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Dear Parents and Carers of children starting in September,

We are writing to confirm the details regarding your child's start with us in September 2021. This information was shared at our 'New Parents' event on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. You can watch a recording of this session here: <https://youtu.be/pfcdiE7Skw4>

First of all, I would like to introduce you to our experienced Early Years team that you and the children will be working with from September:



**Mrs L Holmes**  
Teacher - Pixies class



**Mrs J Westcott**  
Teacher - Elves class



**Mrs C Catt**  
Support staff



**Mrs N Fallon**  
Support staff

Before September we would normally have had several opportunities for children to have come and visited us in school. Unfortunately, this has not been able to happen this year apart from our planned Teddy Bears' picnic. We also know that the likely impact of the pandemic will, for some children, have led to much less interaction with unfamiliar adults and groups of children than in previous years. As a result, we have planned our transition carefully to ensure children have a gradual build up to school life with every opportunity for them to be successful.

### **Teddy Bears' picnic – 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

This will be your child's first chance to come into school and meet the adults and some of the other children they will learn alongside next year. Please just bring a small snack for your child so that they have plenty of time to play. We will talk with you at the picnic about the name of the class your child will register with in September. Due to the current restrictions, we will only be able to accommodate one parent per child and no siblings. If you are yet to confirm you are coming to the Teddy Bears' picnic, please call and let us know - 01323 762269

### **Home Visits**

These will take place between Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September and Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September. Home visits are an opportunity for your child to meet their class teacher in a very familiar setting to get to know them a little better. It will also give another opportunity for you to ask any questions you have or to share with us any concerns or changes that may have happened over the summer.

We will give you the details for how to book these at the Teddy Bears' picnic.

## **Transition week – 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Following home visits, your child will start to transition into school.

- On the Monday or Tuesday of this week you will have an opportunity to attend 1 stay and play session with your child. This will include lunch for you both in the school hall with the opportunity to taste the school food and see how it all works.
- On the Wednesday and Thursday your child will attend their transition sessions on their own.
- All of these sessions are in smaller groups of 15 so that they gradually become familiar with their peers and the Early Years staff.
- Friday 25<sup>th</sup> is the first full day of school for everyone.
- You will be given a letter at the Teddy Bears' picnic giving you the dates and times for your child's sessions.

### **Term 1**

Although registering in the morning in either Pixies or Elves classes, children will spend time in both classes and in the outside area working with all adults and children. Once we have got to know the children in Term 1 and considered how well children learn alongside each other, we will finalise the classes your children will be in for the rest of the year. Your children are likely to be in the same class for the next 7 years so it is important that we get the balance and mix right. Throughout Early Years, children will continue to have lots of opportunities to mix across the whole year group.

### **Life in Early Years**

During the Early Years there will be lots of chances for parents and carers to learn alongside their children in the classroom. This will provide you with an opportunity to see how we are teaching a range of skills to your child so that you support with the same language and concepts at home.

Throughout your child's time at Pevensey and Westham School they will have lots of time to engage in our Forest School. In Early Years children spend time in our woodland area throughout the year and get to see and talk about the changing seasons. Children interact with nature, hear stories, learn to handle tools safely as well as getting muddy!

### **Uniform**

All our uniform can be purchased online following the link below where you will also see our uniform policy: [www.pevenseyschool.org.uk/parents/uniform](http://www.pevenseyschool.org.uk/parents/uniform)

We have a limited stock of some of the uniform available – especially smaller sizes - through ParentMail at slightly cheaper prices. You can find this by clicking on the 'Shop' link within ParentMail.

**With uniform, please make sure you label everything and regularly check that the labels are still legible.**

We will not decide your child's house team until they have been placed into classes. The children do not change for P.E in Term 1, so there is absolutely no rush to order these t-shirts.

### **How to help your child prepare over the summer?**

Over the summer, there are things that you practise with your child to prepare them for some of the things that they will need to do independently like putting their coat on and doing up the zips and buttons. Children should also practise putting their shoes on by themselves; getting changed; going to the toilet on their own and washing and drying their hands; eating with a knife and fork and walking with a tray.

### **Reading**

The emphasis of engaging your child in books and reading is so important and will be a priority for us in the Early Years. We know from experience that those children with less experience of having stories read to them every day find it harder to learn to read. Developing a love of reading is at the heart of Pevensey and Westham school and we have a high expectation of parents in supporting us with this. Children are expected to read every night and have stories read to them. We will support you by introducing you to the way we teach phonics at PaWS. Phonics is the method of teaching children to read by linking sounds and the different ways that letters represent them.

Reading is not only fun but central to children accessing the whole curriculum and is a window to their world. To support children become confident readers who read for pleasure as they move through the school, it is essential that we work together to make sure the building blocks are in place during their first year at school.

## Parent Fundraising Team

As a school we benefit from an active parent team who organise events and help raise funds to support the school. The friendly team are always eager to have new members of the team. You can find more information about how to contact the PFT following the link below:

<https://pevenseyschool.org.uk/parents/paws-fundraising-team/>

## Pick up and Drop off

These are very busy times around the school and we would encourage all our parents and carers to park and walk to the school at drop off and collection. Parking Permits are available free of charge from the school office to park at the castle.

## Breakfast and After School Club

The office will send out details to parents for how to book into **PaWS Xtra**. For more information:

<https://pevenseyschool.org.uk/parents/paws-xtra>

## Our Vision:

*"At PaWS we have an ambitious vision to work in partnerships with families, the church and the wider community to prepare all our children with the knowledge, skills, values and behaviours they will need in order to flourish, reach their potential and enjoy fullness of life."*

(John 10:10)



We are really looking forward to welcoming new children and families to our school and working together in supporting your children reach their potential and enjoy *life in all its fullness*.

Kind regards,

Luke Paramor  
Headteacher