



Starting School At Shortlanesend 2020-21



T. 01872 276372 A. Northey Close, Truro, Cornwall, TR4 9DA E. hello@shortlanesend.org.uk

All of us here at Shortlanesend School extend a warm welcome to you and your family. For every child the step from home, nursery or pre-school to school is a very important one. This booklet has been put together to help make your child's first days at school a happy experience for them and for you, and to help them to settle into school life as quickly and easily as possible.

Your teachers for this year will be Mrs Kelly Lewis (Mon-Wed) and Mrs Debra Stanhope (Thurs-Fri)

Partnership with Parents

We value our relationships with parents highly and will do our best to include you in your child's exciting journey of education. You, as parents, are children's first and most important educators and you will continue to play an enormous part in their education over the next 12 years at least! The interest you take in your child's education and the value you place upon it are vital to your child's success.

There are regular opportunities throughout the year for parents to come into school and talk with teachers and other staff, but our day-to-day contact with parents is our most important means of communication.

Please talk to us immediately if you have any concerns. If you need more than a few words at the beginning or end of the day, we will arrange a convenient time. If you are working and do not bring your child to school, please send in a note and we will telephone you to talk through any issues.



The Start of the Session

In the mornings all children enter the school via the main doors from 8.35, and all children should be in school for the when we begin at 8.55.

The End of the day

At the end of the afternoon session please pick your child up from the playground, where the teacher can clearly see each parent and dismiss the children one at a time. Class1 come out to the playground at 3:10pm.

We take great care to dismiss children only to their parents or other regular carers, so if someone different will be collecting your child it is very important to let us know. You can tell us at the beginning of the day or telephone the school if your arrangements change at short notice.



Toys

We have found that toys are best left at home. Class 1 have lots of toys for the children to play and learn with. There will be occasions where we ask children to bring in contributions for our displays and a letter will always be sent home on these occasions. We are very grateful for your support with this.

Newsletters

Whole school newsletters are published every Friday throughout the term. These keep you informed about what is going on and tell you about ways you can help. Please look out for these on your emails and on our school website. We also send letters home from time to time which we will put inside your child's bookbag. (Bookbags will be provided free of charge from the school on their first week of school)

Uniform

1. Black or grey skirt/ trousers
2. White shirts/blouses (Polo shirts are easier for children to manage independently.)
3. Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo or Royal blue fleece with school logo
4. Brown/black shoes (Velcro fastenings are easier to manage than laces.)

In summer the girls may wear blue/white dresses and the boys may wear black/grey shorts with white polo shirts.

School sweatshirts and fleeces are available from the school office, as well as sunhats, jogging trousers and reversible school coats.

It is very important that all clothing is named. A laundry marker will do the job or you can make your own stick on/iron on name tags online. (www.MyNametags.com)

PE Bags

All children need a PE bag (these can be ordered from the school office or you can use your own). This is kept at school all the time and only sent home for washing each half term. The bag should be clearly labelled with the child's name. Inside there should be a pair of black or white shorts, a plain white t-shirt and pair of plimsolls with elastic or velcro fastening. All these items should also be clearly named. The children do not need rucksacks or other kinds of large 'school bag' until they are older.

Snack Time

As part of our programme for personal, social and emotional development, we will provide the children with a mid-morning piece of fruit, and a carton of milk. We consider the development of healthy eating habits to be of paramount importance and therefore the children will be offered fruit to eat. No other snacks need to be brought in from home.



School Dinner or Packed Lunch?

When your child attends full-time, you can choose whether they have a packed lunch from home or a school lunch. All children under the age of 7 will be eligible for a free school meal so will not have to pay. In your pack is a menu to see the types of meals available; a choice of two set meals are on offer each day.

Water is available on the tables. Some children bring their own drinks (non-fizzy only please).

If your child prefers packed lunch, please include the food your child really likes. We want to avoid

children saying that they don't like what is in their sandwiches! Some parents of young children send far too much and this can be a bit daunting. Try to send approximately the amount that your child would eat at home. We like to encourage children to eat healthily and would appreciate your support with this. Remember to pack a spoon for yoghurt, a drink (or we provide water at school) and a napkin or a piece of kitchen roll. Mini 'cool packs' help to keep lunches fresh in the summer.

Water

Please provide a 'named' water bottle for your child, which they will have access to throughout the day.

Warning!

Please note that uneaten and half eaten food, empty food cartons and packets are sent home rather than thrown away at school so that parents can monitor what has been eaten. Beware it can mean that lunch boxes can get a bit messy!

Packed lunch boxes are stored on a trolley in the cloakroom, and water bottles are kept in the classroom so children can access them whenever they need a drink.



Health

When your child starts school, you will find that he or she is quite tired at the end of their half or full day. This is quite natural and to be expected.

