

Frequently asked questions and answers - 2020

Dear prospective parents / carers,

Please find a list of some of the questions raised from prospective parents at our 1:1 show arounds and phone calls and our responses as a school. Some of our answers reflect our 'normal' provision rather than the changes we have had to make due to COVID. We hope to get back to 'normal' in September. We will continue to upload more questions as we receive them. Thank you to all those parents who we have already spoken to either by phone or in person. If you have any other questions, please contact the school office.

Question	Answer
What phonics programme do you follow?	We follow Letters and Sounds. We also supplement this with other resources and songs that we know the children respond well to and are successful in consolidating learning. Phonics continues throughout the school. The focus sounds for each week are shared with parents via Tapestry as well as our 'Walk and Talk' board.
What clubs do you offer?	In the past we have aimed to offer a wide range of clubs that reflect children's interests as well as offering new experiences. These have included karate, musical theatre, dance, football and digital leaders.
When is the next Ofsted due?	Our last Ofsted was in September 2018 and was 'good' so we would expect one within the next two years. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, inspections were suspended in March but are set to resume in Summer term 2021.
What if we are out of catchment – should we still apply?	We would strongly recommend that you apply even if you are outside of our catchment. Please view our admissions policy on our website which can be found using the following link: https://www.fryernfederation.co.uk/information/policies/
If we were offered a place at Fryern Infants, would we be guaranteed a place at Fryern Junior School?	As we are a Federation, children who attend the infants are given priority when applying the Junior school. The junior school is currently undergoing an exciting rebuild – please look at the website for more information.
How do you provide challenge for more able children?	Class teachers use a range of assessment for learning strategies to ensure they know individual children's strengths and areas for development. This enables them to plan differentiated learning that offers an appropriate level of challenge for all pupils. Class teachers and LSAs target specific children within the classroom to move their learning forwards in different ways and at different rates. We closely monitor the progress of all children in order to ensure every child realises their potential.
How do you support children with special educational needs?	High quality teaching, adapted for individual pupils, is the first step in responding to pupils who have, or may have SEND. We undertake an assess-plan-do-review cycle when deciding whether to place or keep children on the SEND register. For higher levels of need, we draw on more specialised assessments from outside agencies and professionals. Pupils needing SEN support may have an Individualised Plan (IP), which is written by the class teacher and shared with parents. We are extremely fortunate to have a highly skilled team of LSAs, including two ELSAs, who are able to support the children with developing specific skills.
What school trips do you normally go on?	Our school trips are linked to our topics and have included Sea City Museum, Hillier Gardens, Royal Victoria Country Park, Portchester Castle and Longdown Activity Farm. We also invite in various outside visitors to

	<p>support with topics and inspire children’s curiosity. Our topics have the hook of a ‘launch day’ as well as an ‘exit day’ which enables us to share learning with families.</p>
<p>How do you deal with challenging behaviour?</p>	<p>We believe that learning can only take place in an environment that provides security, praise, tolerance and care. Children and adults need to be valued and encouraged within an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect, where there is an overriding enjoyment of learning.</p> <p>We have a positive behaviour ethos at our school and therefore seek to reward good behaviour at all times as this develops an ethos of respect, kindness and cooperation. We recognise that children can make the wrong choices and support them to reflect upon these and recognise alternative decisions they could have made.</p> <p>Relationships and communication with parents is vital and any incidents are communicated to all families involved. We have an open door policy where parents and carers are encouraged to visit to discuss any concerns or difficulties.</p>
<p>How does your afterschool club work?</p>	<p>Our wraparound care comprises of a breakfast club and afterschool club, both of which are managed by school staff who already have excellent relationships with the children. The staff prepare a range of activities for the children, including outdoor games, arts and crafts and Lego. Breakfast club starts at 7:45am and after school club runs until 6:00pm. Spaces for these need to be booked and paid for in advance through the school office. Please go to our website and look under the ‘parents’ tab to find out more information.</p>
<p>What do they do for PE?</p>	<p>Each class has two PE slots a week and their curriculum covers a wide range of PE opportunities including dance, gymnastics, athletics and games. We also employ a specialist PE teacher who works with each class on a half termly rota.</p>
<p>What happens at lunchtime?</p>	<p>Children have a choice of school dinners or a packed lunch from home. There is always a choice of a meat dish (red), vegetarian (green) or jacket potato with a topping (blue). Dinners are ordered by the children as part of registration. If your child has a food allergy and requires a tailored menu, you would need to complete a special diet request form.</p> <p>The YR LSAs are also on duty over lunchtime so there is always an adult the children are familiar with around. The role of the lunchtime supervisor is to make sure the children have a happy, safe lunchtime and enjoy eating lunch with their friends. Staff encourage the children to eat a reasonable amount of food and monitor this carefully.</p>
<p>Where do I go if I have concerns about my child?</p>	<p>We offer an open door policy and the class teachers are available at the start and end of the day. You can also contact the office to book a time to speak with them.</p>
<p>Do you have anywhere the children can grow things?</p>	<p>Yes! We have fantastic outdoor grounds including several places for the children to be gardeners including a courtyard area in the middle of school with raised beds for the children to use. We also have a pond area which the children visit as part of the curriculum.</p>
<p>Can my child bring in a snack?</p>	<p>Yes, children can bring a healthy, nut free snack from home. However, we also provide a healthy snack of either fruit or vegetables. Children are encouraged to drink water from their water bottles throughout the day.</p>

