



Frequently Asked Questions

What skills does my child need before starting school?

Practical skills such as getting changed and using the toilet independently are good skills to have.

What happens if my child has an injury or accident at school?

There are first aid trained adults in each class and on every playtime and lunchtime duty to deal with injuries. We don't always have time to catch each parent to tell you of this and sometimes it's dealt with, without us knowing. There will be an accident slip in your child's bag or book bag explaining the details. It's good practise to check these daily. However, if it's a serious injury, we will let you know by phone call or speak to you at pick up, where appropriate.

What if my child has a medical need?

If your child has a long-term medical need such as epilepsy or asthma and requires medication on an infrequent and irregular basis, please contact the school. The school is advised that it should only accept responsibility where specific guidance has been received on the nature of the emergency and the procedure necessary to cope with it.

Children with allergies or a permanent medical condition will have an individual health care plan.

What time does the school day normally start/finish?

8.40 am to 3.00 pm

What do I do if my child is late to school?

Take your child to the main office and they will be signed in by our office staff. They will then be taken to their class.

How do I report my child's absence from school?


Telephone the school on the day of the absence as early as possible and inform the office. A message can also be left on the answer machine. We hope they feel better soon!

What if my child is ill at school?

We will contact you if your child is not well. Please let us know in the morning if you have given your child any medication before school, or if they have complained of feeling unwell, as it helps us to build up the bigger picture.

What does the school day look like?

Please see the example timetable below. PE days and break time times may change.

Priestley Primary School Weekly Timetable Class: Goslings and Ducklings												
	8.40 - 8.55	8.55 - 9.00	9.00 - 10.00	10.00 - 10.15	10.20 - 10.35	10.40 - 11.10	11.10- 11.40	12.00 - 12.50	13.00 - 13.10	13.10 - 14.10	14.10 - 15.00	
Manday - Later playtime	E A R L Y M O R N I N G T A S K	R E G I S T R A T I O N	9.00- 9.30 <i>phonics</i>	9.30- 10.30 <i>P.E</i>	10.30- 10.40 <i>snack</i>	B R E A K	<i>maths</i>	<i>choosing</i>	L U N C H	R E G I S T R A T I O N	<i>understanding the world RE/SCIENCE/Geogra- phy/History/ICT</i>	<i>Child initiated learning</i>
Tuesday - Later playtime			<i>phonics</i>	<i>P.E</i>	<i>snack</i>		<i>maths</i>	<i>choosing</i>			<i>PSHE- people who help us</i>	<i>Child initiated learning</i>
Wednesday			<i>Libracy- Goldilocks</i>		<i>snack</i>		<i>maths</i>	<i>DT/ART</i>			<i>Child initiated learning</i>	
Thursday			<i>Libracy-</i>		<i>snack</i>		<i>maths</i>	<i>ICT</i>			<i>Child initiated</i>	
Friday			<i>phonics</i>	<i>choosing</i>	<i>snack</i>		<i>maths</i>	<i>Celebration</i>			<i>Singing/Music</i>	<i>Child initiated</i>

What does my child need to bring?

A coat and a bottle containing water. It is also a good idea to get into the habit of bringing in a reading folder every day. Please could you also name everything. Toys are to remain at home.

What about drinks and snacks?

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are provided with fruit every day. Children under 5 also receive free milk. Once they are 5 they can continue to receive milk, however parents do have to pay for this.

We ask that all children bring a named water bottle every day. We encourage the children to drink throughout the day. We have milk and snack at morning break time.

How long do the children get to eat lunch?

When your child joins reception they have a slightly longer lunch time than the rest of the school so they can go into the hall and familiarise themselves with the lunchtime routines. Their teachers will be with them to begin with, however, we do encourage independence with cutting and eating food. The first sitting then arrives at 12.00. The children go back to class with their dinner lady to get their coats and put any packed lunches away before being taken outside.

How much is a school dinner?

When your child starts school, and until they finish Year 2, they are entitled to receive free school meals (Universal Infant Meals or UIFSM). It is your responsibility to order meals, this must be done by midnight on the Tuesday the week before the meals are due. You will still need to use your ParentPay account to do this but no charge is added. All information regarding ParentPay will be sent out to you in a separate letter, but it is worth noting that with ParentPay, you won't get your login straightaway, so during the first two weeks of starting school, the School Office will order the meals all the children.

What is Pupil Premium funding?

