



Starting School at Oliver's Battery



Welcome to Squirrels Class



Welcome to Oliver's Battery Primary and Nursery School!

Autumn Term 2024

What you need to know as your child starts school

Starting school is an important landmark in your child's life. This booklet is designed to answer your questions and help you and your child have a relaxing and smooth entry into school life. It also offers advice on how you can reassure your child and help to make starting school an exciting and enjoyable experience.

INDUCTION VISITS

Before your child starts school in September they have several opportunities to get to know the school environment, to meet their class teacher and other staff, and to meet some of the children who will be in their class.



STARTING DATES

We invite parents to choose the intake pattern they feel is the most appropriate for their child and offer 2 options during the first week of attendance.

These are:



morning and lunch session – 8.45am until 12.40pm
or a full day – 8.45am until 3.30pm.

Some children may continue to attend for half days for some time if a whole day is too much for them. This will be at the discretion of the teacher and parents.

THE FIRST DAY AND WEEK

What your child will need on their first day:

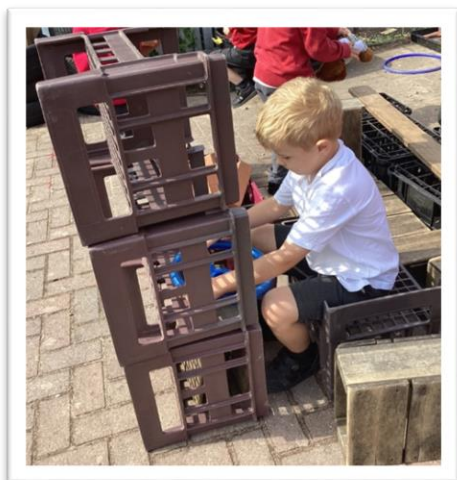
- School uniform – please NAME EVERY ITEM of clothing
- Water bottle - named
- A Book Bag - they should bring this to school every day. We will use it to send letters home so please check it each night.
- A small bag with a change of clothes (pants, socks, trousers and a top)
- Wellies and waterproof trousers (which are named and can be left at school)
- A smile from you to see them into class



School opens at 8.45 a.m. Please walk around the school to the area outside the Squirrel Classroom doors where one of the teachers will be there to greet you.

For the first few days, you may wish to accompany your child into the classroom and help them find their coat peg and put away their belongings. You will be amazed at how quickly they can then do this independently!

If your child is upset, we recommend that you hand them over to a member of staff and leave promptly. This will help your child to settle down more quickly. If you are concerned, please telephone the school office after an hour to check that they have settled.



If you are late to school (after 9am) you must come into school via the school office, not the classroom.

School finishes at 3.30p.m. Please wait at the Foundation Stage doors for the teachers to bring the class out. When you see your child, please come forward and take your child from the teacher. If you wish to speak to a member of staff, please wait until all the children have been seen safely to their adult.

MORNING SNACK

During the morning children have the opportunity to have a drink and a snack. They are encouraged to take a piece fresh fruit or vegetables, which is provided for them. They are able to drink from their own water bottle whenever they wish.

LUNCHESES

Children who stay full-time may have either a packed lunch or a school dinner. The dinners are cooked on site and are currently free for children up to the end of Key Stage 1. A typical menu is included within this pack.

Packed lunch

Many children bring a packed lunch. Parents are asked to send their child in with a nutritionally balanced lunch box.

Nutrition experts agree that everyone needs to eat a balanced diet to keep fit and healthy. To achieve this everyone needs foods from each of the five food groups:

1. fruit and vegetables
2. meat, fish and alternatives
3. bread, cereal and potatoes
4. milk and dairy products
5. foods with fat and foods with sugar

When preparing sandwiches, add some salad and vegetables like cucumber or cress. Children often find vegetables more appealing if they are cut into sticks, e.g. carrots, celery and peppers. Providing a variety of fruit throughout the week will help your child get a range of different minerals and vitamins. The following lunch box contains food from all five groups:

A cheese and salad sandwich A piece of fruit A pot of yogurt or a cereal bar
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Fresh drinking water is available throughout the day. If you are including a drink in your child's lunch box, please avoid fizzy ones. The container must not be made of glass. It could be a flip top, a screw top or a carton of juice.

We are a **NO NUTS** school due to some of the children within school suffering from a serve allergy. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

A TYPICAL SCHOOL DAY AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR

- ❖ At 8.45 the children are welcomed by their teacher at the classroom doors.
- ❖ The children hang up their coats themselves on the pegs in their classroom.
- ❖ They store their book bags and lunch bag in the cloakroom area.
- ❖ The children explore the classrooms and outside environment. They are free to choose which learning 'journey' they wish to follow.
- ❖ The continuous provision of all of the areas is enhanced, taking into account children's individual interests.
- ❖ During the day your child will experience stories, number rhymes, role play, music, phonics, exercise, painting, construction, outdoor play, and there is a snack of fruit and milk available for them.
- ❖ At 3.30 the children are collected from the teachers at the classroom doors.



LIBRARY BOOKS

After the children have settled, we will give them an opportunity to borrow a library book weekly. These should be returned each week in their book bag so that they can borrow a new book. You will be told when the library day is when the children start using the library.

