

The Southwater Infant Academy



Information for Parents Autumn 2021

Welcome!

Welcome to all our families, both current and new. For many of us the return to school in September will look a little different, however for families that have been with us a while, you may remember some of these arrangements from when your children first started with us! To help you plan and prepare for changes we have made, we have included all the information we hope you will need in this booklet. Please take time to read through and talk to your child about what to expect on their return. Although many things will have changed, what won't have is the commitment from all the staff to put your child's wellbeing first. We always strive to nurture and develop every child, and this will not change going forwards. If you have any questions or concerns after reading this information, please do get in touch. We look forward to seeing you all in September!

How to get in touch

Telephone **01403 733254** between 8.30am and 4.00pm
or email office@southwaterinfants.co.uk at any time.

Drop off and Pick up times

	Drop Off		Pick Up	
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 1	Year 2
Mon 6 th	9.00am	8.50am	3.10pm	3.00pm
Tues 7 th	9.00am	8.50am	3.10pm	3.00pm
Wed 8 th	8.50am		3.15pm	
Thurs 9 th	8.50am		3.15pm	
Fri 10 th	8.50am		3.15pm	
Mon 13 th	8.50am		3.15pm	
Tues 14 th	8.50am		3.15pm	
The times below apply to all year groups from the 15 th September, including Reception children				
Wed 15 th	8.50am		3.15pm	

Please note that Reception Classes will have different times for drop off and pick up until Wednesday 15th September to enable them to settle into school over the first week and a half. If you have not received these times, or have misplaced them, please contact us on office@southwaterinfants.co.uk

The academy gates will open at 8.45am each morning, however to allow reception children to arrive when they are attending a morning session, the gates will open at 8.35am from Wednesday 8th September until Monday 13th September.

Please arrive as close to your allocated time for the first few days while we try to settle the children into a new routine in the mornings and after school. At your time slot, you will be invited onto the playground to drop your child at their classroom door. We will aim to signpost directions to the classrooms to help you find the way, and staff will be on hand to assist. Please ensure that you hand your child over as quickly as possible at the door, and leave the academy grounds straight afterwards to avoid having too many people on site at once.

At the end of the day, the gates will open at 3.00pm for parents to make their way to the classroom doors. Your child's class teacher will open the door at the allocated time to send the children home. Please wave when you see your child come to the front of the line as it helps staff to spot you when handing children over. Please leave promptly again to keep numbers to a minimum.

We know that the slightly staggered starts will cause some issues with sibling drop off times, or with parents having to wait when dropping off more than one child. If you are dropping or collecting another child in a different year group at the infants, you can wait outside their classroom until your time slot - you don't need to leave and come back! We are conscious that, after such a long time of avoiding crowds and social distancing, coming into a busy playground will be quite daunting for some of our families. By staggering the timings we are hoping to reduce the numbers on the playground at any one time for a few days while we all settle back into the old routines.

From Wednesday 8th September, classroom doors will open for all children in Year 1 and 2 at 8.50am. Doors will stay open until 9.00am, so our families can arrive any time within this 10 minute slot to drop off their child. This will also apply to Reception children when they start full time on Wednesday the 15th September. By having a 10 minute window for children to arrive, it enables families to better manage dropping off siblings, and also makes it possible for families to arrive closer to 9am when the playground may be a little quieter. All

children that arrive after 9am from the 8th September should come via the academy main office.

Uniform

School uniform should be worn at all times, and we suggest that this is washed or changed regularly where possible. On days where your child is doing PE we will ask them to come to the academy dressed in their PE kit, and they will stay in this all day. Please do not bring PE bags to school. Your child's class teacher will contact you to inform you of the PE days for your child in September. We ask that children with pierced ears please have their earrings removed before coming to the academy on a PE day, as earrings can get caught on PE equipment and cause serious harm. If earrings cannot be removed, these need to be taped with surgical tape. Please ensure that the correct uniform is worn by your child, both on PE and non PE days. Details of our uniform can be found on the academy website.

What to bring

A named water bottle with a sports cap (no juice or squash please - plain water is best!) a raincoat and a sun hat are all very important. If your child is bringing their own lunch, a lunch box that is easily washable is helpful. Please avoid large rucksacks or big bags as our cloakrooms are limited for space. We often cannot fit all the large rucksacks into the cloakroom that children bring in, and it makes it very difficult for children to get to their peg every day. A bookbag, or similar sized bag, that will fit in your child's tray is ideal, and this will be used to send home books and letters. A drawstring bag with a change of clothes and underwear that can be kept on your child's peg is very useful, especially in Reception, for the occasional accident they may have.

We ask that children please do not bring toys, teddies, comforters or other such items from home due to the risk of infection that these bring. If your child brings a toy with them on their journey to school, we will ask you to please take it home with you when you drop it off. Thank you for your support with this.

