



A VERY WARM WELCOME TO

Cowes Primary School

Anchored in the heart of the community



*A right to learn, a right to be safe and a right to be
respected*

This brochure is intended to be of help to you as you begin to prepare your child for the move to Cowes Primary School, Early Years (Reception) Class.

Should you have any other queries regarding settling your child into our School, please do not hesitate to ask.

Early Years (Reception) Team:



Mrs Louise Stanton

Teacher



Miss Lucy Killman

Learning Support Assistant

Other Adults you will meet:



Mrs Stephanie Praetig

Headteacher



Mrs Anna Speczyk

QUEST & Crew Club

This booklet contains a brief outline of key information.

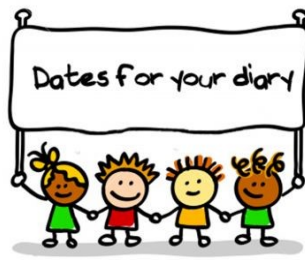
We will ensure that your child has the best possible start to school life in a safe and happy environment.

In Early Years our aim is:

- To provide a welcoming, stimulating and safe atmosphere in which our children grow, feel secure to take risks, challenge themselves and realise their full potential.
- To provide a curriculum based on each child's interests and their stage of development, providing real life activities and opportunities.
- To have flexible/ adaptable planning for both an enabling, engaging indoor and outdoor environment.
- To understand that all areas of learning are connected and all are equally important.
- To encourage a language rich environment where children are encouraged to express their opinions, share their news and collaborate with each other.
- To value 'Play' as being important for children's development.
- To provide a balance between activities led by children, and activities led or guided by adults.
- To value and praise how they learn as well as what they learn.

'We learn and have fun together'.





Diary Dates

- Wednesday 22nd May 10am - 10.30am Story and Sing Sessions for all the children
- Thursday 6th June 10am - 10.30am Story and Sing Sessions for all the children
- Tuesday 11th June 10am - 10.30am Story and Sing Sessions for all the children
- Wednesday 12th June - 6pm Information Event
- Friday 21st June 10am - 10.30am Story and Sing Sessions for all the children
- Wednesday 3rd July 3.15pm—4.15pm Afternoon Tea
- Tuesday 9th July 9am—12pm—Transition Morning
- Wednesday 4th - Friday 8th September (afternoons) - Home Visits
- Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th September 8.40am—12am—School starts
- Friday 6th September 8.40am - 1pm (stay for lunch)
- Monday 9th September onwards full days 8.40am - 3.10pm
- Half term holiday Monday 21st October to Friday 1st November 2024

Transition Day

On Tuesday 9th July we shall be welcoming our new children into school for a morning session. The time of the session is 9am - 12pm

This will provide a further opportunity for the children to spend time with the staff and explore further our exciting and vibrant learning environment!



Home Visits

This is a fantastic opportunity for you and your child to support their transition. It helps us build a closer rapport and gives us the basis for lots of discussions with your child when your child starts school.

These visits will take place on each afternoon of the first week of term:

Wednesday 4th September to Friday 6th September.

We will be sending out invitations to you shortly.

If you would prefer for us not to do a home visit please contact the school.

A Day in Early Years:

Our day starts at **8.40am**; we ask that you please bring your child into the front school by the school hall entrance by **8.40am**. The day finishes at **3.10pm**. Please collect your child from the same place.

The School Car Park

This is for staff only. However, if you require a Parking Permit for using the school car park please contact the office. These are issued to those who hold a disability badge or for certain reasons at the discretion of the school.

Every day is different, however there are some activities that we do each day:

- **Independent Learning** - Children engage in child initiated activities
- **Chat on the Mat** - Children are introduced to theme of the day, usually through a story
- **Adult Led Activities** - Children are asked to complete a task that is organised by an adult
- **Snack Time** - Children have free access to 'Sunfish Café' where they can have a piece of fruit and a drink
- **Wake Up Shake Up** - We all join in with action songs
- **Little Wandle** - Children have a daily phonic lesson
- **Lunchtime** - Reception staff join the children in the school hall for lunch (until the children are settled)
- **Guided Reading** - A small group of children share a book with an adult (in September parents/carers will be invited to a meeting to explain our approach to Letters and Sounds and Reading)
- **Hand P.E.** - Children take part in activities to improve their fine motor control



Tapestry

Tapestry is the online journal recording all the learning and fun of your child's Early Years education.



We will track your child's learning using Tapestry and value all your contributions, sharing learning moments both at school and at home.

Consent forms will be sent home for you to sign. Passwords will be issued to enable you to access your child's learning journey with us at Cowes Primary.

School Visits

At the beginning of the year parents, will be asked to give written permission (EV3 form) for their children to be taken on short visits to the local area, for example to the local library.



