

Starting in Reception



Esher Church School

September 2022



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GETTING STARTED

We are really excited about your child joining one of our Reception classes in September 2022. To ensure your child settles easily and quickly into Reception we will organise a phased induction programme for you and your child to get to know us better and become familiar with the school environment.

1. Home Visits

Before your child begins school, we hope that your child's teacher and learning support assistant will be able to visit you and your child at home. Home visits are an established and key part of Early Years practice and help to build a positive and trusting relationship between home and school from the very beginning. For your child, it gives them the opportunity to meet school adults in a familiar and comfortable environment; for you, it provides a chance to share important information and to get to know the adults who will be working with your child; for school staff, it is an opportunity to begin the process of building a long and important partnership between home and school. This visit will usually last approximately 20 minutes.

2. Part Time/Full Time attendance

We hope that your child will feel confident and comfortable to start their full-time place for Reception aged children to begin school in September. Through our successful and nurturing induction programme, we are confident that all children will feel secure and happy to continue their educational experiences full-time following their period of induction. Some children, who may not have attended a nursery or pre-school, or



may need additional time to feel comfortable, can attend on a part-time basis, usually mornings only for a short period. This is a joint decision between the school and the parents/carers and we will work with you for the best of your child. If you have any questions regarding this, or would like to discuss the possibility of your child starting part-time, please contact the class teacher or Ms Brindley (Early Years and Year 1 Phase Leader) for a meeting.

3. Induction programme

We introduce the children to school gradually over the first few weeks of the Autumn term. This gives your child an opportunity to get to know us and meet new friends in a settled environment. Throughout the first week, both classes are split into small groups; each group will attend at least two sessions in school. At some of these sessions, the majority of the children (i.e. those who are starting full-time) will stay for lunch. At the end of the induction period, the children will attend school together and meet all the other members of their class.

4. Getting to and from school

We have two entrances to school: the main entrance via Milbourne Lane and a pedestrian entrance at the back of the school via the footpath. The footpath can be accessed from two ends, either from the corner of Milbourne Lane and Esher Park Avenue or from Claremont Lane. At times, the roads surrounding the school can become congested and parking in the main school car park is limited, on a first come, first served basis. We therefore encourage you to walk, cycle or scoot to school whenever possible.

5. Parent parking

The car park directly in front of the school is for staff and authorised visitors only. It is not big enough to take any extra vehicles and provides no space for turning at any time of day. We ask that parents do not drive in when dropping off or collecting their children. We also ask that parents respect our neighbours and are considerate when parking in the surrounding streets, ensuring that residents' driveways are not blocked etc.

Parking permits are available for Esher Church School parents/carers to park at the Civic Centre car park in Esher between 08.00 – 09.30am and 2.30 – 3.45pm for the purpose of taking and collecting your children from school. This is only a 10 minute walk from school. If you would like a **free permit**, please email the school office at office@esherchurchschool.org.uk with your name, address and car registration number. There is also additional parking in local residential roads within walking distance of Esher Church School. Please ensure you respect all our local community members by parking considerately and appropriately at all times.

DAILY ROUTINES

6. Morning Routine

The school gates are open from 08:30am and Reception children can be taken by a parent/carer straight to their classroom door. All children are expected to be in school by 08.45am before the school gates are locked. The register is taken at 08:50 am.

Late arrivals: if you arrive after 8.45am you will need to come in to school via the main entrance on Milbourne Lane. Parents/carers must report to the school office where you will need to sign your child in using the Sign-I computer screen in the school foyer. Your child will be signed in as a late arrival. We know that children are much more settled for the day and are more ready to learn when they arrive at school in good time so please leave home in the morning with sufficient time. If you struggle with establishing a morning routine to enable your child to arrive at school on time please speak to us as we can offer support with this.

All pupils' attendance and punctuality is monitored by internal school staff and the Surrey County Council Inclusion Officer, where necessary.

7. Settling your child

We hope that your child settles quickly into Esher Church School, and that the only difficulties you have will be persuading them to come home at the end of the day. However, in a different environment, with new people to get used to, it is possible that some children may be reluctant for parents/carers to leave in the morning; even if they have been to a nursery or playgroup before. If this happens, please talk to your child's class teacher about how we can best support you and your child in this situation.

