

Frequently Asked Questions on Open Sessions



How big are your Year R classes and how many adults are there?

We have four year R classes and there are 30 children in each of them. ~Each class has one teacher and one Learning Support Assistant. Sometimes there might be additional adults in the class as some children require 1-1 support for particular needs.

Do you have wraparound care?

We do not have our own breakfast or after school club but Lyndhurst Junior School next door have both and they take children from College Park Infants. They bring them to us after breakfast club for the start of school and collect them from us at the end of the school day. Details of the clubs can be found by contacting Lyndhurst Junior School or by contacting our school office.

We live out of catchment, will my child get a place?

Each year we take between 40 - 50% of our new entrants from out of catchment. Obviously this is not something we can guarantee and we would always say to think carefully about whether to put us as first choice rather than your catchment school as if you are unsuccessful here we wouldn't want you to miss out on a school space at a nearby school.

How do I know if the school is right for my child?

We would always recommend considering all local schools as all children are different and the school that is right for one, might not be right for another. You know your child best and when you find the right school you will know. Obviously being unable to visit schools in person this year makes the decision more difficult but we recommend taking the time to ask the questions that are important to you.

My child is more able, will the school stretch them?

My child has special needs, will the school be able to support him/her?

We pride ourselves on meeting the needs of the individual child and helping them make good progress from their own starting points.

One particular strength of College Park Infants is our high expectations and appropriate level of challenge. We are very proud that the children here enjoy a challenge and always rise to the expectations set.

We have a Special Needs Co-ordinator who will work closely with teachers and parents to ensure that any Special Educational Needs are met.

Will my child get homework?

At College Park we call this Home Learning as we recognise the important job families do as joint educators of their children.

As a minimum, we do expect parents and carers to read with their child every day even for just 5 or 10 mins as we know that when children read at home as well as in school it has a real impact on progress with reading.

The Year R children will also bring home phonics to practice and common exception words to practise their sight vocabulary. Any other home learning will be based around other areas of the curriculum, will be fun activities that families can do together and have an element of choice as we know that everyone has busy lives and some want more and some want less home learning.

What are your school lunches like?

We have our own kitchen and lunches are prepared fresh daily.

Your child will be entitled to a free school lunch because of the Universal Infant School Meals scheme introduced by the government several years ago.

We offer 3 options for children to choose from - a meat or fish choice, a vegetarian choice and a packed lunch choice (which is either sandwiches, a wrap, a roll, etc, some crudites, fruit and a cookie or cake). The children select their choice at morning register and at lunchtime they are given a ticket for the lunch they have selected.

By opting for a free school lunch families save approximately £430 a year.

Where will my child eat their lunch?

If you opt for your child to have a hot meal choice, they will eat their lunch in the school hall.

If you choose for them to have the school packed lunch choice or to send in a packed lunch from home, they will eat these in their classroom.

My child is a fussy eater, should he/she have school dinners?

This is completely your decision to make. You will be emailed a copy of the menu and we advise that you look through the choices for the day with your child so that they know what they are going to choose.

If you wish for them to try school lunches, you do not have to choose this for every day of the week. Some children just have school lunches on one or two days of the week (roast dinners, sausages and fish finger days are always popular). However we do advise that if this is something you decide to do, that your child sticks to the same days each week so they are secure with the arrangements each day.

If you opt for your child to have school lunches and do not eat very much, we will make sure you are made aware of this.

My child might be nervous about playtimes with all the other children. What happens?

The children in Year R have their own playground in front of the Year R classrooms, which they use as they are settling in to school. After this they are given the option of going out into the main playground when we open the gates, but whilst they can choose to go out, the children in Years 1 and 2 cannot go into the Year R playground so this is always a less busy place for them to stay in or return to if they wish.

My child needs help with toileting, will the teacher help him/her?

We are not permitted to help a child in the toilet or to wipe their bottom (though obviously we will assist them if they have an 'accident'. However we can support them by directing them how to do it themselves from the toilet door.

Do you have any after school activities?

We have a small selection of clubs that run after school including football and dance. Year R are offered places on these after the October half-term holiday once they have settled in fully to our school.

Will my child be in a class with his/her friends from pre-school?

When we organise the new classes for September we will do our best to ensure your child is with some others from the same pre-school setting. If a large number of children come from the same pre-school we may need to split them over two or more classes but we try to make sure they have a familiar face when they start school even if it is not their particular friend. There are opportunities for the classes to work together and the children will be able to see each other at playtimes and lunchtimes if they are not in the same class. We do find that the children quickly make new friends within the class and across the year group and it makes those older friendships even more special when they get together.

My child will be the only one from his/her preschool, how will you help him/her to settle and make friends.

We do take children from over 30 pre-schools so we do always have several children in each class that will not know anyone else when they start. We find that the children naturally make friends quickly, but we also do lots of 'getting to know you' activities, and opportunities to work and play with different children. We spend lots of time learning about our class animal, developing the rules for the class and exploring the environment. If a child particularly struggles with socialising at first we ensure that they have other children to be with in the playground to help them settle, though in our experience this is rarely the case.

Where can I buy uniform?

All our uniform including the items with our logo on them can be bought, via links on our website, from the following suppliers:

*Skoolkit, Havant
Hargreaves Promotions*

There is no requirement for your child to have items with the logo and, if you wish, you can purchase items in our school colours (white, grey and gold/yellow) from all the main supermarkets.

What does a typical day look like in Year R?

We follow the EYFS Curriculum which emphasises the importance of active learning and real experiences. During the course of the day the children will have a balance of activities that are teacher planned and led, ones that are teacher planned with an element of choice, and child initiated ones. These are organised both in the classroom and in the outside area. They are all carefully structured to ensure that children are learning all the time and become independent, confident, resilient learners.