

**Admissions 2024 - Frequently Asked Questions (last updated 9th Oct 2023)**

**Information about school meals, our curriculum, promoting good behaviour, school uniform etc. is all available on our website. Our New Parent Handbook is particularly detailed.**

**1. What is the catchment area? How likely is it that my child will get a place at the school from where I live?**

In order to find your nearest school, please use the link below on the Hertfordshire Admissions website. This will then show you in metres all your closest schools.

[https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/ufs/SCHOOLS\\_WBMS.eb?ebd=0&ebz=1\\_1605520981679](https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/ufs/SCHOOLS_WBMS.eb?ebd=0&ebz=1_1605520981679)

For any other questions about admissions we would suggest you go to:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/school-admissions/school-admissions-and-transport.aspx>

**2. I notice you admit 45 children. How are the classes organised?**

Our Reception classes are divided into 2 classes. Acorns 1 consists of 23 children and Acorns 2 consists of 22 children. Each class has a full time teacher and teaching assistant. These classes are balanced according to gender and 'older', 'middle', and 'younger', children.

From Year 1 the children are then divided into 3 groups and will stay in these groups throughout their school journey. See **our Powerpoint** for further detail.

**3. Will my child cope in Reception as he/she is summer born?**

Please see Hertfordshire Admissions information regarding summer born children:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/school-admissions/primary-junior-and-middle-schools/primary-junior-and-middle-school-places.aspx#whenchildrenstart>

Oakwood caters for a wide variety of children in reception. If you are considering deferring your child's reception place, we recommend you discuss this with your child's current nursery setting.

**4. How much time do reception children spend outside?**

EYFS Child Initiated Learning involves a combination of inside and outside activities as chosen by each child every day. Reception children have at least 1 hour every morning and every afternoon for Child Initiated Learning where our Reception doors are opened and the children are free to go between outside and inside activities.

Reception children also have an hour's break for lunch every day.

**5. Do all classes have a full-time teaching assistant in addition to the class teacher?**

In our reception classes, each class has a class teacher and full time teaching assistant. We then allocate additional teaching assistant support, prioritising the children in the younger classes and according to the additional needs in the class. Our key stage one classes currently have full time or almost full time teaching assistant support and classes in key stage two also have a good level of additional support. Staffing is subject to review according to school budgets.

**6. Which phonics scheme do you use?**

We use Little Wandle Phonics scheme from Reception and continue the programme throughout KS1. This is substituted with additional resources.

**7. Do you have a breakfast or after school club? Will my reception child be able to attend the breakfast and after school club?**

Our breakfast and after school clubs are currently run by Jousters. This is available for children from Reception to Year 6. We do advise putting your child's name onto the waiting list as early as you can. Further information and contact details are on our school website.

**8. What extracurricular activities are available?**

From Year 3 children may join a number of lunchtime and afterschool clubs. Currently these include art, fencing, chess, coding, netball, and girls and boys football. These clubs are usually run by outside providers and there is usually a fee for these clubs

**9. What opportunities are there for parents to get involved in the school?**

There may be opportunities for parents to be classroom helpers, supporting reading and other aspects of the curriculum. Parents help in the library, with the school garden and offer to give talks where their line of work or specialism complements an area of learning. Parents help on school trips and in class workshops and we have a

strong PTA who raise funds and organise social activities for children, parents and families. Parents volunteering on a regular basis need to undergo a DBS check.

**10. What provision is available for music and are instrumental lessons available?**

All children are taught music as part of the curriculum. As part of this, children are taught the recorder for a term whilst they are in Lower Key Stage 2 and we are currently giving them the experience of learning the violin. From Year 3, subject to availability, children may elect to learn the guitar or a woodwind instrument. This is with a teacher from Hertfordshire Music and lessons are payable at a termly rate.