In an ideal world, your child's integration into Esher Church School and to quickly start their learning, both socially and academically, should be swift. We do ask that parents refrain from lingering outside the classroom and peering in through the window - we understand that this may be reassuring for you, but it can be unsettling for your child, especially if they are a bit 'wobbly' anyway. We will always contact you if we are worried about your child not settling – generally they settle very quickly after Mummy, Daddy or a carer have left – so if you do not hear from us then you can assume all is well.

8. Punctuality and Attendance

By being punctual for both drop off and pick up you will help your child to settle quickly at the beginning of each session and remove any anxieties about being collected. If for some reason you are unable to collect your child, or if you are likely to be late for any reason, please contact the school office (01372 463 139) - this will prevent your child, and us, from worrying.

The school has an Attendance Policy published on the school website, which gives information about 'authorised' and 'unauthorised' absences. If your child is off school without prior notification, parents should either telephone 01372 463 139 or use the absence tab on our parent/carer communication system (Weduc) on the first day of absence. Medical and dental appointments should be made before or after school or during the holidays, where possible. If your child has sickness or diarrhoea, it is school policy that they must be kept off school for **48 hours** following the last bout – this prevents the spread of infection to other children in the class. We understand that this may impact working parents, but it our collective responsibility to look after the health and safety of all children and staff in school.



9. The end of the day

Individual information regarding the time your child needs to be collected during the induction period will be sent to you. After the induction period, once normal routines have been established, children are collected from the classroom door from 3.15pm. Both the footpath gate and front gates are opened at 3.10pm. For a short period, where some children attend on a part time basis, they should be collected from the main school entrance at 11:45am.

10. Going home arrangements

A clipboard is kept outside each Reception classroom as a way for you to inform the class teacher should your child be going home with an adult other than the usual parent/carer. It is essential that you communicate these changes directly with the staff member, as we will not allow your child to go home with another adult unless we have been notified by you. If you are taking another child home with you (for example for a play date) you will be required to sign that child out of school as confirmation that you have collected them. This way we can keep track of who each child has gone home with should any confusion arise.

BREAK TIMES AND LUNCHTIMES

11. The Playground

As part of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, in Reception, the children use the outdoor environment as an extension of the classroom, and will spend a good deal of time outside, in all weathers. The idea of a fixed playtime therefore, does not apply in the same way as it does further up the school.



Initially all outdoor activities take place in our wonderful Early Years playground. Once the children are settled and routines have been established, the children will join the rest of the school for lunch playtime in the main playground. This helps the Reception children to get used to being in the 'big playground', and to being around older children, before they make the transition to Year 1.

We believe that effective play is as important to a child's development as their learning inside the classroom. The playground is the place where children learn important skills of social interaction, turn taking, including others etc. We aim to provide a wide range of creative play opportunities and have excellent play facilities including a climbing frame, mud kitchen, a wheeled play area, a large sandpit and much more. We support children's play by supervising closely whilst allowing them to play independently, encouraging them to think about how they can make their play safe and inclusive.

12. Morning and afternoon snacks

All children should bring a piece of fruit/some sliced fruit each day. Fruit should be brought in a small named container or named bag. This should be placed in the fruit box outside the classroom on arrival at school. As we are a 'Healthy School' we expect the children to only bring fruit or vegetables for their mid-morning snack. **No cereal bars or fruit substitute** bars are permitted. As we have several children with severe nut allergies, we are a 'nut free' school and so **no nuts** (including pine nuts) are allowed on the premises.

Fruit or vegetables for the afternoon are provided free of charge by the Government's Fruit for Schools scheme (for infant children).

13. Water bottles

We encourage children to drink plenty of water throughout the day, and so they must bring a named bottle filled with water (not juice or squash) with them every day. This is placed in the crate outside their classroom on arrival at school. All water bottles are expected to be carried to school or in a Bottle Buddi (a little bag which attaches to the outside of the book bag) for their water bottles when travelling to school and home. Water bottles should never be carried in their book bags with their home reading books. This is to protect the reading books and other items in their book bags from being damaged by inevitable spillages.

14. Hot weather and sun safety

Children must bring a clearly named sun hat to school in hot weather so that they can continue to play and learn outside. You also should apply sun screen to your child **before** bringing them to school on sunny days. Esher Church School sun caps and legionnaires caps are available via the school office or from our uniform suppliers, [Price and Buckland](#).