Illness

If your child is ill, please call the academy office between 8.30am and 9.30am to let us know.

If your child has sickness or diarrhoea, they should be kept at home for 48 hours from the last episode of sickness or diarrhoea.

You must not bring your child to the academy if they are showing symptoms of Covid-19:

- **a high temperature**
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste**

If your child has one or more of these symptoms, they should be kept at home and a PCR test booked as soon as possible. **Please note that Lateral Flow Tests, or Rapid Tests, should not be used to test anyone with symptoms.** If you are not able to arrange a PCR test, your child should isolate for 10 days from the start of the symptoms. We will only be able to accept children back to the academy, provided they are well enough, after a negative PCR test or after 10 days of isolation. Please call or email us to let us know if your child is isolating or is having a PCR test.

If your child develops symptoms while at the academy we will call you immediately and ask you, or a nominated adult, to come and collect them. It is important that your contact details are correct, and that there is someone who can collect your child within 30 minutes. Please let the academy office know if you need to update or change any contact details. Again, we would recommend getting your child tested in these circumstances as this would enable them to return to school more swiftly.

If your child tests positive for Covid-19 with a PCR test, please let the academy know as soon as possible. If we receive notification of a positive test at the academy, we will follow the advice of Public Health England and work with NHS Track and Trace regarding follow up action.

Lunches

Easy Lunch will be providing hot lunches as they have done previously for all children who wish to have one. All infant children are entitled to a free hot meal, which can be ordered through the office.

Lunches will be eaten in the hall in Year Group sittings, with each Year Group having an allocated time slot.

Playtimes

Morning and lunch playtimes will be staggered initially to allow children to build confidence in playing alongside larger numbers of other children. We will gradually move towards year groups playing together, but will have no more than two years groups at a time out at play.

After school clubs

We are hoping to begin reintroducing clubs for the children in the Autumn Term. We will be in touch with our families regarding this when we know more.

Medication

If your child has medication, such as an asthma inhaler, that will be kept at the infant academy, could we please ask that you fill in the medication form in the Parents section on the academy website and bring this with you, along with your child's medication in the original box with the pharmacy sticker on, when your child starts in September. It is important that we have medication on site as soon as possible, in case we need to administer it in the first few days. Could we please also request that all inhalers are brought in with a spacer.

First Aid and Safeguarding

It is academy policy that a Safeguarding Lead and sufficient First Aiders are on site at the academy at all times. This will remain the same from September to ensure the safety of all the children. First aid will be administered by academy staff, with more serious incidents dealt with in the academy office.

Learning

Children will be learning in their classes throughout the day, with their class teacher(s) and TA. Academy staff will be supporting children with their learning exactly as they have always done, and children will be encouraged to develop confidence and independence in learning. We will be ensuring that the learning meets the needs of all children, and takes into account the experiences that children have had during previous lockdowns. While we will be focussing on the important core skills, we will also ensure that the curriculum learning is broad and balanced and allows children to be immersed in rich and creative learning experiences.

We will begin to introduce cross-class teaching groups and greater interaction across the classes as we settle into the Autumn term, if we feel that it is safe and appropriate to do this. Whilst we will be ensuring that the learning provision is engaging and challenging for all, we will continue to keep the safety and wellbeing of our academy community at the forefront of all our decisions.

Academy Office

To avoid large numbers of people coming into the academy, we would please request that our families continue to phone or email the office with questions or queries. Please avoid coming into the academy unless it is essential. Many forms are now available via our website, and we can email any to you that are not on there. The reception area at the office is very small and restrictive, and we would like to keep all at the academy safe and avoid large numbers of families or staff having to isolate due to being a close contact of a positive case.

Bikes and Scooters

With our families now able to come back onto the playground from September to drop off and pick up, could all children that bring their bike or scooter to school please park it in the bike and scooter shed. This can be found on the playground close to the gate from the side alleyway path. The parking area by the children and family centre will be needed for car parking next year, so bikes and scooters can't be left there from September. The bike and scooter shed is secure during the day, as the academy gates are locked once the children have arrived.

Thinking Ahead

If there is one thing that we have learned during this pandemic, it is that regulations, guidance and risks can change in a very short space of time! The information included in this guide has been produced based on the most recent guidance for schools from the DfE. A lot could change over the Summer Holidays, and a great deal could change as schools start back in September and we move through the Autumn Term. With this in mind, please be aware that we may need to change or adapt our plans and organisation if we are asked to do so by the DfE or Public Health England. We will of course communicate any changes to you as quickly as we can, and will aim to minimise any disruption to our families. Our families have been hugely supportive and understanding throughout the pandemic, and we are extremely grateful for that. We very much look forward to working with you all over the coming year.