



Frequently asked questions

We would like to make your child's transition as easy as possible so here are some common questions asked in previous years. We hope they are useful.

Q: Where do I take my child on their first day?

A: On their first day of school, please bring your children down to their classrooms via the playground. Your child will be met by their class teacher at the door. Please note: This answer may change due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Q: Where do I pick up my child from school?

A: The gates will open at 2.50pm. You will need to walk to the playground and wait outside your child's classroom and then your child will be released by their class teacher at 3.00pm.

Q: Where do they go at playtime?

A: During the Autumn term, we allow our Reception children exclusive access to the side playground near to their classrooms. This playground is their safe haven! As the children become more confident in the school, they can stay on the Year R playground or go onto the main playground to be with the rest of the school. In the summertime, the children are able to make use of the field.

Q: What equipment does my child need for school?

A: They will need a named water bottle, which will need to be in school every day. There is no need for them to bring a pencil case as we have all the equipment they need at school. Once routines are in place, your child will be bringing home a reading wallet everyday which includes a reading record, reading books, library book and on occasions, letters from the school office. Please make sure you check this every night so you don't miss out on any information. Please note: reading books will be changed weekly to start, then more regularly once children begin their phonics lessons.

Q: Does my child need a school bag?

A: Yes, there are brilliant Farnborough Grange book bags, which we do recommend you buy. They are the perfect size for their reading wallets, and we ask for spare pants, socks and school trousers (just in case) to be put in their PE kit bag. Please ensure everything is named and the school bag is clearly labelled on the back.

Q: Does my child need a PE kit?

A: Yes, please refer to the school website uniform page for what they need. We do P.E once a week, but ask all P.E kits to stay in school and be sent home each half term.

Q: What uniform does my child need?

A: Please refer to the school uniform webpage:

<https://www.farnboroughgrange.hants.sch.uk/school-uniform/>

Children in Year R also need a named pair of Wellington boots, which can be left at school.

Q: What if my child has trouble settling into school?

A: Many children can struggle to settle into a school, but remember the Year R team have a wealth of experience when it comes to transition and settling in well. Working together as a team, communicating with each other and trusting in the team's advice will ensure your child has a safe and smooth transition into school.

Q: How do I tell the teacher who will be collecting my child from school?

A: Email or telephone the school office to let us know who will be collecting your child, if it is someone different to normal. If your normal arrangements change, please inform the office ASAP.

Q: Do I need to provide a snack?

A: No, daily snack is provided with a piece of fruit each day and milk (milk is provided until your child's 5th birthday, unless payment is continued).

Q: What happens at lunchtimes?

All Reception children are entitled to a free school lunch. When your child enters the classroom each morning, they have a choice of two options for lunch –a meat or vegetarian meal. They will pick what they want each day with their class teacher. If your child has an allergy, the office must be informed when filling out the paperwork so a separate menu can be designed. Alternatively, your child can have a packed lunch from home.

Q: What should I put in my child's packed lunch?

A: We encourage healthy eating and expect parents to choose healthily when creating a packed lunch.

An example of a healthy packed lunch:

- A sandwich (no peanut butter).

- Yoghurt and a piece of fruit.
- Bottle of water or juice.
- A child sized wafer biscuit e.g. twix, kit kat, blue ribband.
- No sweets, fizzy drinks, nuts or chocolate (unless covering a wafer/biscuit)

Please see the 'Food and Nutrition Policy' on the school website for more information.

Q: What if my child still has 'accidents'?

A: Please ensure there is a spare uniform carefully labelled in your child's PE bag. We will work together to help your child become confident in toileting independently.

Q: What if my child is ill?

A: If your child is unwell before school, please ring the school office to inform them that your child will not be in school. If your child becomes unwell at school, you will be contacted by the school office.

Please see the 'Attendance Policy' on the school website for more detail.

Q: What skills does my child need before starting school?

A: Please refer to the 'Top 10 skills' attached to this page. We do not expect them to be reading or writing yet! The beginning of school is all about your child learning a new routine, making friends, being independent, feeling happy and safe in school and being in a new environment.

Q: How can I support my child's learning at home?

A: Read, read and read some more with your child. Reading with your child on a daily basis and reading a bedtime story to them each night will encourage their reading skills and experiences to support their communication and language. We set home learning tasks each week related to an area of the curriculum - we ask that you upload their learning to Tapestry once completed. You can also add any 'proud moments' to your child's learning journey through the Tapestry App and read the observations made of your child during their school day.

Q: Can my child cycle or scoot to school?

A: Yes, your child can cycle or scoot if they are accompanied by an adult and children should wear a safety helmet. A secure bike/scooter rack is provided on site. The school will not take responsibility for any cycles and scooters left on site.

Q: What is the best time to talk to the teacher if I have a question?

A: We would advise you to speak to the teacher at the end of the school day after all the children have been dismissed. We can also make appointments through the school office for parents to see the class teacher or another member of staff. If you do need to speak to another member of staff, it may be Mrs Hale re Special Educational Needs, Mrs Hurst (Pastoral Support) or Mrs Cave (Headteacher).

Q: How will I know how my child is getting on?

A: Our reading diaries are also used to share information about children's' learning. We hold two formal parent-teacher conferences each academic year and in the Summer Term, each child receives a report outlining their progress over the year.

Q: How can parents get involved?

A: We encourage parents to get involved in various ways from attending trips to individual reading. We have a small fundraising team "Friends of Farnborough Grange" and would welcome new members with new ideas and contacts. If you work for a company that is able to sponsor or donate to fundraising in the school please email adminoffice@farnboroughgrange.hants.sch.uk subject: fundraising.