



Sandgate Primary School

Everyone deserves the taste of success



Welcome to Sandgate Primary School



An introduction from our Acting Headteacher, Mrs Lianne Jones



Mrs Lianne Jones
Acting Headteacher



Mr Rachel Shoob
Deputy Headteacher



Mr Jamie Evans
Deputy Headteacher



Mrs Wendy Hill
Family Liaison Officer



The Teaching Team



Ladybirds

Bumblebees



Monday & Tuesday

Mrs Hannah Davison



**Wednesday, Thursday
& Friday**

Mrs Sioned Brown



**Monday, Tuesday
& Wednesday**

Mrs Victoria Wilkinson



Thursday & Friday

Mrs Nanette van der Wal



Ladybirds' Teaching Assistant

Mrs Julie Coates



Bumblebees' Teaching Assistant

Mrs Emma Burgess

Over the summer, we will be sending home a photo pack detailing all of the adults along with some photos of our setting.

Highlights from our recent Ofsted report

Children are settled, and are increasingly independent and resilient....This creates a happy environment where children thrive.

The curriculum is ambitious and thoughtfully designed. Children's development in all areas of learning is well mapped. Staff are skilled practitioners who engage in purposeful interactions with children.

Partnerships with parents and carers are well established. Extra support is provided to support transitions for children with additional needs. This helps staff to identify and build on children's early knowledge and starting points quickly and robustly. Strong, respectful relationships are evident across the early years classrooms.



Leaders across the school are knowledgeable about early years education. Their oversight of the early years is very effective and ensures a high level of consistency. Children enjoy learning through high-quality teaching and purposeful independent play.

They make an excellent start to learning and school life.



We are one of two schools in Kent, inclusive of primaries, secondaries, special schools and pupil referral units, to be graded Strong across all areas since the introduction of the new framework and one day notice inspections on 1st January 2026.

This places us in the top 3% of schools since the new inspections began. We are one of just 11 primary schools in the whole of England to achieve this remarkable outcome to date. This is out of approximately 410 inspections since 1st January.

Strong standard ●

Achievement

Attendance and behaviour

Curriculum and teaching

Early years

Inclusion

Leadership and governance

Personal development and wellbeing

This evening you will find out about:

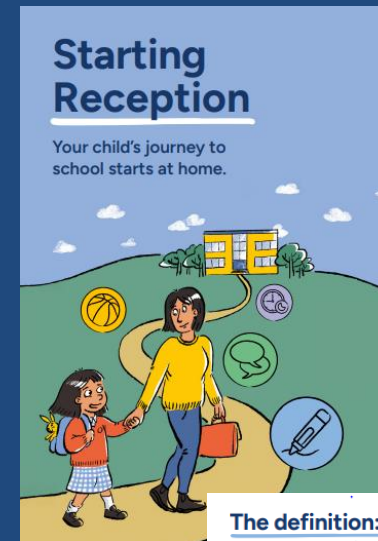
- How you can help prepare your child for school
- The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum
- Parental involvement
- Transition
- The first week
- Uniform
- Breakfast club and after school club
- Absence and medical information
- School lunches
- Pupil Premium
- Your child's class and teachers

How can I prepare my child for school?

The Department for Education has recently published a new 'Starting Reception' document which details some of the key skills that children should be learning before their first day at school.

The link to the whole document can be found below.

<https://startingreception.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Starting-Reception.pdf>



The definition: skills to practise before starting Reception:

New skills take time to learn. Practising at home will help your child move into school more easily and with confidence.

Growing independence

Taking care of themselves

- Putting on/taking off their coat and shoes
- Using the toilet and washing their hands
- Getting dressed with little help, e.g. after using the toilet or doing PE
- Using cutlery (e.g. fork and spoon, chopsticks) and drinking from an open cup
- Spending time away from you, learning they can be looked after by caring adults

Play, creativity and curiosity

- Taking part in imaginative play (e.g. role play)
- Drawing, painting, colouring and sticking
- Sharing story books, looking at pictures and talking about the characters
- Exploring the world around them (e.g. looking closely at the natural world, playing safely with objects at home)



How can I prepare my child for school?

There is lots of other support available, particularly on this page of the website -

<https://startingreception.co.uk/useful-links/>

This is where you can find specific information around things such as toileting and self-care. It also contains tips to help with the transition and separating from their familiar adult.

Starting Reception The Children's Toothbrushing Guide The Potty Training Guide Accessibility tools

Home About Early Years Toolkit Useful links Sign up for updates English

Useful links

Activities, information and guidance to help you practise these skills at home.

Growing independence

Growing Independence

- Online advice hub and magazine for parents: ['Be School Ready' - Parentlink](#)
- 5 tips to help your child get ready for Reception - [Family Corner](#)
- Guidance for parents and practitioners - [PACEY](#)
- Download a free mobile app for tips and activities to support everyday parenting moments - [EasyPotty](#)

Taking care of themselves

- How can you make separating easier? - [Family Corner](#)
- Getting dressed and ready for the day - [backward chaining information sheet - NHS](#)
- Getting ready for the Day - [BBC Tiny Happy People](#)

Toilet training

- Advice and tips on toilet training - [The Institute of Health Visiting](#)
- Simple and supportive toilet training advice - [ERIC](#)
- Potty training and bedwetting - [NHS](#)
- Pants4School - [Down Syndrome UK](#)

Preparing your little one for a big step



Every child is different. Some rush to the school gates from day one, and others take a little while to warm up to a new routine. No matter how they cope with change, you can do lots of things to prepare them for the start of school.

