want to share what's making you feel that way?"
- Practise interactions you could have to engage in activities together. "Would you like to build a tower with me?" "Would you like to draw a giraffe together?" "How many cars do you think we could both slide down the ramp?"
- Encourage them to ask questions if they are not sure of what they should do.
- If there are any big changes in routine, circumstances, or family arrangements, or even if your child hasn't slept well the night before-please let one of the Reception team know so we can best support them. It helps us to have a better understanding of how they are getting on and whether they might need some additional nurturing and comfort on a "wobbly" day.

### Opening a New Chapter: Developing a Love of Books

We recognise that starting school can be a big adjustment for some children. To help with this transition, please find below a few suggested books that explore this topic. This is just a small selection but there are lots of stories available that cover these topics which you could find at a library, or you might find great versions of these books on Youtube for you to enjoy if you cannot access the books in physical form.

- All are Welcome by Alexandra Penfold
- The Colour Monster Goes to School by Anna Llenas
- When a Dragon Goes to School by Caryl Hart and Rosalind Beardshaw
- Starting School by Daisy Upton
- Tilda Tries Again by Tom Percival
- Starting School by Janet and Allan Ahlberg

