

Welcome to Reception



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A guide to starting in Reception at Ivydale
Primary School

A warm welcome!



We are very excited to welcome you to join Reception at Ivydale Primary School. Whether you are returning to the school or this is your child's new beginning at Ivydale, I'm sure you have questions and worries about school during these challenging times. This guide will help you be ready for the changes and it is important that you, as parents & carers read this through, explaining to your child where relevant. For those of you returning to us, these changes may seem daunting at first but all the children who were in school before the summer, including our nursery children managed the changes very well. We may have to make further changes if the government guidance is updated and we will continually review our systems to make sure they are working as effectively as possible.

What guidance is being followed by schools?

Government advice says that schools must implement a 'system of controls'. This is grouped into 'prevention' and 'response to any infection'. The key examples of what we will do are:-

Prevention

- We will continue to make sure staff and children, who have coronavirus symptoms or share a household with someone who does, does not attend school.
- We will continue to have good systems for ensuring thorough and frequent cleaning/sanitising of hands.
- We will continue to use the 'catch it-bin it-kill it' approach to coughs and sneezes.
- We will continue to clean frequently touched surfaces more frequently.
- We will continue to minimise contact between people and maintain social distancing where this is possible.

Response to any infection

- We will use the NHS Test and Trace process.
- We will managed confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school community by seeking advice from the local health protection team. Our comprehensive risk assessment will be available on the school website.

My child is feeling anxious about starting school, how can I prepare him/her?

You will need to prepare your child by talking about what school will be like. Given that your child is starting school, they may well accept that this is what is 'normal'. Settling into school will be very different this year. In order to support children throughout the settling-in phase, small groups of children will be starting each day. Should you have concerns about how your child will settle at school, adaptations to the settling timetable can be made, please ensure you share these concerns with the class team or Jan Harpley. Starting school will certainly be different from the experience your child has had in lockdown. You may want to encourage your child to talk about their experiences in 'lockdown' and support them in understanding that this period is now ending. You can also discuss the content of this document to help them understand what it will be like on their arrival.

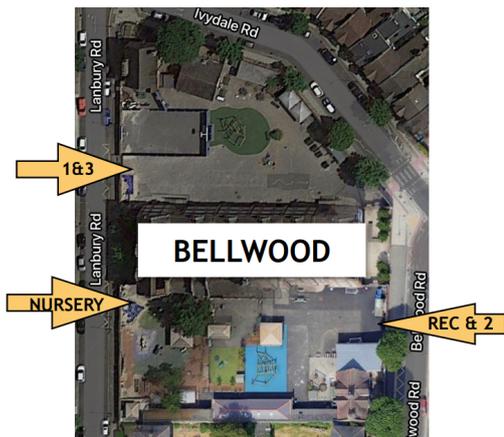
Our beginning and end of the day routines

In the mornings you will drop your child at the **fire gates on Bellwood Road**. You will not be allowed onto the school premises.

We will be operating a staggered start and end of the day so that everyone can arrive safely, have time to wash their hands before going to class and then be able to leave safely. To avoid crowding, and to stay safe at the gates, you should arrive at the stated time for your class. The playground will not be open before this time and you will be expected to wait in a socially distanced queue along the walls indicated on the gates. Ideally only one parent or carer should accompany your child to school to avoid us having too many people at the gate at the same time. Parents will not be allowed into the playground either at the start or end of the day. We kindly ask parents to leave as soon as their child is in the playground to reduce crowding at the gates. A member of staff will be at the gates to let the children in. The class teacher will gather the children of their class under the shelter, then take them through to their classroom, after handwashing and leaving belongings on pegs. If you are late then you will need to go to the main entrance. At the end of the day children will be dismissed from the same shelter and through the same gate. If we find this system isn't working then we will look at how we can improve it.

Please adhere to the given times.

Start of the Day	End of the Day
Rwanda class: 8:40	Rwanda class: 3:10
Nepal class: 8:50	Nepal class: 3:20
Poland class: 9:00	Poland class: 3:30



Map of entry and exit points for the Bellwood building.

What should children bring to school?

Children must bring a book bag and spare full set of clothes. The spare set of clothes do not need to be taken home daily. No P.E. kit is currently required.

On their first day your child will be given a named water bottle which you will then be responsible for. The bottle can be refilled at school but we request you take them home and wash them daily. This is because the water fountains and cups in the classrooms cannot be used. This must only be used for water. Please do not bring anything else in from home (e.g. pencil cases, toys etc). If you are not having a school lunch then remember to bring a healthy packed lunch from home. Please do not bring bikes, scooters or skateboards to school at the moment as we can't store them easily.

As the days turn colder, it is important that your child is prepared for outdoor play. A warm coat, hat and gloves as well as sensible footwear that children can remove and put back on independently are required. **Please ensure all clothing is labelled.**



Learning throughout the day



The teaching and learning is planned to cover a range of whole class, small group and free play learning. We plan our learning around exciting and stimulating books, as well as children's own interests. Every year, our initial focus is upon settling your child and supporting their development of Personal, Social and Emotional skills. This continues to be a strong focus throughout their time with us here at Ivydale. This year we will be focussing even more heavily on this area of the curriculum, taking into account the wide range of experiences children will have had during lockdown.