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are automatically eligible to receive free school meals. Parents and carers who are in receipt of certain income-related benefits may also be entitled to free school meals for their children. Parents/carers of children in Early Years and Key Stage 1, who are entitled to a meal under the universal infant free school meal initiative, but who feel they may meet the income criteria are asked to apply as your child's school will benefit from additional funding known as the pupil premium. You can request the relevant document to complete from the School Office. All claims are treated in confidence and the same meals are provided to all children whether they are paid for or provided free.

What should I put in my child's packed lunch?

We encourage children to bring a healthy lunch to school which could include items such as:

- fruit / vegetable sticks
- rice or pasta
- sandwiches
- yoghurts

We ask that children do not bring nuts to school as some children in school have allergies.

Hot drinks and soup are not permitted.

How will the classes be structured?

The age of the child as well as any friendships will be taken into consideration. This does not mean your child will be with all of their friends but there will be opportunities to work together at different times as we have free-flow between the classes.

Who will my child's Teacher and TA be?

The school are making some changes to staffing, as we do each year, so final decisions haven't been made yet. Please be rest assured, you'll know as soon as we do as we understand this is an anxious time.

When will I find out which class my child will be in?

Information will be given out in a letter after the first 2 afternoon sessions your child attends.

What will my child be doing when they start school?

Your child will be continuing the Foundation Stage Curriculum (they will have been working on this since the age of 3). You will get termly information letters (not all children are forth coming about school day) and there will be newsletters sent and displayed on the parents' notice board.

Will I be able to come into the classroom to help?

Yes, after Terms 1 and 2 (ie after Christmas) as this allows your child to have settled in. You will need to get a DBS (Please enquire at the office) and initially it is best to do afternoon school sessions when you can leave at 3.00pm with your child.

Can my child ride to school?

Your child can ride a bike or scooter to school but they should get off their bike or scooter on entry to the school grounds and push them, for the safety of others. There is a bike shed for storage.

What should be in the book bag?

It will seem pretty empty at first! Your child will not need a pencil case as everything is provided at school. They will get different books to read at home - more details will follow as appropriate.

Can my child bring things from home?

We ask that children do not bring toys from home to play with during the day.

What about going outside?

We like to make use of our fabulous grounds and outdoor classroom as much as possible. It is important that all children keep in school the following labelled items:

- ✓ Waterproof jacket
- ✓ Wellington boots

Health and Safety requires that all children must have their legs and arms covered when outside in the wooded area.

What if my child goes to Breakfast Club/After School Club at Appletree Nursery?

We have communication systems set up so that messages can be passed either way. Your child is escorted to and from Breakfast/ After School Club at the beginning or end of the day.

What if my child has a toileting accident?

This isn't uncommon at all and we will support your child to get cleaned up and changed. A spare pair of pants in a plastic bag popped in their book bag is always useful, if you think your child might need them. However, we do have spares at school, too.

What links are there between school and parents?

Parents have the opportunity each day to talk to the class teacher/s either in the morning or at the end of the day. We are very happy for parents to contact us or the office to arrange a longer appointment if they need a more detailed conversation. The senior leadership team are also able to be contacted via the office.

How will I know what is going on at school?

We encourage you to check your emails as newsletters and other letters are sent to your email address. We also use a text messaging system. All our letters are also placed on the school's website. There will also be a Reception newsletter, with news about what we have been learning and other information.

What is ParentPay?

Like many other schools, we use an online cashless method of paying all monies (dinner money and school trips) called ParentPay. The system is very user friendly and saves both parents and the school valuable time.

Parents/Carers will receive a username and password when their child joins our school. You then need to visit www.parentpay.com and activate your account via the Account login area on the home page of the site.

How does ParentPay work?

You have a secure online account, activated using a unique username and password; you will be prompted to change these and to keep them safe and secure for future logins.

ParentPay holds an electronic record of your payments to view at a later date. Once you've activated your account you can make online payments.

If you have two or more children at a ParentPay school, you only need to activate one account to create your 'main account' and then add your other children via the Add a child

tab on your home page. You will need the individual code for each child to enable you to add them on to the main account.

What if I am worried about something?

Please talk to us - many small issues can be resolved quickly but it is important to do so before they become bigger issues.

How can I familiarise my child with the school or visit during these coronavirus times?

It's with great sadness we can't host our annual transition sessions this year but do not worry, there are lots you can do to prepare your child for school. Take a walk to the school gates on your daily walk to show them where school is. Visit our early years section of the website to view Spikey's first day at school and watch our virtual tour.