Topics

Each term we have an overarching topic around which we base activities and learning opportunities. This is in addition to using your child's interests to engage them and support their learning. The topics for each term are:

Autumn Term Through the Window

Spring Term Once Upon a Time

Summer Term Super Furry Animals



Things your child needs

We like to go outside every day.

Please send your child to school with a coat (labelled with their name). On hot days, a hat, a water bottle and sun cream are needed and must all be named.

Bags

We provide your child with a free Book Bag in which your child can take home books to share with you at home. There are also small backpacks available to purchase from our uniform stockists should you like one.



Uniform (Please name everything)

For Boys:

Red sweatshirt with school logo
White polo shirt
Black trousers (shorts in summer)
Sensible black shoes
Red outdoor over-fleece (optional)

For Girls:

Red sweatshirt/cardigan with school logo
White polo shirt
Black skirt/pinafore dress/trousers
Red and white gingham dress (in summer)
Sensible black shoes
Red outdoor over-fleece with logo (optional)



In the summer, pupils may wear summer shoes, but toes MUST be covered.

PE

The children build up to doing PE twice a week but this does not start straight away. We find it more beneficial to let the children settle into their surroundings first; we will let you know when it is due to begin. This is normally after the first half term.

On PE days we ask the children to come to **school in their PE kit**. **Please ensure, like all uniform that it is labelled!**

Haircuts: Extreme haircuts or colours in the hair are not acceptable, including for example, mohicans and tramlines; this will be at the discretion of the Senior Leadership Team. If hair is long enough to tie back, it must be tied back for health and safety reasons at all times. Failure to comply may lead to pupils being excluded from break-times and certain activities.

Jewellery: We have a no jewellery policy at school. However, plain stud earrings may continue to be worn by pupils in Years 1 to 6 (which are to be removed for PE or physical activities) and a watch may be worn. This is in line with health and safety recommendations.

Snack Time



The children will have fruit and milk or water each day.

The fruits provided can include: apples, bananas, oranges, carrots, tomatoes and occasionally strawberries and mini cucumbers.

If you wish your child to have milk, please make sure you complete the online registration form with *Cool Milk* the information leaflet is in your pack.



Water Bottles

We ask that the children bring a named water bottle to school every day. Squash is permitted but **only** for lunchtime please.

School Dinners

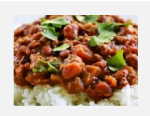
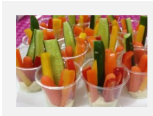
At the moment school dinners are free for Early Years aged children, up to the end of Year 2.

The kitchen provides a delicious, healthy cooked lunch daily, with a vegetarian option for each child.

There are also further choices of filled rolls or jacket potatoes and 'grab bag packed lunches' and pasta pots in the summertime. In Winter there is homemade soup on offer.

If you would rather your child has their own packed lunch, it needs to be brought to school in a suitable container with their name on it.

Early Years staff will remain with the children to support them, during lunchtimes, until they are settled.



Payment for Crew Club - breakfast club and after school club:

You will be able to access the School Gateway App which is our secure online payment system used in school as soon as we have logged your information on to the system when your child starts with us. This is where you can make payments for Crew Club, school trips and as your child moves to Year 3 you will also be able to pay for school dinners.



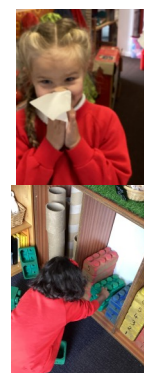
Preparing your child for Cowes Primary School

In order for your child to settle in quickly and become that little bit more independent, we also need your help!

There are some things that you can encourage and teach your child to do before they start school:

- * remove their coat and hang it up
- * use the toilet independently
- * wash and dry their hands
- * put on their own shoes
- * dress and undress
- * use a tissue to blow their nose
- * tidy and clear away toys
- * share with others
- * recognise their name printed in lower case letters with a capital letter

(clothing labelled in this way always helps)



Sarah

Amy

Chloe

Brandon

Luke

Charlie



Please let your child know that when you bring them to school on the first day that you will be saying goodbye at the school hall.

Children generally settle into school life and routines very quickly and if they are upset at first, this quickly passes once the goodbyes have been said!



Finally....

However, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the school, there is always someone here who can help.

Tel: 01983 293261

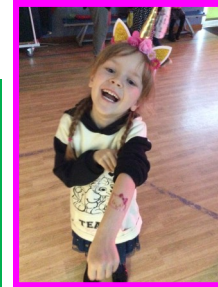
Email: admin@cowespri.iow.sch.uk

Sunfish@cowespri.iow.sch.uk





“A successful
school anchored
in the
heart of the
community”



Our Destination:

We will rise to all challenges and new experiences,
growing into independent, valued learners in a fun, safe
and welcoming environment.

Mrs Stephanie Praetig (Headteacher)

To Mrs, Stanton and
Mrs Kilman
you are the best
teachers ever ♥
yours sincerely Sophia
and Sunfish



Drawings by
Sunfish Class

2023/2024