As well as prioritising helping all children using our existing resources we will use the flexibility offered by the extra government funding too (there is not enough information yet as to exactly how this will work).

- We are timetabling each class to have as much time outdoors as possible.
- We may have to adapt some lessons, for example music so that they are COVID-19 secure.
- We will be writing a contingency plan (in relation to a second spike either nationally or locally or for children who need to self-isolate). This will spell out how we will provide good quality remote learning in the future.

Once children are well settled we begin to build more structure into the day. At the point that group phonics sessions are introduced, we will send out a handy guide to help you best support your children with phonics, reading and writing at home.

The Reception day

Entry into school	Children congregate under the shelter, hand wash and settle onto the carpet.
Literacy carpet session	We focus upon learning for our topic with a focus on wider literacy and communication skills.
Free play	Children make independent choices from the provision on offer in the classroom and outside. Small groups of children work with adults on pre-planned focus activities.
Phonics carpet session	During these sessions children learn the building blocks of reading and writing. Children are taught in whole class groups or smaller groups according to their need.
Lunch time	In the dinner hall, self-service, supported by classroom staff as well as lunchtime supervisors. Children continue to use their designated outside area for play following lunch.
Maths carpet session	Whole class or small group sessions to focus on the skills that underpin all maths learning.
Free play	Children make independent choices from the provision on offer in the classroom and outside. Small groups of children work with adults on pre-planned focus activities.
Story time/talking time	Whole class story sessions or circle time related to managing Personal, Social and Emotional skills.
Home time	Children will be collected from the Bellwood Road gates.

Additional early intervention groups are planned around the learning needs of children. The focus of these differs from year to year, but tend to focus upon attention and listening skills, communication skills (including speech), PSED skills - e.g. sharing, turn taking, early literacy and maths skills.

If you have any concerns about your child's learning and development, please speak to your class teacher or Jan Harpley (Assistant Head for Early Years and Early Years SENDCo)

Children will have access to the outdoor area for large chunks of the day. They will remain in their class groups for this time, with no mixing between classes to occur. Each class will have a large designated and resourced area for outdoor play. Resources will remain in each outdoor area for the week, before being swapped to other class outdoor areas to eliminate cross contamination of the class resources.



How will you support my child's emotional wellbeing?

In addition to the child focused approaches mentioned above, all staff will be available to provide support. Members of the senior leadership and inclusion team will work to ensure that children's needs are met. There will be opportunities for children to discuss their feelings, play, develop or rebuild friendships and have 'break out' or 'chill out' spaces for times when they may feel overwhelmed.

Assembly

We will not be able to bring the Early Years children together for assemblies in the way that we normally would, so we will be using virtual means to bring children together, to celebrate, teach and learn as a whole phase.

Messy play

Your child WILL get messy at school! We celebrate messy play and its many benefits to development, such as the building of hand strength, aligning sensory processing and building language. Please don't worry if their uniform becomes stained. To help us manage the mess, children require a full spare set of clothes which can be left upon their peg.

Reading

Once children have begun to take part in phonics sessions, they will begin to read one to one with an adult in class. They will receive a book to take home at this time. Additionally, one further book change will be carried out during the week. Children will continue to be read to by adults, from a range of rich and stimulating texts on a daily basis. Reading on a daily basis with your child at home continues to be one of the most powerful ways to support their learning. We advise that even once your child is bringing home a book to read themselves, that this does not replace the reading of story books together. Advice around how best to support reading at home will be provided during the Autumn Term.

Lunchtime

Children are given the option of a healthy school meal or they can bring a packed lunch. You should have completed an allergy form, included in your registration pack. If you didn't manage to do this or your child's needs have changed, forms are available from the main office. Information regarding the menu will be emailed to you at the beginning of each term. Children's lunches are counted up each day at registration, so you can decide daily whether you wish to provide a packed lunch or access a school meal.

Free School Meals (FSM): Whilst all children in Southwark receive a free lunch, you may be eligible for benefits related free school meals, if you believe this to be the case, it is advisable to complete the correct forms. During lockdown, many families were eligible for assistance with meals whilst at home but they had not completed forms. Should lockdown occur again, having the correct paperwork in place can speed up how quickly support can be offered to you. (Forms are available from the front office.)



What happens at lunchtime and break time?

There are a number of changes to minimise the mixing of children from different classes; to maximise the amount of playground space for each class and to allow for hand washing and cleaning time:-

- Reception will have lunch in the dining hall, no other classes will be in the hall at the same time. Classes will be kept separately from each other within the dining hall.
- Children will only be able to play and eat with children from their own class.
- Each class will have allocated tables to sit at for lunch.
- The playground is zoned. Each class will be allocated a zone and use it for both outdoor play and lunchtime play.

I hope that this guide has been informative, if you have any further questions or queries, please direct them to your class team during your virtual home visit, or if appropriate contact Jan Harpley through the main office (020 7639 2702 or office@ivydale.southwark.sch.uk)