

Welcome to Locks Heath Infant School



October 2022



Locks Heath Infant School

Frequently asked Questions

What is the class structure of the school?

There are 3 year groups: - Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2. From September 2023, there will be 3 classes in Early Years with no more than 30 children in each class.

How are the classes made up?

All classes are mixed by birthday and gender.

How much adult support does each class have?

Each Early Years class has their own teacher and a fulltime learning support assistant.

Do Early Years children share the same playground as the rest of the children?

The Early Years children have their own outdoor learning area which is used for lunch time play and Explorer time.

What do the children learn when they first start school?

We have very strong links with our local pre-schools and nurseries and see the child's learning as a continuum, building on the progress they have made at pre-school. The teachers spend the first few weeks getting to know the children, helping them to settle into school and making sure they are happy and confident in the Early Years environment. We have a play based approach to learning and use the children's interest to lead 'topics'. After a few weeks of settling in we begin short focussed phonics and maths sessions and the teachers will work with children on reading. Through play based activities the children will experience all areas of learning.

What happens if my child is already able to read when they come to school?

All children are assessed in the first few weeks at school and then the learning is planned according to children's different abilities.

What do children need to be able to do before they come to school?

We ask that the children practice the following things before coming to school: getting dressed by themselves, playing turn-taking games, talking about picture books, sitting still and listening, recognising their name, using a knife and fork to cut up their food, going to the toilet independently and washing their hands carefully.

Will my child have a hot school meal at lunchtime?

All infant school children are eligible for free hot school meals. The children are able to choose from a meat or vegetable option from the menu each day and the food is cooked to order in our own school kitchen. The music room is set up as a dining room specifically for the Early Years children.

Children are able to have a packed lunch from home if they wish but we have found the hot school meals are very popular.

What induction programme does the school offer?

In the summer term before your child starts school you will be invited to visit the school with your child on a number of occasions.

1. Children are able to come and visit and look around the school with their pre-school or nursery.
2. Children are invited to visit their new class in small groups and join in with the current Early Years classes.
3. Children are invited to a 'getting to know us afternoon' when they will meet all the children who will be in their class.

There will also be an 'Induction Evening' which is an information evening for all new parents where you will have the opportunity to meet your child's class teacher.

During the first week of term in September you and your child will be invited for an individual meeting with the class teacher and learning support assistant at school in the classroom.

Is there a transition process of part-time days for my child?

The children attend school in the mornings for a few days and then start full time. On the part-time days, there is an opportunity for your child to stay and experience a hot meal at school.

How will I be kept informed of my child's progress?

We have formal parents' evenings during the Autumn and Spring terms and then an 'open afternoon' in the summer term.

We hold a virtual Curriculum evening at the beginning of each school year to explain how we teach key aspects of the curriculum.

We also have informal opportunities when children are able to share the work that they have been doing with parents.

When can I apply for a school place?

You can apply online at www.hants.gov.uk/admissions from 1 November 2022.

Application deadline is Saturday 15 January 2023. You will be informed of the place you have been allocated for your child in April 2023.

What if we live out of catchment?

The county operates an Equal Preference scheme. By putting us as your first preference you are not reducing your chances of getting a place at your catchment school should you not be offered a place at this school, as long as you name your catchment school as one of the preferences. Each year half of our intake of children is from catchment and half is from out of catchment.

What facilities does the school offer?

IT We have a bank of laptops and iPads which the children use to support their learning. Every classroom has an interactive whiteboard which teachers use to support their teaching.

Music room This is well resourced with plenty of percussion instruments for the children to play. It is also used for the Early Years assemblies.

Hall We have a large hall which is used for PE lessons which include gym and games. It is also used for whole school assemblies and celebrations.

Library This is well stocked with books for the children to use in school and to bring home.

Swimming Pool We have access to the swimming pool on 2 afternoons a week and the children in Year 1 and 2 have swimming lessons with a qualified instructor.

Nature Reserve and Field The school is surrounded by woodland and a field which is used every week for 'welly walks', outdoor learning and PE.

After School Clubs We have a number of external companies who run after school clubs here.

