



Starting 'big school'

A very warm welcome...

- ▶ By now you should have received your welcome information and admission forms from the school office.
- ▶ Please direct any questions via the office at office@barnsgreen.org.uk

Transition

- ▶ We are sadly unable to host our usual stay and play sessions in the summer term but we have been in contact with all pre-school settings and your child's well-being is at the heart of what we do.
- ▶ In the first week of term, we are offering telephone consultation appointments with the class teachers to talk over any queries or information you would like us to know about your small person.
- ▶ Since we are unable to meet you, we would love to find out a little bit about you and would love you to complete the all about me sheet that we will forward to you all. You can either bring it with you in September, pop it in the post or email it into the school office.

Team Dormouse

- ▶ Dormouse Class is taught by Mrs Thorne on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and by Mrs Rogers on Thursday and Friday.
- ▶ Our amazing early years teaching assistant, Mrs Cooper, is there all week!
- ▶ We have worked together as Team Dormouse for many years and look forward to getting to know you all.
- ▶ You can see our smiley faces on the website here <https://www.barnsgreen.org.uk/about/meet-the-staff/>

Our classroom

- ▶ The photos on the next slides will show you a little snippet of life in Dormouse Class.
- ▶ Please show these to your child, ask them what they can see and answer any questions they might have.
- ▶ In Dormouse Class, we are very lucky to also have some of our year 1 cohort who are on hand in a supportive role to show our new children the ropes and help them to settle into big school – they are experts as they've already been there and done it all!

This is our carpet area...

This is where we come together for stories and learning with our grown ups.

We sit nicely and listen carefully here so everyone has a chance to share their good ideas.



What is my classroom like?

We learn new sounds



We play with small world resources



We love our block area for building



Our classroom...

- ▶ Changes through the year.
- ▶ Reflects the interests and needs of the children
- ▶ Is a busy and creative place to learn
- ▶ Is a friendly and safe space to learn in



We have our own outdoor classroom





Our cloakroom

- ▶ This is where we hang up our coats and keep our bags.
- ▶ You can bring a small backpack to school to keep your reading book and home school diary in, this is also useful to carry home letters.



How can I help my child get ready?

- ▶ Listening and talking –
- ▶ Sing nursery rhymes as often as possible
- ▶ Read books and share stories everyday
- ▶ Count every day, reciting numbers and counting objects
- ▶ Play games –eye spy, board games, active games

- ▶ Tiny Happy People has lots of wonderful communication activities for children up to 5 years old. www.bbc.co.uk/tint-happy-people

Help them to look after themselves

A child who can look after themselves will be more confident at school. Here are some top tips:

- ▶ Practise going to the toilet, wiping their own bottom and flushing the toilet
- ▶ Practise washing their hands properly for 20 seconds
- ▶ Practise blowing their nose and putting the tissue in the bin
- ▶ Practise dressing and undressing themselves including putting on socks and doing the fastening on their coat.
- ▶ Feed themselves, open packets, peel fruit and use a knife and fork.
- ▶ Practise tidying up their own toys and helping with simple chores.
- ▶ Practise following 2 step instructions eg put your shoes on and get your coat please.

Talk about big school

- ▶ Prepare them as much as possible, there will not be as many grown ups on hand to help at big school.
- ▶ Practise sharing their toys and taking turns in games.
- ▶ Practise taking turns to speak, there will be lots of children who all want to share ideas so we have to learn to wait our turn.



Am I ready for school?



Tips for parents

When your child starts primary school there are a number of skills that they should ideally have mastered. Use this sheet as a guide to help track their progress.

Self-care

- I know when to wash my hands
- I can wipe my nose
- I can ask for help if I don't feel well

Speaking & literacy

- I am interested in reading stories & looking at picture books
- I am able to talk about myself, my needs & feelings
- I am practising recognising my name when it's written down

Getting dressed & undressed on my own

- I can button & unbutton my clothes
- I can put my own shoes & socks on
- I can put my coat on & use a zip

Interest in the world & new activities

- I enjoy learning about the world around me
- I am interested in exploring new activities or environments
- I like asking questions

Eating

- I can use a knife & fork
- I can open my packed lunch on my own
- I am confident at opening wrappers & packaging

Writing skills

- I like tracing patterns & colouring in
- I enjoy experimenting with different shaped scribbles
- I am practising holding a pencil

Going to the toilet

- I can go to the toilet on my own, wipe myself properly & flush
- I can wash & dry my hands without any help

Independence

- I am happy to be away from my mummy, daddy or my main carer
- I am happy to tidy my belongings & look after my things
- I am feeling confident about starting school

Listening & understanding

- I am able to sit still and listen for a short while
- I can follow instructions
- I understand the need to follow rules

Sharing & turn taking

- I can share toys & take turns
- I can play games with others
- I can interact with other children

Counting skills

- I enjoy practising counting objects
- I like saying number rhymes & playing counting games
- I can recognise some numbers when they are written down

Routines

- I have practised putting on my uniform & getting ready to leave on time
- I have a good bedtime routine so I'm not feeling tired for school
- I'm learning to eat at the times I will on school days.



What will I need to bring with me?

- ▶ All children in early years and key stage one are entitled to a free hot meal, you do not need to sign up for this and can view the menu at <https://westsussex.mealselector.co.uk/Page/149/WS-Meal-Selector---Menus.html>
- ▶ We will provide a fruit snack each morning so your child need not bring any additional snacks.
- ▶ We will provide free milk for all children under the age of 5. Once your child turns 5 you may apply and pay online for them to continue receiving milk <https://www.coolmilk.com/>
- ▶ Your child will need a clean, named water bottle each day please for water, please do not send the bottle in with fruit juice and practise opening and closing the bottle fastening.
- ▶ Once we are settled in, your child will be able to bring home a home reader book which can be changed each morning. A book must be returned before taking a new one please.

What next?

- ▶ Please ensure all school admission forms are returned in good time including your preference for your child's full time, part time or staggered route into school.
- ▶ Let the office know if you would like a phone call with one of the teachers in the first full week of term.
- ▶ There will be a curriculum meeting in September (fingers crossed this will be face to face) and this will go over in detail about the early years curriculum, how you child will be taught and all about supporting early maths and reading. We will also go into detail about our phonics scheme Read Write Inc.
- ▶ We very much look forward to meeting you all in September!