

Starting in Reception



Esher Church School
September 2026



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GETTING STARTED

We are really excited about your child joining Reception at ECS in September 2026. 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 Mrs Brindley (Early Years and Year 1 Phase Leader) for a meeting.

3. Induction programme

We introduce the children to school gradually over the first 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 to sample our delicious school lunches. 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 by the tennis club is limited, on a first come, first served basis. We therefore encourage you to walk, cycle or scoot to school whenever possible.

5. Parent / carer 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/carers do not try to drive in when dropping off or collecting their children.

For the purpose of taking and collecting your child/ren from school, free parking permits are available for Esher Church School parents/carers at the Civic Centre car park in Esher between 08.00 – 09.30am and 2.30 – 3.45pm. This is less than a 10 minute walk from school. If you would like a **free permit**, please email the school office office@esherchurchschool.org.uk confirming the drivers full name, home address, email address and car registration number. We will apply for a **virtual parking permit** on your behalf.

There is also free additional parking in local residential roads within walking distance of Esher Church School. We ask that parents/carers respect our neighbours and park considerately and appropriately at all times in the surrounding streets, ensuring that residents' driveways are not blocked etc.

DAILY ROUTINES

6. Morning Routine

The school gates are open from 8:30am and Reception children can be taken by a parent/carers straight to their classroom door. All children are expected to be in school by 8.45am before the school gates are locked. The register is taken at 8:50 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-in 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 are monitored by internal school staff and the Surrey County Council Inclusion Officer.

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/carers 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 463139) - 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/carers should either telephone 01372 463139 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 is 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.

10. Going home arrangements

A clipboard is kept inside each Reception classroom as a way for us to document if a child is 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 formally notified by you. If you are taking another child home with you (for example for a play date), we will need to be previously notified by the other parent and you will be required to sign that child out of school as confirmation that you have collected them. We must have authority from the other parent before their child is released to another adult. 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 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 provide a wide range of creative play opportunities and have excellent play facilities including a climbing frame, mud kitchen, a performance stage, a 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

To encourage healthy eating, all children should bring a piece/some sliced fruit or vegetable 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 therefore **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. On sunny days, you should also apply sun screen to your child **before** bringing them to school. Optional, branded Esher Church School sun caps and legionnaires caps are available from our uniform suppliers, [Price and Buckland](#). Click [here](#) to be directed to their website.

SCHOOL MEALS

15. Dietary requirements



Lunch is from 11:45am until 13:00pm. A hot school lunch is provided free of charge for all Reception to Year 2 children. Our delicious school lunches are cooked on-site, by our talented chefs, in our on-site kitchen and are healthy and nutritious. Our meals are provided by Stir Food Ltd – you can find information about them, including menus and nutritional information, at <https://www.stirfood.co.uk/>. The children can choose from a range of lunch options and these should be booked by parents/carers via the Weduc app.



All children, up to and including children in Year 6, are invited to have a school lunch. 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 extra workload of having to put together a packed lunch each morning. We recognise that some of our children, such as those with autistic spectrum condition 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 Leader of SEND, Mrs Simpson, who will discuss the best way forward with you.

Please be reminded that due to the number of children and adults with severe allergies we are a **nut free school**. No nuts are allowed on site – for snacks or in packed lunches.

PAYMENT SYSTEMS

16. Weduc – Online payments

Our online payments system, Weduc, enables parents/carers to book a choice of school lunch and pay for school trips and other school expenses. (For further information regarding the Weduc app please see section 21.) 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.

17. Educational Visits and Extra Activities

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 curriculum which we enhance with experiences that widen and enrich their learning.

For example, we regularly bring into school visiting groups and professionals (e.g. 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 opportunities, creating enjoyable and memorable experiences along the way.



In addition, we arrange regular curricular trips as part of each year groups' termly learning, 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 residentials include outdoor adventurous activities at specialist centres such as PGL and Juniper Hall.





We ask for a voluntary contribution in advance of any trips and activities. Unfortunately, although voluntary, if we do not receive enough contributions to cover costs events may not go ahead.

18. ECS School Improvement Fund and new school projects

Our School Improvement Fund supports the work of the Esher Church School Trustee 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 classrooms, improving the school's Wi-Fi and computing hardware and contributions to our amazing library.

These were all made possible due to the generous donations into the School Improvement Fund by past and existing parents/carers which, together with the wonderful fundraising work of the Esher Church School Association [ECSA] (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 ECSA and School Improvement Fund are treated in confidence and we are extremely grateful to all those parents/carers who support the school financially.

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 on your children than we would otherwise have to develop learning areas, the school facilities, the learning curriculum, etc. Gift Aid forms can be completed via Weduc.

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 the respective class teacher:

inkpen@esherchurchschool.org.uk or hargreaves@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 September so that we can start to communicate with you.