SCHOOL MEALS

15. Dietary requirements



Lunch is from 11:45 until 12:15. A hot school lunch is provided free of charge for all reception children. Our delicious school lunches are cooked on-site in our own kitchen and are healthy and nutritious. Our meals are provided by [Twelve 15](https://itstwelve15.co.uk/) – you can find information about them, including menus and nutritional information, at <https://itstwelve15.co.uk/>.



All children, up to and including children in Year 6, are invited to have a school lunch (lunches for Reception to Year 2 are free of charge). This allows us to make sure our catering offer is the best it can be, as well as encouraging your child to eat a healthy, balanced lunch, to try new foods with their peers and saving you the hassle of having to put together a packed lunch each morning.

We recognise that some of our children, such as those with, autistic spectrum disorders or severe special needs require lunch presented in a particular way or may need a specialised diet. In these circumstances, please arrange a meeting with the Headteacher or Leader of SEND who will agree the best way forward with you.

Please note that due to the number of children and adults with severe allergies we are a **nut free school**.

PAYMENT SYSTEMS

16. Weduc – Online payments

Our online payments system, Weduc, enables parents to pay for school trips, meals and other school expenses. (For further information regarding the Weduc app please see section 23.) If you are unable to make online payments for any reason, please speak to the staff in the school office who will discuss alternative payment methods with you.

CONTRIBUTING TO EDUCATIONAL VISITS AND EXTRA ACTIVITIES

We are grateful for parent contributions to our School Funds so we can continue to deliver exciting learning opportunities, both in school and elsewhere.

17. School Fund

At Esher Church School we believe that primary education is not just about lessons! Everything we do is designed to contribute to your children's personal and social development, so that when they leave us at the end of Year 6, they are starting to make their own choices about who they are and what they do and believe that they can make a difference in the world. We do this through our exciting 'enquiry led' curriculum which we compliment with experiences that widen and enrich their learning.

For example, we regularly bring into school visiting groups and professionals - theatre companies, authors, artists and musicians - who provide inspiring workshops that not only stimulate an interest in learning, but help to develop a range of learning styles, creating enjoyable and memorable experiences along the way.

These events are not funded from central Government or the Local Authority and would not be possible without the voluntary contributions into our School Fund. So, to ensure that we can offer these positive opportunities to the children, we ask parents/carers for an annual minimum contribution of £60 to the ECS School Fund for each child in the family. This money makes such a difference to us and we are grateful for every contribution you are able to make. We will share how to make contributions in the new academic year.



In addition, we arrange regular curricular trips as part of each year groups termly Big Enquiry, and donations to the School Fund also allow us to subsidise these, keeping the parent contribution towards individual year group activities affordable for all.



We run residential visits for children in Years 4, 5 and 6 which are much anticipated and very much enjoyed by both children and staff. These residential include outdoor adventurous activities at specialist centres such as PGL and Juniper Hall.

18. ECS Governors' Fund and New School Projects

Our Governors Fund supports the work of the Esher Church School Governing Board in ensuring that the school buildings and facilities support excellent teaching and provide inspiration to all the children in our care.

Over the last few years we have completed a number of projects which have included the refurbishment of the school hall and dining room, improving the school's Wi-Fi and computing hardware and the revised Outdoor Play and Learning areas for both the main playground and in Reception.

These were all made possible due to the generous donations into the Governors' Fund by past and existing parents/carers which, together with the wonderful fundraising work of the Esher Church School Association (our Parent and Staff association). These additional funds allow us to continually develop our facilities and our curricular and extra-curricular provision. Donations are the only source of income for the Fund. Details of how to make contributions will be shared with you once your child starts school.

Thank you in advance for supporting the school to continue to develop exciting and inspirational facilities at Esher Church School.



19. Gift Aid

All contributions into both the School Fund and Governors' Fund are treated in confidence and we are extremely grateful to all those parents/carers who support the school with these funds.

A further advantage of contributing to activities and projects this way, is that we are able to claim Gift Aid which increases the value of the donations by 25%. This means we have a much greater sum of money available to spend than we would otherwise have.

HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

20. Day to day

You will have regular contact with your child's teacher and they will be able to deal with the majority of your queries or questions. Before school and first thing in the morning are very busy times for teachers as we like to welcome each child into class individually. Therefore, for longer conversations, we may request that you make an appointment to allow more time for a better-quality discussion. This will usually take place after

school rather than in the busy rush of the morning. Alternatively, you can email their teacher: e.g. inkpen@esherchurchschool.org.uk. Please put your child's name in capitals in the subject field, e.g. SMITH

21. Weduc - Communication with parents

To enable us to communicate effectively with parents in an efficient, reliable and sustainable way we use an online communications platform called Weduc. This can be accessed from a web browser, or the app on a smart phone or tablet. Over the summer months, provided you have returned your Data Collection (contact) sheet with a current email address, you will receive an enrolment email from Weduc inviting you to register. It is key that you do this before the start of school so that we can communicate with you.

In the meantime, please take some time to watch the following introductory video about Weduc - <https://app.weduc.co.uk/dashboard/custom/index/id/281474976781241>

A newsletter is sent out weekly and this includes dates, news and items of general information.

The school website (www.esherchurchschool.co.uk) is also updated regularly.

We occasionally use paper copies of letters or flyers so do please check your child's bag on a regular basis.

22. Book bags

The book bags will be used to transport important information between home and school, including a reading record book and/or reading books, homework etc. depending on your child's year group.



Infant children should bring their school book bag and juniors the ECS rucksack into school each day.

The bags can be purchased from the school or uniform website.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

23. Day and PE uniform requirements

Every child is an ambassador for our school and we expect them to take real pride in their appearance. There are three ways to buy uniform:

- Online at <https://www.price-buckland.co.uk> – delivered directly to your home address
- At the second hand uniform sales run by the ECSA (our PTA)
- At the Reception Induction morning on 5th July the school will have a limited amount of new uniform to sell (card only).

The uniform below must be worn by all children. For health and safety reasons, jewellery, including earrings, should not be worn to school. Nail varnish is also not permitted at school. Where a child has had their ears

recently pierced and it has been advised that these earrings must stay in for a few weeks, micropore tape should be placed over the earrings at the start of each day.

Boys and girls with long hair must have it tied back using plain grey, black, white or red bands.

Children must bring their PE kit to school at the beginning of each week. Parents/carers have the opportunity to bring the PE bag in at the start of the term and it can then remain in school until the end of the half term when it will be sent home with your child to be washed. For older children PE kits should be taken home more regularly for washing. **Please ensure that every item of clothing is clearly marked with your child's name.**

- Outdoor coat, jacket or fleece (available from the uniform shop or plain coloured alternative)
- Art overall or painting shirt (an old adult shirt with sleeves cut down is fine)
- Plain grey, black or white long or short socks (trainer socks may only be worn with PE kit)
- Charcoal grey skirt, pinafore dress, culottes, trousers or shorts (worsted style only)
- Red V-necked jumper or cardigan with school logo (available from Price and Buckland)
- Red & white gingham shirt - Infant's only (available from Price and Buckland)
- White Shirt - Juniors only
- A red & white gingham school dress or playsuit may be worn as an alternative in summer (available from Price and Buckland)
- Black outdoor school shoes - flat heeled only, no trainers, boot or ballet pump style

Sports Kit

- ECS red PE bag
- Grey school PE T-shirt with school logo - Infants only (available from Price and Buckland)
- Red school PE polo-shirt with school logo - Juniors only (available from Price and Buckland)
- House T-shirts – optional (available from Price and Buckland)
- Plain black shorts or skorts
- Plain black tracksuit bottoms
- Red round neck sweatshirt with school logo – Infants (available from Price and Buckland)
- Red Hoodie with school logo - Juniors only (available from Price and Buckland)
- Plimsolls or trainers
- ECS swimming bag (or equivalent suitable bag) - (available from Price and Buckland)
- A named swimming hat and named towel
- Swimming trunks or shorts style (not 'boardshorts' style) or 1 piece swimming costume (not bikini)

Your child will be placed in a House when they join: Wisdom (red), Hope (blue), Dignity (yellow) or Community (green). At House events we encourage them to wear a T-shirt in their house colours.



THE CURRICULUM



The **Early Years Foundation Stage** provides guidance on supporting a young child's development, learning and welfare from birth to the end of the Reception year.

The core principles of good Early Years practice provide opportunities for children to explore their environment and learn from first-hand experience. We hold a Parents' information evening during the autumn term, when staff will go through a range of practical information as well as giving more detail about the curriculum and planning for the term and year ahead.

