



# Starting School at East Sheen Primary

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SEPTEMBER 2025

# Welcome!

## East Sheen Primary School: Our Vision

Our purpose is to nurture happy, confident children who think deeply about themselves and others in preparation for the challenges ahead. We do this by inspiring and celebrating:

- curiosity and love for learning
- collaboration and kindness
- creativity and enthusiasm
- resilience and achievement

Happy - Curious - Resilient - Kind



# Transition into school

It is a partnership between school and home.

## School's role:

- Reception staff have had attended the local authority Nursery to Reception transition event.
- Stay and play meet the teacher and staff (Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July)
- Home visits will take place between Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July and Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July - 10 minute visit.
- Phased start in September in groups of 10 children to allow high adult child ratio on first day - you will have your start day/times in your registration packs.
- Registration packs will be handed out tonight, these will need to be completed and ready to be given back at the 'Stay and Play' session.

## Parents/carers role:

- Practise eating, dressing and toileting independently at home.
- Talk positively about the start of school at home.
- Practise recognising/writing their own name, using a capital letter for the initial letter only, then lower case.

# School and Home Visits

## School visit - Play and Stay Sessions:

- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July - First session 9.30 - 10.00am Second session 10.00 - 10.30am (allocated slot in your Registration Pack)
- Very gentle and calm introduction to the environment
- Will support the children understanding what school is like and getting them excited
- Stay and play with parents so they can see their new environment, meet their teacher and other adults, as well as their new peers.

## Home visit:

- Children meet school staff in own home environment, establishes the new relationship between staff and child (Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July allocated slot in your Registration Pack)
- Information gathering such as medical, health issues, diet.
- Children can share their interests, supports planning for welcoming environment in school during first few days.
- Aim to arrange visits geographically so that we can fit them all in and stay on time! Some visits past a particular distance have had to have in school visits arranged.
- Approximately 10 minute meeting, please allow 5/10 minute grace time either side of appointment time.

# Home School Visits

Ducklings Class - RDP

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July and Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July

Cygnets Class - RG

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July

Owlets Class - RM

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July

[homevisits@eastsheen.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:homevisits@eastsheen.richmond.sch.uk)

# School Readiness

Back in March, a coalition of top education and childcare experts unveiled a comprehensive checklist of essential skills that children should master before starting school.

Skills such as being able to use the toilet, knowing how to share toys, recognising their own name and being able to use cutlery are all on the list parents are urged to ensure their child is taught by the time they start school.

## What school-ready children look like



# 4 pillars of school readiness

The checklist is divided into four key areas to help children start Reception with confidence:

- **Growing Independence** - Encouraging children to take small steps towards doing things by themselves, such as using the toilet independently, putting on their own coat, and using cutlery at mealtimes.
- **Building Relationships and Communication** - Developing social skills like sharing, taking turns, recognising their own name, and being able to talk about their feelings.
- **Physical Development** - Helping children strengthen their fine and gross motor skills through activities like drawing, painting, and engaging in at least three hours of physical activity per day.
- **Healthy Routines** - Establishing good habits such as brushing teeth twice a day, limiting screen time, and maintaining consistent sleep patterns.

Each category is supported by expert advice and practical activities that parents can easily integrate into daily life. You have been given a hard copy of these in your registration packs, which you will be given tonight.

# EYFS Curriculum

The 7 areas of learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Birth to Reception are: Communication and Language, Physical Development, Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World, and Expressive Arts and Design. These areas are designed to provide a broad and balanced foundation for children's future learning and development.

Area of learning	Early learning goal
Communication and language	Listening and attention; Understanding; Speaking
Physical development	Moving and handling; Health and self-care
Personal, social and emotional development	Self-confidence and self-awareness; Managing feelings and behaviour; Making relationships
Literacy	Reading; Writing
Mathematics	Numbers; Shape, space and measures
Understanding the world	People and communities; The world; Technology
Expressive arts, designing and making	Exploring and using media and materials; Being imaginative

# EYFS Curriculum

The 7 areas of learning are taught via topics and specific purposefully selected texts. Teaching and learning in Reception will be a continuation on from what your children will have accessed and learnt in Nursery.

The first few weeks in particular will be all about getting the children settled and happy, adjusting to the new environment and routine. We appreciate this is going to be an adjustment for you as well as your child. Drop offs can be particularly challenging, but find a quick goodbye and kiss works best.

It is also worth noting, that initially children can find the first few days/weeks easy to adjust, and it may be weeks later that we may see a change, as they realise that school is all day, everyday. Please do not worry, if you see a change in their attitude towards school, this is very common, as is tears and upset on the first day (yours, as well as theirs).

Within the first term, we will hold a Curriculum Evening, where we will go into much more detail about how and what your children will be learning. Please look out for the date in the diary in September.

