



West Sussex County Council Thomas A' Becket Infant School

Pelham Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN13 1JB



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Frequently Asked Questions for New Entrants September 2025

How many children?

There are 150 children in each year group. Although this sounds like a large number, all our classes have 30 children in each with a teacher and a teaching assistant, similar to all other schools.

Will my child be with other children they know?

We take a long time to group the children into classes, to make sure each has a balance of gender and age. We try where possible to ensure that they are with at least **one** child that they know already. You will be asked about this when you fill in the Starting School 'Google Form'. We also gain a lot of information from all our pre-school providers. Please do not worry if your child doesn't know anyone else or is the only child from their nursery joining us. Just let us know and we will make sure that we support them in quickly making new friends in the class.

How will I know what my child is learning?

We know that often children do not share their experiences with you when they get home. This is often because they are quite tired or just want to leave school at school. We use our website to update planners so you can see what is happening in the classroom. We also have a 'Welcome Meeting' within the first half term to give you some more detail about day-to-day routines and how you can share their learning and achievements at home with us. Information about how we teach different skills, such as phonics and handwriting is shared both at meetings and on our website. We hold two termly Parents' Evenings across the year which is an opportunity for you to talk in more detail about your child's learning and progress as well as their next steps. At the end of the year, you will receive a written report from your child's class teacher, sharing their progress and achievements throughout the year.

I work full time and won't be dropping off or picking up my child. How do I communicate with school?

The partnership between home and school is important to us as we know that if we get this right, and work together, your child will flourish! You will see your child's class teacher at the start and end of each day if you need to pass on a quick piece of information about a change to pick up routine etc. If you are not able to drop off or pick up you can call in to the school office and they will pass on a message. If you need a longer chat, we would ask that you call in to the office so a meeting or phone call can be arranged with the teacher, around their teaching commitments.

Each teacher will share their email address with you at the start of the year. We do however have a protocol around when emails will be responded to which will be shared with you at the start of the year.

My child has SEND. What support will they get?

We have a Special Educational Needs co-ordinator and support team in school, who plan provision for all children with additional needs. If you are concerned about any medical or learning needs your child may have, we ask that you contact Teresa Bourne, our SEND Co, as soon as possible to talk through their needs and what support we can offer.

My child is a Summer Born child. I'm not sure they are ready for school.

We are really experienced in supporting the whole range of Reception age children, from those who are born in September to those who just turn 4 in August. The EYFS curriculum is from 0-5 years and we work closely with you and the pre-school providers, to ensure we cater for all of our children whatever their level of development. A few parents may opt to keep their child 'part time' until they feel that they are ready to manage school full time. This is always done in consultation with the school. Our policy on part time attendance is that children attend each day in the mornings to ensure continuity of learning for them.

How do you manage and support behaviour?

Our behaviour policy focuses on positive relationships and setting high expectations. We a positive class reward system where children receive which go on a class chart. When the chart is full (100 stars) the whole class get to share a special reward – this may be an extra playtime, a pyjama party or a games afternoon. The important part of this reward is that the children become supportive of each other and work together to achieve the 100 stars. We do not ignore negative behaviours, but these are talked about in a separate space and the child is always given the opportunity to turn things around and make the right choice next time!

How does the transition period work?

We work hard with all our pre-school providers to get as much information about your child as possible. We also meet with each family at our 'Parent Meetings' which are held in September ahead of your child starting so you can talk to the teacher about your child as an individual and discuss your child's skills and area for development. As part of your child's transition to school your child is invited to a 'Stay and Play' and 'Story Time' in the Summer Term. This gives them the opportunity to meet their new teacher and TA and begin to become familiar with their new environment. We have a brief 'staggered start' at the beginning of September which enables your child to be in the class in a smaller group initially and allow the teacher to get to know them too.

Do the children have access to outside space?

We have two large outside learning areas, specifically for our reception classes. Three classes share one space, and two classes share the other, which means the children have the opportunity to interact with children from other classes as well as their own. The children have access to their outdoor learning area at times throughout the day and opportunities are made to support them

in developing a range of skills including their speaking and listening skills, physical, social and collaborative development.

How does Outdoor Learning run?

We are proud of our Outdoor Learning and our Eco activities. All our children access Outdoor Learning for 6 sessions across the year and experience a range of activities such as den building and pond-dipping, which really help develop their collaborative skills and vocabulary. The children all really love the fire circle where they get to sit, chat, sing campfire songs, eat toast and drink hot chocolate, as well as working on important skills such as collaboration, turn taking and perseverance.

What happens at Lunchtime?

All children from Reception to Year 2 are entitled to a hot school meal. They are provided by Chartwells through West Sussex County Council. All meals need to be ordered two weeks in advance via the Chartwells website. The reception children all eat together in the hall. The class teaching assistant is with them throughout. We suggest that you give the hot school meals a try, as we often find that children eat things at school that they won't at home. Please be reassured that we will contact you if your child is not eating much of their lunch. There is always the option to send a packed lunch instead.

My child has a food allergy or requires a special diet. Do you cater for them?

Your point of contact for this is Chartwells, our lunchtime meal provider, who will plan a menu for your child based on the information you give them. This information is then shared with the class teacher and teaching assistant who ensure that they get the correct meal each day. Please be reassured that we are a 'Nut Free' school and ask that all parents adhere to our policy around this to protect children with nut allergies.

What about enrichment activities and after school club?

We know that children learn best when they are immersed in their learning and can be 'hands on' with their learning. We try to link trips out – local and further afield to current learning. We regularly have visitors in school to enhance learning and we work hard to create enrichment opportunities for our children.

We have lots of opportunities for After School clubs. Please look out for more information about this on our parent app MCAS.