24. YOUR CHILD'S PROGRESS AND LEARNING

Throughout the academic year, it is essential for your child's development and academic and social progress that there is close collaboration between the school and home.

There will be a number of opportunities for parents/carers to discuss their child's progress with the class teacher. Opportunities include:

- Class welcome meeting – Autumn term – learn about your child's curriculum, timetable for the week, educational visits and trips, etc.
- Parent/carer and teacher consultation meetings (Autumn and Spring term)
- Open afternoons – parents/carers are invited in to the classroom to look at the children books and their learning
- Parent workshops – e.g. Phonics workshop
- Class assembly
- Special events
- Written school report – Summer term - outlining your child's attainment and progress across the curriculum as well as a summary about their personal and social development.

Classes are mixed at the end of each year. This creates opportunity for children to learn and play with a variety of peers and promotes a greater sense of community in our school.

25. Appreciation and Celebration Assembly

We celebrate the valuable contribution that particular children have made during the preceding week. Children are recognised at this assembly for demonstrating our Values, acts of thoughtfulness, kindness,

displaying good work ethic etc. We also celebrate achievements in music, sport, chess and the many other successes our children achieve.

26. Sharing our learning

Each class hosts at least one class assembly per year. This is normally held on a Friday morning. The class share with the rest of the school community a topic they have been studying. Parents, carers, family members and friends are invited to come along. The date of the class assembly will be published on the Calendar of Events which parents and carers can access in the Weduc app. Classes host at least one additional event per year which parents are welcome to attend. This could take the form of a presentation, a 'museum' open to parents, a display of artwork etc. Details of these events will be in the Calendar of Events which is sent out with the newsletter on a regular basis and is available on the school website.



CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

27. Co-Curricular Clubs

At ECS we offer a wide range of activities before and after school and during the lunch break which complement the curriculum. From sports to chess, Forest club to art, choir to Chinese, children can learn new skills and have fun in the process, whilst mixing with a wider range of children. All of our external club providers are thoroughly vetted and all teachers and coaches are DBS checked. Full details of extra curricular clubs and activities are on the school website and will be sent to you at the beginning of the term.

28. Breakfast and After School Club

Our hugely popular Breakfast and After School Club, operates during term time (excluding inset [staff training] days when the school is closed to children). Designed to appeal to all ages from 4-11, the club provides a safe, welcoming environment where children can do as much or as little as they please.

- **Breakfast Club:** provides a healthy breakfast and care for children between 7.45am and 8.45am each morning. To attend Breakfast Club, children have to attend Esher Church school and must be registered with this club to attend.
- **After School Club:** is run by a dedicated team of trained staff from 3:15pm to 6.00pm. Club members have access to all the school's facilities including the play facilities and the heated swimming pool between April and October. Other activities include sports, arts and crafts, board games and storytelling. The children are also provided with a drink and hot or cold snack which they enjoy helping to prepare.

Further details including registration forms are available to download on the school website, or from the school office.

29. Holiday Club

We run holiday clubs on some dates during the school holidays. Following consultation with parents and carers, we are in the process of reviewing our provision across the Half Term holidays and Summer holiday. Details of the dates, themes and activities at these clubs will be sent out in advance of each holiday period. Spaces are limited and in high demand so we ask that you register and sign up via Weduc promptly to secure a space for your child.



Further details including registration forms are available to download on the school website, or from the school office.

MEDICAL CARE

30. If your child is ill

If your child is off school without prior notification, parents should telephone 01372 463139, email the school at office@esherchurchschool.org.uk or use the pupil absence tab on Weduc on the first day of absence. Medical and dental appointments should be made before or after school or during the school holidays, if at all possible.

31. Sickness or diarrhoea

If your child has sickness or diarrhoea they **must** be kept off school for **48 hours** following the last bout of illness. This helps us to stop the spread of these illnesses and keep our children safe.

32. Specific medical needs

If your child has specific medical needs that we should be aware of, please ask the school office for a Summary Medical Form; this must be completed and returned to school before your child starts school so that we can care for them properly should they become unwell at school.

