

Supporting Successful Transitions into School

At Blackhorse, we want children to feel safe, happy and secure coming to school and we endeavour to help children feel this as quickly as possible when they first start school. Here you can read about our approach to transition into school, which has been planned carefully to give children the best start to school possible. Whether this takes a few days or the duration of Term1, we are determined to do everything we can to help your child settle.

Summer Term 1

Planning for a successful transition into school starts long before children come for their first visit. As soon as we have a list of children who will be coming to Blackhorse, we will get in touch and welcome you to the school. We will ask for lots of information and some of this will be about your child and where they currently attend pre-school or nursery.

The information you provide on the “All About Me” document helps us to get to know your child and find about them.

We also start contacting pre-schools and nurseries so that we can build a well-rounded picture of your child and where they currently are with regards to their language skills, interests, friendships and attitudes towards learning.

Summer Term 2

You are invited to an information evening, where we will share lots of information about starting school. Some of this will be practical, e.g. school uniform, and some of this will be handy tips to help prepare your child to come to Blackhorse, e.g. counting down the days.

You will find out which class your child will be in when they start school and a transition timetable will be sent home.

Your child will also be invited to attend some settling in sessions, where they can meet their new teacher, meet the other children in their class and have a play in their new classroom. You will be able to wait in the school hall so that you are not far away if your child is feeling anxious or worried.

Some children will be offered an additional small group visit if they are the only child coming from their setting or have SEND needs. Some children, who are feeling particularly worried about starting school, will be invited too.

In addition to this, we offer meetings with families whose child may need extra support settling in and we organise these in response to the information that you provide, along with the information collected from the per-schools and nurseries.

We encourage all families to get in touch (sooner rather than later) if they have any concerns or questions and we recommend viewing the tours and videos on the EYFS Parents' Videos Channel with your child, which can be found here: <https://blackhorse-ps.primarysite.media/playlist/intake-2021-parents-videos>

Autumn Term 1

The children begin school in small groups (half the class at a time) and will attend either a morning or an afternoon session for the first two weeks. Being in a smaller group means that the children have quality time with their peers and staff in their new classroom. It enables us to get to know the children really well and for the children to get to know us and their peers too. We use this time to support the children in finding out about the classroom and school environment.

During their third week of school, all children attend for the morning and stay for lunch. Our priority this week is to support the two halves of the class to come together and get to know each other, as well as helping the children settle into having lunch at school. The EYFS staff are present each day for their first week of lunches to make sure that the children know what to do and that they are eating enough at lunch time.

During this third week, the afternoons are used to meet with families whose child may have needed additional support settling in or might have come to school with a support plan from their pre-school or nursery. These meetings enable us to share with you any early successes or concerns and we can work together to talk about next steps and support, as needed. The EYFS staff also use this time to re-read the "All About Me" document and the information from the pre-schools and nurseries to ensure that we have a good understanding of your child and their learning.

The children will attend school full time from the fourth week of the term. During this term, we will get to know your child and assess their knowledge and skills coming into school. The children will also complete the statutory Reception Baseline Assessment.

You will be invited to a "Meet the Teacher" meeting where some important information about the curriculum and expectations for home learning will be shared.

There will also be a Parents' Evening at the end of Term 1 so that you can meet with your child's teacher and find out how their first term has been going.