In the meantime, please take some time to watch the following introductory video about [Weduc](#) – Click [here](#) to learn more about how to use the software.

A newsletter is sent out regularly and this includes exciting learning successes, dates, news and items of general information. These can be found [here](#).

Other sections of 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



Book bags will be used to transport important information between home and school, including reading books and reading record book, home learning, 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 [uniform website](#).

SCHOOL UNIFORM

23. Day and PE uniform requirements



Esher Church School is committed to promoting equality and value for money, and to ensuring that no pupil is discriminated against due to their religion or belief, economic circumstances or social and cultural background.

Our uniform policy has been created with health and safety, value for money and practicality at its heart. It has been designed to ensure pupils wear clothing conducive to a successful learning environment.

It is important that our pupils feel a sense of belonging and community through a smart and practical uniform. We believe a uniform allows all pupils, regardless of background, to feel equal to their peers and confident in their appearance. We also believe it is important for activities to be facilitated by specialised and appropriate clothing such as sports-specific attire.

From September 2026, all schools in England must limit their uniform to no more than three required branded items to help keep costs down for families. Our updated uniform reflects this guidance while keeping our ECS identity strong, simple and inclusive.

If you have any questions about uniform, please contact the school office.

Please make sure your child's name is clearly written in every item of clothing. Unnamed and unclaimed lost property will be donated to charity at the end of the school year.

What Children Wear to School

Main Uniform

- Grey skirt, pinafore or culottes
- Grey trousers or grey shorts (worsted style)
- Plain white or grey socks
- Plain grey tights
- Black school shoes (not trainers, ballet pumps or boots)
- Red checked gingham summer dress (summer term)

Tops

- Infants: White polo shirt or red gingham shirts may also be worn
- Juniors: White shirt and school logoed tie (Price & Buckland)
- All pupils: Red school logoed jumper or cardigan (Price and Buckland)

PE Kit

- Plain black shorts or skorts
- Plain black sports leggings or tracksuit bottoms
- Red logoed sports polo shirt or coloured house T-shirt may also be worn (Price and Buckland)

- Trainers suitable for sport

Swimming (Summer Term)

- Close-fitting swimsuit or swim shorts
- Swim hat
- Goggles
- Towel

Optional Extras (Price & Buckland)

Families may choose to purchase these items, but they are not required:

- Red checked (gingham) shirt for infants
- Red logoed sweatshirt
- School house-team coloured logoed shirt
- School sun hat
- School winter hat
- School book bag
- School backpack
- School swim hat
- Waterproof coat
- Fleece
- Swim bag

Jewellery, Hair & Presentation

- Only small round stud earrings may be worn
- No other jewellery (for safety)
- Hair should be neat and tied back
- Only small, plain hair ties or bands
- PE kit should be worn to and from school on PE days

Where to Buy Uniform

Branded items

The school jumper and cardigan, tie and PE tops are available from Price & Buckland: <https://www.price-buckland.co.uk>

Non-branded items

Families are welcome to buy all non-branded uniform from any supermarket or high-street retailer.

Second-Hand, Loaned & Supported Uniform

We run termly second-hand uniform sales throughout the year. If you need any items between sales, please speak to the school office.

If you would like to discuss loaned or gifted logoed uniform, please contact Mrs Taylor in the school office.

If your child needs any adjustments or adaptations to their uniform for comfort, sensory needs, medical reasons or inclusion, please contact our Inclusion Lead: claire.simpson@esherchurchschool.org.uk

We will always make the right accommodations and reasonable adjustments so every child feels comfortable, included and ready to learn.

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 experiences. We hold a Parents'/Carers' information evening during the autumn term, where 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 terms)
- Open afternoons – parents/carers are invited in to the classroom to look at the children's books and their learning
- Parent/Carer workshops – e.g. Phonics workshop
- Collective worships and class/year group assemblies
- Special events – e.g. Grandparents' tea party
- 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.

26. Sharing our learning

Each class hosts at least one class assembly per year. This is normally held on a Friday morning at 9.00am. 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 to support and celebrate all children's learning. 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/carers, 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 Weduc.

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. They are also on parental portal app, Weduc, where parents can sign their child up for a club.

28. Breakfast and After School Club

Our hugely popular Breakfast and After School Clubs, operate 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 7.30am and 8.30am each morning.
- 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 during the summer. 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.

All bookings are made through the Weduc app. Further details are available on the Weduc Hub or from the school office.

29. Holiday Club

We also host holiday clubs on dates across each school holiday. [Youngstars](#) lead our holiday provision and provide fun and exciting activities for all children from three year olds upwards. Details of the dates, themes and activities at these clubs are 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 the [Youngstars website](#) promptly to secure a space for your child.