	Children are also offered milk during the day. This is free until your child turns 5, but after this you may choose to continue paying for milk for your child.
Do you have online teaching ready in case it is needed again in the future?	Yes, in YR, we use tapestry for this and have set up google classroom to deliver remote learning for the rest of the school.
Do you have a school library?	Yes! Our library is a very special place in school which the children love to visit weekly. We invest regularly in new reading books to ensure that the books are vibrant and engaging for the children. Our aim is for children to develop a love of reading. We know that children who are heard to read regularly make the most progress in all areas of the curriculum, not just English. It is our expectation that children should be heard at least five times a week. We reward home reading with special certificates and badges presented in assembly in front of the whole school. Children love this special time.
Curriculum	We offer a curriculum that is broad, balanced, creative, relevant and meets the needs of all children. Whilst focussing on high standards in English and mathematics, our curriculum has been designed to reflect the needs of our children – to be fun, interesting, creative and thought provoking – thus combining excellence with enjoyment. The curriculum is all the planned activities that we organise in order to promote learning and personal growth and development. It includes not only the formal requirements of the National Curriculum, but also the range of extra-curricular activities that the school organises in order to enrich the experience of the children for example after school sports clubs and activities and residential visits. It also includes the ‘hidden curriculum’ or what the children learn from the way they are treated and are expected to behave. Being rights respecting schools we teach children to respect others whatever their race or beliefs and teach them to be responsible people who can work and cooperate with others. Our aim is to engage all children through a challenging and stimulating curriculum, so that they are excited to learn and thus develop a lifelong love of learning. Parents are provided with further information about the curriculum that their child is following through parent meetings, the newsletter and the school blog
Which pre-schools do you take children from?	Children at Fryern join us from several different pre-schools and nurseries. Before the children start with us we contact their pre-school / nursery and speak with their key worker. We ensure that our transition pathway helps all children build new relationships with both their peers and staff. We offer a friendship club that starts in the Summer term prior to the children joining us in September. This is an informal time for parents and children to start getting to know each other and school staff. We also offer a range of other transition opportunities.
My child loves to sing, what music opportunities do you offer?	The children in Year 2 and Year 4 are taught by specialist music teachers from Hampshire Music Service. They learn a different instrument each term, including ukuleles, African drums and recorders and perform their new skills to parents in a termly assembly. We also offer peripatetic music lessons and children have the chance to perform at the church services throughout the year. Parents can also choose for their child to take part in the primary Rock Steady programme. This is a fantastic opportunity where the children

	learn to play an instrument and can choose from the electric guitar, keyboard, drums or vocal and as a rock group take part in half termly concerts.
What transition opportunities do you offer?	<p>Our entry pathway offers several opportunities for you and your child to start making relationships with school staff, other children and their families. The YR team spend time getting to know your child as an individual, finding out their interests, areas that they are confident in and those they may need more support with. This information is then used to prepare for the first few weeks in school, helping the children to settle quickly, start to make friends and feel safe and happy.</p> <p>As part of our transition programme we offer home visits, visit the children at nursery/pre-school and have conversations with their keyworker. We also transfer tapestry records and continue to use tapestry in YR. In the summer term, we also offer a 'Friendship Club' where you and your child are invited into school on a Friday afternoon to meet school staff and other families. This is an informal time which builds the children's confidence with coming into to school.</p>
It's a long time since I was in school, how do you help parents to support their children at home?	In the Autumn term, we offer a series of workshops for parents to support with different areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. This is an opportunity for you to come into school to work alongside your child in a small group to find out more about the curriculum and practical suggestions for how you can support them at home.