GETTING READY FOR SCHOOL

In preparation for starting school here are some questions which you may need to consider. Do not worry if your child cannot achieve all of them fully. This list provides a guide to areas where you can support and encourage your child.

Independence - can your child:-

- Undress without help?
- Use a toilet unaided?
- Use a tissue?
- Use a knife and fork?
- Do their own coat up?

Social Development:-

- Can your child tidy away toys they have been using?
- What do they particularly enjoy?
- What are they good at?
- How do they get on with other children?
- Are they able to say when they do or do not need help?

Intellectual Development - does your child:-

- Know any nursery rhymes?
- Have a favourite story?
- Look, listen and talk about the things they have seen?
- Draw pictures?
- Recognise their own name?
- Count to 10?

Physical Development- can your child:-

- Hop on one foot?
- Balance on one foot?
- Roll a ball?
- Throw a ball?
- Catch a ball?



UNIFORM

- Grey or black trousers or shorts (these can be joggers in Year R)
- White polo shirt (can be with or without a logo)
- Grey skirt or pinafore dress or checked dress
- Red sweatshirt or cardigan (can be with or without a logo)
- Grey/black/white socks or tights
- Black shoes (no boots)

Uniform is available to order online from Direct4Logos. You can order via their website or by phone by calling 01794 511 550.

We encourage the children to play and explore outside in all weathers. The children have daily access to messy play. Every child will need a set of waterproof clothing and wellies that can be left in school.



PE kit

We provide physical development opportunities daily for Year R children. When we start PE lessons depends on the cohort. We will let you know when your child needs a PE kit in school. This should be brought into school in a named PE bag and stays in school for the half term.

PE Kit: Red/white t-shirt, black shorts and trainers



Forest School

We have a weekly Forest School session in our Early Years Forest School onsite on Wednesday afternoon. This is led by Mrs Homewood who has her Forest School Leader qualification. We really appreciate volunteers to help at these sessions and a signup sheet will be available at the beginning of September. On Wednesdays, please send your child into school wearing clothing suitable for messy play in the woods. All children must have long sleeves and trousers.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Contact with teachers

There are many opportunities for parents to have contact with the class teacher. However, the start of the day is very busy and there often is no time for more than a quick message. If you need to speak to the teacher for longer, please arrange to see her after school or send an email via the admin email address: admin@oliversb.com

Attendance

Please let the office know by phone, letter or email if your child is going to be away.

Medical Issues

If your child is unwell you will be contacted and asked to collect them. It is essential that your child is fit and well enough to cope with the busy school day. If your child has been physically sick or has suffered diarrhoea they must not return to school for 24 hours after the last occurrence.

We will administer treatments for asthma, or medication connected to a condition that is with the child for life. A form should be completed at the school office for this. We do not expect to administer any other form of medication unless we receive signed permission from a parent or carer to do so.

Parking

There is available parking on the school site on the top playground. Please do not drive onto the school site as this is for staff parking only. For the safety of the children, at the beginning and end of the school day the main gates are shut. Please drive with due care. Parking is permitted in the surrounding roads but please park with consideration to the local residents and to other road users

If you are registered disabled and are a blue badge holder please speak to the school directly as parking spaces close to the school building are available.

Parent Helpers

Once your child has settled into school life, we welcome any time you can spare to help in your child's class or in another class if you prefer. Activities you may enjoy doing with the children include art, language activities, maths activities, sewing, cooking etc. Please speak to the class teacher if you can spare the time. We will then organise the appropriate paperwork and DBS checks.

KEY STAFF LIST

Head Teacher

Sarah Vittle

Assistant Head for Inclusion

Catherine Bordoli

Early Years Leader & Year R teacher

Charlotte Homewood

Teaching Assistant

Catherine Thomas

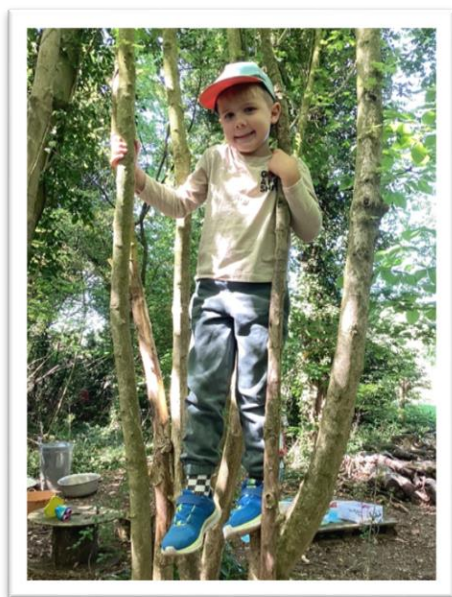
Business Manager

Simon Sleeman

Administration Assistant

Stacey King

AND FINALLY...



A successful and happy education for your child involves team work between home and school. We are always happy to talk to you about any worries or queries you may have.

We wish you and your family a happy start to life at Oliver's Battery Primary and Nursery School.

More information about our school can be found on the school website www.oliversbattery.com

With very best wishes,
Sarah Vittle, Charlotte Homewood and Catherine Thomas.