MEDICAL CARE

30. If your child is ill

If your child is off school without prior notification, parents/carers should use the pupil absence tab on Weduc, telephone 01372 463139 or email the school at office@esherchurchschool.org.uk 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 and staff members 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, including antibiotics, 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 or store it in their bag during the day. 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.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

34. Big Friends – Little Friends

Each Reception child will be paired with 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, educational trips 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/carers refrain from buying gifts for Big Friends for birthdays, Christmas etc., as this may put pressure on other children and parents/carers to do the same or cause some children to feel excluded.

35. Class Mixing

All classes are mixed at the end of each year. This creates a wonderful 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 correct child easily. If children do lose anything, it should end up in the lost property boxes in school, which are located outside the dining hall.

37. Items your child should not to 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 school gate 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 and necklaces
- Watches (analogue watches are permitted from Year 2)
- Toys
- Phones (unless travelling to and from school independently in years 5 & 6), smart watches and other electronics

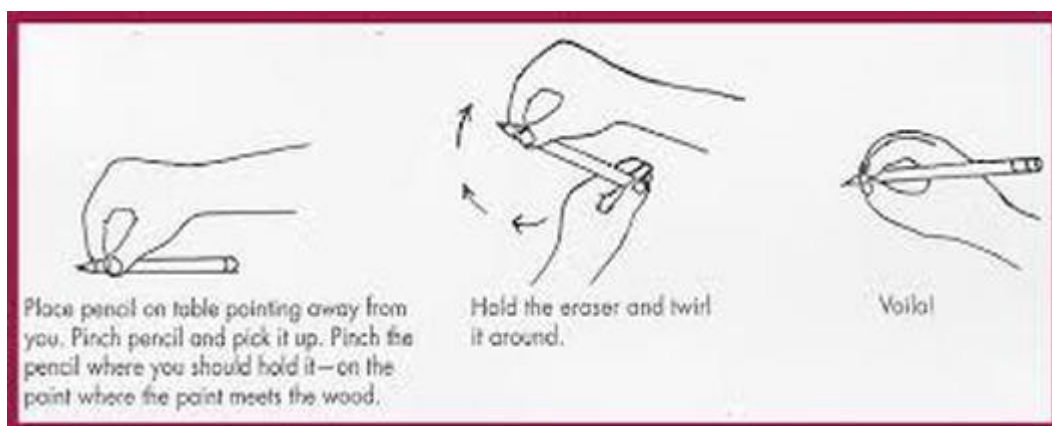
38. Christmas and Easter Church Services - end of term arrangements

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 Esher. Parents/Carers are welcome to attend the service. 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/carers 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.



Please see below a link to a video regarding correct pencil grip:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RclxBdiuvOM&t=3s>

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 / Carer Involvement

We welcome and encourage active parental/carers 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/carers representative' to organise how parents/carers 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. All parents/carers and other volunteers helping in school are **required** to have an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check prior to them starting any support in school.

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. Applications are processed twice in an academic year, October and March. Parents will be notified via Weduc in advance of the application window opening. Further information and full instructions can be found in the "Hub" and "Parent Information" areas of Weduc.

If you would like to volunteer to help in school (ie. book change or reading with children) or attend school trips, a DBS check is mandatory. 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 trustees, parents, staff and children is outstanding.

The Trustee 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, extensive and current research and the local and national agenda.

If you have any questions or issues that you would like to raise with the governors, contact Mr Dowler who is one of our Parent Trustees. Parent Trustee may be contacted through the email address - parentgovernor@esherchurchschool.org.uk or by contacting the school office.

43. Parent/ Carer Forum

To further support the strong communication between home and school and to embrace parent/carers suggestions and feedback, we have an ECS 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/carers 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 to enhance the school curriculum (Chromebooks, new library furniture and reading books, maths resources, music and art resources, etc.) 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/carer 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 transformation of our amazing school library, purchasing Chromebook computers for use in all classrooms, electronic keyboards and percussion instruments to enhance music lessons, new staging and lighting rig for assemblies and performances, phonics books and specialised books for dyslexic children, playground equipment and improvement to sports equipment.



The ECSA are an amazing group of parent/carer volunteers and, through all of their efforts and hard work, raise approximately £40,000 per year to put back into educational opportunities for all children. As an ECS

community member, you are already a member of the ECSA and we would love for you to 'make a difference' to our school through your support.

Getting involved with the ECSA and ECSA events

A meeting is held every term to share and update parents/carers 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, an important opportunity to socialise with other parents/carers and hear about the exciting plans for the year, are held at the school on a weekday evening.

The ECSA will be organising a whole host of other events for parents/carers and children throughout the year, details of which are always available in the school events calendar on the Weduc app. These include Christmas and Summer Fairs, triathlon, Esher Runs, Summer Ball, children's discos, etc. Your class representative 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 Esher Church 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 O May
Acting Headteacher