



Frequently Asked Questions for New Entrants 2021

How many Children are there at Lyndhurst?

Each class has up to 30 children and each year group has 3 classes. We also have a SSC (unit) for children with ASD (autistic spectrum disorder). This is an 8 place unit.
Each class has the equivalent of 1 full time teacher (sometimes a jobshare) and a Teaching Assistant to help and support learning.

Will my child be put in a class with familiar children?

Classes are created after speaking with all pre-school providers. Your child will be put in a class with some other children from their pre-school (where there are large numbers). However, this is an ideal opportunity to make new friends and learn the skills needed to cooperate with both people they know and new people. If your child doesn't know any other children, we will help and support them in making new friends. In the first few weeks of the school year, particularly, we focus on creating positive learning relationships. These may be different from playing relationships. Our strong PSCH curriculum helps children to learn how to make good choices about who they learn besides. This also gives them the opportunity to meet new people and enjoy the company of new friends.

My child needs help to use the toilet

Children will be supported in all aspects of their development. It is much better for your child if they are independent and can self-care without help. When your child visits the school and you meet the teacher you can discuss your child's needs.

My child is cared for by more than one parent. How will the school communicate with us equally?

We encourage parent/carers to communicate with each other regularly about their child. The school is happy to include all parent/carers on the communication lists and emails. All parents may attend events and information events.

What support will there be for children with a Special need? (SEND)

Every mainstream school has a special educational needs coordinator (SENDCo) who is responsible for organising extra support for children with SEND. The SENDCo works the class teachers, teaching assistants and outside agencies to plan the help each child needs. If you feel your child needs some extra help in the classroom ie Speech and Language, or you have a concern/question please contact the school office, and they will put you in touch with Mrs Rix.

Admission to the SSC (unit) is done through the SENAT team and is a different admissions arrangement than mainstream school admissions.



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My child will be brought to school and met by a child minder or after school provider. How will I feel part of the life of the school and know about my child?

We really want to work in partnership with parent/carers and value the support you give to your child. We have Home/School Contact books which staff write in and we actively encourage you writing in them too. You may also email or phone your class teacher, via the school office to arrange a time to talk with the teacher. We use our face Book pages and Website to celebrate the work of the school.

Will the children have access to outside space?

Yes – all children have access to learning and playing outdoors. We are a Forest School and Beach School. We strongly believe that engaging in the outdoor environment has strong benefits and teaches children to engage purposefully and positively with their environment. We also have Eco Leaders who are responsible for sharing ideas and setting up sustainable systems.

My child may not eat a school lunch

Children's taste and preferences for food change all the time. They may eat a school lunch because their friends do. It's free so it's worth giving it a go! They may bring a packed lunch but need to practise eating this at home. We help children with their hot meals but they also need to be able to use a knife and fork. Children have staggered lunch and play times. Packed lunch children and hot lunch children eat together at the same time. Hot lunches are provided by Chartwells (West Sussex) and you can view the menu online. They cater for children who have food allergies or who are have a pork or beef free diet. We are also a Nut free school.

My child is a summer born child, shall I keep them at pre-school?

Unfortunately, someone has to be the youngest in the school year! We do understand that being a summer born child can sometimes mean that they have not had as many experiences as autumn born children. We see all children as individuals. The curriculum in the reception class reflects this. For most children, we believe that children should start at the beginning of the school year with all of their friends so that they feel a part of the class community and settle into the school routines alongside everyone else. We will support all children and we are able to adapt all learning individually.

How will the school manage and support behaviour?

We have a strong, positive behaviour and relationships policy. We believe in a therapeutic and nurturing approach to behaviour. We have a good PSHE and Values curriculum and we take a great deal of time helping children to choose positive behaviours and in reflecting on how their behaviours affect others. We listen to children's behaviours and give them support to make better choices and to respect each other. Our Behaviour Policy is on our website.



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Will my child be taught religion?

We are not a church school, however, all schools in England are obliged to lead assemblies following a Christian theme. Our assemblies and Collective Worship also celebrate other world cultures and festivals and explore our Values. Each month we investigate a new value. We are also a Rights Respecting School. RE is a statutory part of the National Curriculum and we follow the West Sussex Agreed Syllabus.

Will there be clubs and enrichment activities?

At Lyndhurst we facilitate many after school clubs which offer a range of experiences – football, art, cooking, French, music, Go Wild etc. Our curriculum also includes a wide range of experiences (Cultural Capital). Children learn to play the Ocarina, visit places of cultural interests and welcome many visitors into school. We endeavour to link visitors to real life so that children have an aspiration to link skills to the world of employment. Over the past few years we have also taken a group of children camping for the weekend at Lodge Hill. We also run a Breakfast(childcare) club. This is run by our own TAs and they drop the children to their classes each morning.

Will there be homework?

We expect all parent/carers to support their child at home by practicing their phonics and spellings and by listening to them read regularly. Doing some home learning a little but often can have a huge impact on your child being able to embed new skills. We also ask parent/carers to support learning in maths and in other learning at home tasks. Playing games such as dice games is also actively encouraged!

Transitions

Good transitions are essential in helping a child to feel settled and confident. We work closely with all preschool providers before your child starts school. We visit your child's setting and complete a handover. We also meet with you and value all the information you have about your child. Your child will start school in a small group and attend story and settling in sessions. When your child transitions to Junior school, they will participate in many transition events with Chesswood and the staff work closely together throughout the year, so that it is as smooth a transition as possible.

Communication

There is lots of information about Lyndhurst on our website. There is a curriculum page which will help you understand what your child will be learning. Information is also shared on our Facebook page. We try to send out information every Friday. This was based on feedback from parent/carers. It means that you know that most information will be sent to you each Friday. On Fridays we also send out our Lyndhurst Newsletter. All information is emailed but if you do not have access to email we can send you hard copies each week.