33. Medicines

Any medicine that you wish to be administered to your child must be signed in to and out of the school office by an adult. Children should never carry medicine into school. Should your child need an inhaler or other ongoing medication, these will be kept securely in the school office area and within the class medical bags. Where a child has been given antibiotics by a doctor and the frequency involves administering during the school day, we require a parent/care or designated adult to administer these.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

34. Big Friends – Little Friends

Each Reception child will be given a 'Big Friend' from Year 6. Throughout the year the Big Friends spend time with their Little Friends for lots of activities e.g. reading stories, playtimes and making Christmas and Easter hats. Both Reception and Year 6 children really enjoy this experience and many continue their friendships well beyond their time at Esher Church School. We do ask that parents refrain from buying gifts for big friends for birthdays, Christmas etc., as this may put pressure on other children and parents to do the same or cause some children to feel excluded.

35. Class Mixing

Classes are mixed at the end of each year. This creates opportunity for children to learn and play with a variety of peers and promotes a greater sense of community in our school.



36. Lost property

Children can easily mislay items of clothing and it helps us enormously (as well as saving you money) if everything, including shoes, socks and underwear, is named. Iron-on name labels or a permanent marker are easy to use. It is essential to name your child's fruit box and water bottles, even if they have a distinctive design as it enables staff to get them back to the right child easily. If children do lose anything it should end up in the lost property boxes in school.

37. Items your child should not bring into school

- Money (unless it is for something specific such as a charity appeal, in which case it should be in a clearly labelled envelope or dropped into a collection bucket at the start of the day)
- Sweets – even for birthdays. We operate a birthday book scheme which you will find out about when your child starts with us.
- Cans or bottles
- Jewellery, including earrings
- Watches (analogue watches are permitted from Year 2)
- Toys

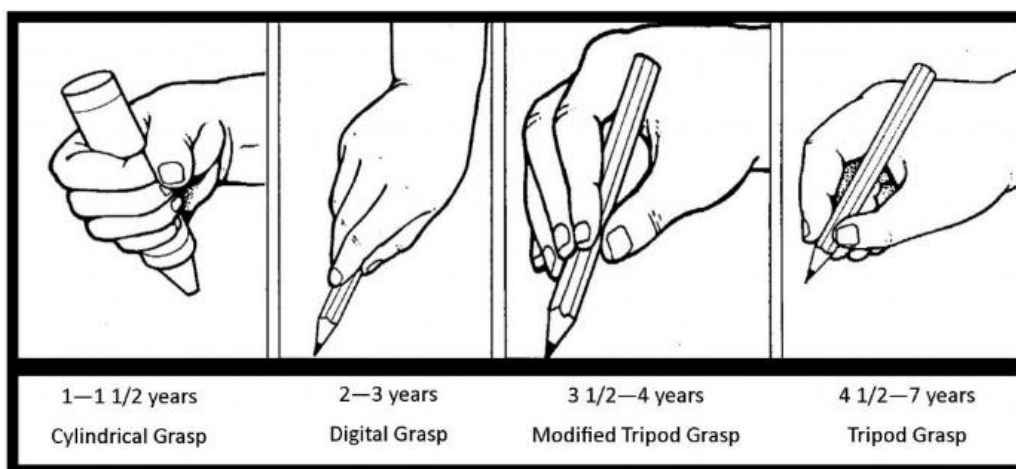
38. Christmas and Easter Church Services - end of term arrangements

On the last day of the autumn and spring terms all the children attend either an infant or junior church service, held at Christ Church in Esher. Parents are welcome to attend the service and there is usually a crèche facility for younger siblings too. The service normally begins at 9.15am and ends at approximately 10.00am.

Children will then be accompanied back to school by staff members and a number of parent volunteers. The children will finish at the same time as the rest of school (1.30pm at the end of each Autumn, Spring and Summer Term).

39. Letter formation

As one of the key focuses in Reception is learning to write, we would encourage you to help your child to learn to hold a pencil correctly as per the illustration below.



We will also provide you with a sheet demonstrating how to correctly form each letter. A great place to start is with your child's name. Please stick to lower case letters other than for the first letter of names and do not focus on the names of the letters, as we will be teaching the **sounds** first, through The Little Wandle Phonics programme. Please click on the following link for information about The Little Wandle and their phonics programme - <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

We will explain our methodology in greater depth at the information meeting in the autumn term.

GETTING INVOLVED

40. Parental Involvement

We welcome and encourage active parental involvement as part of our recognition of the importance of a partnership between home and school.