# Uniform and PE Kit

- Uniform can be ordered on line, please see website for link to supplier and more detail:  
<https://www.mapac.com/education/parents/uniform/eastsheenprimaryschoolswl48ed> (also a flyer in your Registration Pack)
- Tracksuit bottoms can be worn to give children a more practical uniform for their outdoor and indoor play and to support independent dressing (must be grey)
- Children will be outside in rain and sunshine so please send in labelled, weather appropriate clothing. Wellingtons can be left in school.
- Velcro fastenings on shoes really help your child to be independent.
- No open toe sandals.
- Label everything in a visible place including socks and shoes!
- PE kits should be worn on their PE days

# Fruit snacks and Nuts

- A fruit or vegetable snack is provided daily.
- Milk is provided free by the government until 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. After 5, parents can order via [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com)
- Children may bring in their own snack but must be fruit or veg and in a labelled bag/container.
- Packed lunches - healthy eating criteria (see website <https://www.eastsheen.richmond.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=11094&type=pdf>)
- Strictly no nuts school policy (think about bread/roll choices if providing packed lunches)
- Please check any birthday treats provided from home for any nut traces. We have to return items containing nuts.
- Drinking bottle for water with a sports cap - labelled please!

# School Lunches

<https://www.eastsheen.richmond.sch.uk/page/?title=School+Meals&pid=19>

- Provided by Accent caterers
- Fresh meals cooked on site - meat and vegetarian (meat free Mondays)
- Salad bar
- School meals are free for children in Reception
- Encourages reluctant eaters to try a wider range of foods as they see their friends choose different options.
- School lunches booked through Parentmail (details to come)

# Medical and Welfare

- Please ensure that we are aware of any medical conditions (share during home/school visits, as well as noting down in the Registration packs)
- If your child is ill or off school please telephone the school office to report the absence.
- Sickness or diarrhoea - children must not return to school for 48 hours after the last episode.
- Medical appointments - please let us know, but routine appointments should be booked outside of school hours.
- If the weather hot and sunny, please apply sun cream before they come to school - we are unable to apply at school. Children should also wear hats.

# Registration Packs

Please ensure you collect your child's registration pack before you leave, in there you will find the two documents shown below - Getting ready for school and Starting Reception. You will also find information about ordering school uniform, as well as all the necessary forms to fill in to ensure we have the correct information for your child, including emergency contacts and photo permission.

Oxford OWL  
**Getting Ready for**  
**SCHOOL**

**Over the summer**

- Find a bedtime book about starting school to read to your child. (Visit Oxford Owl for our recommendations)
- Go on a shape hunt to start developing early maths skills.
- Check that your child can recognise their name when it's written down.
- Make sure your child can go to the loo and wash their hands independently.
- Establish a school-friendly bedtime routine.
- Encourage socialising with other children at the park or with friends.

**The week before school starts**

- Label uniform and any other items that can be taken off and lost.
- Practise the whole school run - from getting dressed and having breakfast to making the journey to school.
- Give your child confidence to ask their teacher or TA for help if they need it.


**The day before, get everything ready**

- School clothes laid out.
- Shoes and coat ready by the door.
- School bag packed.
- Talk about the exciting day ahead.

**The BIG day...**


- Take a photo - it is their first day, after all!
- Make a packed lunch if your child isn't having school dinners.
- Check what time your child needs to be collected.
- Compare notes with other parents - you've made it!

For more advice and support on starting school, visit [www.oxfordowl.co.uk/starting-school](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/starting-school)



[www.oxfordowl.co.uk/starting-school](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/starting-school) OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

**Starting Reception**  
Your child's journey to school starts at home.



[startingreception.co.uk](http://startingreception.co.uk)

# Start Day and Time

- Children will be in school all day from day one.
- **Group A:** Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September; **Group B:** Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September; **Group C:** 10<sup>th</sup> September.
- ALL children will be in from **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September** (staggered start time)
- School day starts at **8.50am** and ends at **3.20pm**.
- Encourage independence and a fast transition by saying goodbye in the line so children can come straight into the classroom. This helps them to settle quicker.
- The whole team will be prepared to support your child during the transition.
- There will be a Curriculum evening in the Autumn Term, as well as a Reading Talk.

# Other information

- Let us know what the collection arrangements are for your child.
- Please ensure that the office has correct and up to date contact details.
- If you use an abbreviation for your child or there's a spelling mistake, let us know.
- ParentMail is used mainly to communicate school information (application details to follow)
- School registration form.
- Photo permission form.
- Parent representatives.
- Parent help.
- School email address:

[info@eastsheen.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:info@eastsheen.richmond.sch.uk)

# Other information

Please check the boards for -

- Home School Visits slots- if you cannot make the date please let us know as soon as possible by emailing [homevisits@eastsheen.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:homevisits@eastsheen.richmond.sch.uk)
- Classes - Owlets, Cygnets and Ducklings, also referred to as RM (Miss Matthews), RG (Miss Grohs) and RDP (Miss Delgado Perez)
- Start days - Groups A,B,C and staggered start times
- Friendship groups - children mix throughout the day and have many opportunities to see and mix with their friends they already know
- Any questions regarding any of the information shared on the boards, please do ask.

# Before you leave...

- Please ensure you collect your child's Registration Pack
- Take note of their play and stay start time on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July
- Have a taste of the delicious samples of food from our wonderful catering company
- Introduce yourself to your child's new teacher
- Ask us any questions you may now have