Please do not let your child make the decision about attendance. Adults must take that responsibility. At home with Mum or Dad is the best place for a child who does not feel well. Some children will protest to return to school, but you know your child and will be able to judge the best course of action to take.

Here are some guidelines to help you:

- No child should attend with a temperature. Gastric upsets need 48 hours for recovery after the last bout of diarrhoea or sickness. If children return to school too early they bring infection with them and their resistance is low.
- Conjunctivitis is extremely contagious and should be treated before the child returns to school.

- Children on antibiotics should really be at home unless the doctor advises otherwise. In some cases, medicines prescribed by your GP can be administered at school, but we have to follow strict procedures for this. Forms need to be completed at the school office and medicines handed in there. We do not keep medicines in the classroom

- The school should be notified of any infectious illness so that other parents can be warned
- If you find your child has head lice, please report it to the school and keep the child at home until you have treated the whole family

It is school policy to contact parents if a child is unwell at school or has an injury that may require medical attention. If your child is not well enough to attend school, we would be grateful if you could inform us by telephone before 9.30 am.

Asthma

It is important that children who suffer from asthma have access to their own inhalers at any time and we keep them in the classroom to administer when needed.

FOSS – Friends of Shortlanesend School

The staff at Shortlanesend are currently working together with

parents to organise events which raises money to benefit the children and school. They organise fetes, discos, sponsored and social events throughout the year.

They are always delighted to welcome anyone (not just parents) who would be interested in becoming involved in their activities and helping to raise money for the school. The PTA also offers a great opportunity for all parents, both old and new, to get to know the school and each other a little better.



Getting Ready for School

Starting school is a big step for your child and we hope to make this transition as smooth and problem free as we can. As parents you can help by encouraging the following independence skills:

- Teach your child to dress and undress independently. We find that Velcro-fastened shoes, rather than laces and buckles, are very helpful.
- Show him or her how to remove his or her coat without the sleeves turning inside out. Teach him or her how to hang it up using its hook so that it does not get knocked straight onto the floor. (If the coat does not have

a hook it helps greatly if you can sew in a piece of tape or ribbon)

- Make sure that he or she can use the toilet properly, flushing and washing hands carefully afterwards. Sometimes boys are not used to standing up
- Once at school, we encourage children to organise their own belongings as soon as possible, so step back when you can. Encourage your child to place their book bag and water bottle into the correct boxes in the mornings.

The Curriculum

The curriculum is split into 3 prime areas and 4 specific areas.

The 3 prime areas are:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development
Communication and Language
Physical Development

The 4 specific areas are:

Literacy
Mathematics
Understanding the world
Expressive Arts and Design

The prime areas begin to develop quickly in response to relationships and experiences and run through and support learning in all other areas.

The specific areas include essential skills and knowledge. They grow out of the prime areas and provide important contexts for learning.

All children, even those who attend part-time, will have access to the whole curriculum.

In addition, it is a requirement in schools that all children have some religious education unless their parents choose to withdraw them from these lessons.

Common Questions and Anxieties

Parents are often more anxious about their children starting school than the children themselves. The most reassuring thing for you to know is that, although we do have routines, they are flexible and allow for us to accommodate individual children's needs, especially in the first few weeks.

Here Are Some Common Questions:

What shall I do if my child is upset?

Stay for a few minutes, but try to leave as quickly as you can, reassuring your child that you will be back in a little while. Children really do recover much faster when you are out of sight! We promise you that should your child continue to be distressed, we will ring you. You can also telephone the school if you are sitting at home worrying!



What shall my child do if he needs the toilet?

There are toilets in the classroom area and the children can use them whenever they like. We ask children to let us know when they are going to the toilet so that we know where they are. 'Accidents' are bound to happen occasionally, but we try to deal with them with the minimum of fuss. We have spare clothes in school should they be needed.

Will my child have to go out to play with the 'big children' in the playground?

Class 1 has an indoor and outdoor classroom and children have free access to each area for much of the day. Reception children have a morning play session at one end of the playground away from the older children. Children who stay all day at school have a lunchtime playtime are looked after by lunchtime supervisors.

Any other questions

Please ask any member of Class 1 staff if you have any questions, we will be only too pleased to try and help.

Finally

This may be your first child to start school, or it may be the last of many! Either way, the emotions involved will be the same – hoping that the children are all right, that they are not upset in any way, that they are making new friends, that they are coping without you.

The first day may be very emotional, but if so, let us reassure you that it gets better! Please try not to worry – we will always let you know either by telephone or by talking to you at the end of the day if there are any problems at school. We also need you to let us know if you suspect any problems, so that together we can sort them out quickly.

This is a very important time for you and your child. It is the start of a new adventure. It is vitally important to you and us that the years spent at school are happy ones and we try to do everything possible at Shortlanesend School to make them so.