There are always lots of practical ways in which you can be of help and once your child's teacher feels that the children are settled into the school environment and routines they will contact the 'parent class representative' to organise how parents can help in class. If you are able to help on a regular basis, or if you have a particular skill that you think would be of use or interest, please let the teacher know. Parents and other volunteers helping in school are **required** to have an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

41. Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks

Before any parent/carers are allowed to help out in school or on trips of any kind they must be cleared for working with children via a DBS check. This can take some time to come through, so you may like to make an application in good time. Instructions regarding the online DBS Application Forms process are available on the school website.

- The school reference number is: 9363337
- The password is: esherchurchschool
- When you have completed the online form please bring the original documents proving your identity into the school office, so that they can be verified.

Although DBS checks are mandatory, if you would like to help in school or on school trips, the school has to pay for each check completed and would be very grateful for a voluntary contribution of £15, although this is by no means compulsory.

42. School Governance

At Esher Church School the partnership between governors, parents, staff and children is outstanding.

The Governing Board is responsible for supporting and challenging the senior leaders to set the strategic direction of the school and to hold the school leadership team to account for school performance. At Esher Church School we strive for constant improvement; it is a dynamic place, constantly needing to respond to and develop according to changing pupil needs and the local and national agenda.

If you have any questions or issues that you would like to raise with the governors, contact either Carl Warner or Sandra Argent, who are our Parent Governors. All Governors may be contacted through the school office using the email address - parentgovernor@esherchurchschool.org.uk

43. Parent Forum

One initiative this year has been the Parent/Carer Forum. This is an excellent opportunity for parents and carers to meet with the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher to discuss:

- School Development Plans
- Areas for development

- Communication
- Policies
- Improving practices and procedures
- Etc.

To ensure we are supported and challenged to continually improve, we need and value parent/carer feedback. We also send out a Parent/Carer questionnaire annually so all stakeholders have a voice in our current practices and give ideas on how we can improve.

44. The Esher Church School Association (ECSA)

The school has a very active Parents/Carers' Association, which makes an invaluable contribution to the Esher Church School community. A number of social and fund-raising events are organised throughout the year, and parents are very welcome to become more actively involved by joining the Committee or by volunteering a small amount of time to contribute to an event. The events are organised not just to fundraise but to ensure there are plenty of opportunities for the school community to come together and have lots of fun.

Who the ECSA are and what they do

The Esher Church School Association (ECSA) is the name of the Parent/Carer/Staff Association. The ECSA plays an integral part in the school life at Esher Church School.

Main Aims of the ECSA

1. To raise funds for the school and work with the staff to decide how these funds are spent so that we can enrich the offering the school has to make for each child.
2. To contribute to the social life and parent network of the school, building on the great sense of community that we have here.

The ECSA works closely with teaching staff and parents to ensure all year groups are involved.

Previous fundraising achievements

In the past the ECSA has raised funds for a variety of initiatives, which have included the recent transformation of our play space, refurbishment of the swimming pool, the purchase of Chromebook computers for use in the classroom, electronic keyboards and percussion instruments to enhance the music lessons, phonics books and specialised books for dyslexic children, playground equipment and improvement to sports equipment.



Getting involved with the ECSA and ECSA events

A meeting is held every term to share and update on the fundraising activities and any help needed. Parents/carers and teachers can also propose ideas for initiatives requiring funding. Your class

representative will be able to advise you on the next meeting date and it is also published in the school weekly newsletter. The ECSA meetings are generally held in the Eden Building at the school on a weekday evening.

The ECSA will be organising a whole host of other events for parents and children throughout the year, details of which are always available in the school events calendar which is updated and sent out weekly. Your class rep will also be able to keep you informed of activities and how you can help.

ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS?

We realise that you may have many questions about your child starting school. You will have plenty of opportunities to ask questions and find out more about school life once your child has started, and there is lots of information available on the school website. However if there is any information you need that you cannot find in this pack or on the website, we are very happy to help. Please contact us by email at office@esherchurchschool.org.uk or by telephone on 01372 463139. We will endeavour to respond to your query as soon as we can.

Thank you again for choosing Esher Church School as the school of choice for your child's next steps in their educational journey. We are passionate about providing the best educational experiences for all children and look forward to a long and successful collaboration between yourselves and the school.

Mr Foley

Headteacher