

# Here are some of the thoughts of our Reception parents....

## **How helpful were the settling in events for you and your child?**

Very helpful! Beginning the settling programme before the summer holidays gave Imogen something to look forward to over the summer and helped her visualise what 'school' was

## **How did you feel when your child started school?**

I was keen to know how she would respond to the new structure and routine. I was also anxious to see if she was able to make friends. I wanted to get to know the staff and other parents as soon as possible.

## **What particularly helped your child settle into school?**

The summer sessions helped us all to feel comfortable in the school environment before school even started. The summer booklet we were given to complete gave us an opportunity to talk about school in a positive way and it helped us compile a lovely memory of the last summer before she started school. The postcard we received from Imogen's teacher was also a lovely touch



## **What are the important things you feel a new parent should know prior to their child starting school?**

It will be ok! They will settle, be happy and even if there are bumps in the road they will be well cared for. School will become a happy centre to their world.

## **Anything else you would have liked to have known that you didn't?**

No, the school communication has been really comprehensive from the word go!

### **How helpful were the settling in events for you and your child?**

These events were very useful in helping our child ease into the school environment while still having us there as a source of comfort. It was lovely that he was able to explore the classroom, meet his teacher, and have the opportunity to play with some of his classmates.

### **How did you feel when your child started school?**

I was nervous but as it was my second child I knew she would have a wonderful time. I knew the teacher and the LSA would be on hand for my children and myself if we needed anything

### **What particularly helped your child settle into school?**

Creating a consistent and predictable routine is key. Having visited the school several times beforehand definitely helped, as it already felt like a familiar space. Knowing that he was going into a positive, welcoming environment with a warm and nurturing atmosphere really helped Stanley settle into school.

### **What are the important things you feel a new parent should know prior to their child starting school?**

Before starting school, I believe parents shouldn't worry too much about their child's academic level. Instead, it's helpful to focus on building practical self-care skills, such as using the toilet and washing hands independently, putting on shoes, and using cutlery. Being able to do these things helps children develop a sense of independence.

It's completely normal to feel apprehensive, as starting school is a big step for both parents and children. However, knowing that the school staff are there to fully support your child is a huge comfort.

### **Anything else you would have liked to have known that you didn't?**

I feel that everything we wanted to know was covered through the school's correspondence and during the settling-in events.