Big feelings

Starting primary school is a big change in your child's young life. They'll be leaving nursery or pre-school, saying goodbye to other primary carers, and there are lessons, classrooms and lots of new people to get used to. Your child might be worried or upset. They might be excited or overwhelmed. They also might not read the way you expect them to. While you can't predict how your child will feel, you can be there for them with comforting conversations, having a strong and stable routine and ramping up the positivity for this exciting new adventure.

There are no 'good' or 'bad' feelings

Emotions are a healthy part of life. By helping your child to describe their feelings rather than labelling them as 'good' or 'bad', they'll develop a better understanding of what they're going through.

Boosting confidence

Fear can come from not knowing or understanding something, so familiarising your child with their school in the lead-up to their first day can help boost their confidence. Your child's school will arrange familiar sessions, welcome meetings and tours before they start, but don't stop there. Going along to any events you can, such as the summer fair, and as you walk around talk about what goes on in the playground and classrooms (these events are great for picking up cheap second-hand toys and books too). If you have older children already at school, take your little one along to their open days and school performances.

Not the only new kid

Remind your child that their classmates will be new too, and the teachers will be looking after all of them to make sure they settle in - it might comfort them to know they won't be the only one!

Make a game of it

Spark your little one's imagination by reading books about children starting school at bedtime or playing make-believe games about it.

Bigging up school

How you and your family talk about school will be a crucial part of your child's experience. How you talk about school will have the biggest influence on how they feel about going. Show lots of enthusiasm for the learning and experiences they will have in the first year of school. Even if your own memories of school aren't happy ones, make sure you talk in a positive way to your child about what school will be like for them.

Getting to know their future friends

Ask your child to think about the new friends they could make, even if they're joining school with friends from nursery or pre-school. If you can find out who else will be in their class (look on the class list or a great time to do this), write one of those children over to play with your child during the summer holidays. This way your child already has a friend from the start of term. They will put them at ease when they go into class on that first day. If you're not sure which child to invite, choose one whose parents you have met and got on well with. If the children become best friends, you'll be seeing a lot more of them!

Skilling up

Practice listening skills and following simple directions with your child, such as asking them to fetch something or put something away. Talk to them about how they should never be afraid to ask for help or sit an adult. Know if something bad has happened.

Kids + routines

To ease your child into the idea of school and new routines, have as many conversations about them as possible. Get your child to try on their school uniform a few times and let them know what they look like. Talk about the journey to school and the roads they'll have when they get home afterwards! You could even have practice runs to and from school in the summer holidays to check your route options.

Identifying your child's potential needs

Starting school can present new challenges. If you think your child may need extra support, you're not alone. Our SEND Support Hub offers advice and guidance to help you navigate this journey. Scan the QR code for more.

Parents get first day nerves too

Welcome to one of the most exciting (and nerve-racking) parts of your parenting journey! While the focus will be on getting your little one ready to start school, don't forget to prepare yourself as well for this transition.

How are you feeling?

It's completely normal to have mixed emotions about your child starting school. It may be 1,000 James and Crayons revealed that 68% felt anxious about it, with concerns ranging from making friends, and drinking enough water, to embarrassment and going to the toilet by themselves. While starting school will be a big change for your family, it doesn't have to be a scary one. Your child will pick up on any anxieties you have, so your first task is to check on how you're feeling. Challenge any negative thoughts you have by asking yourself if they're being helpful or helpful to you. Are your worries helping you to prepare for this change, or are they just making you feel bad?

Remember they'll always need you

Even though your child is becoming more independent, you still play a key part in their education.

Do your homework

Researching your child's school and learning about what to expect during their first few weeks will help to ease your concerns. Reading our Be School Ready guide is a great way to start! Your imagination will also play an important part in feeling 'ready'. Visualise a routine and after-school routine, and look at photos of the school and staff to imagine being part of the new environment.

It's all added up

Worried about school expenses? Turn to page 12 to find out about financial support.

You're not alone

Thousands of parents go through this first day of school plans every year, so you're not alone! If you have friends or family who have been through this recently, try and find an opportunity to sit down with them for a cup of tea and a chat. Ask about their experiences, and if they have any advice, it might be good for you to talk about your worries too. They do so. A problem shared is a problem halved for a reason!

Managing your social calendar

Balancing your child's social life with your own may feel a little tricky at first, especially once school starts. Try doubling up adult and child play dates at parks, with play areas and cafes. This allows parents to have a chat while the children have something fun to do.

Making new friends

It's not just children who thrive on making new school friends. Check if there's a parent Facebook or WhatsApp group for your school that you can join, or be brave and make some introductions at the school induction day. Volunteering for your PTA is another great way to meet other parents and get more involved with your school community.

What I wish I knew...

We asked parents what they wish they knew before their little one started school. Scan the QR code to see what they said.

How can I prepare my child for school?

Here are some of the key things to focus on prior to September

Independence when dressing

Practise doing up fiddly fastenings on coats, shirts and shoes. This will help for playtimes and PE. Please also familiarise your child with their belongings and what their name looks like on their jumper for example.



Fine motor activities

LEGO, threading, playdough, using tweezers and similar activities to help build up the muscles in the hands and finger tips. This will help to increase control when mark-making, leading to the tripod pencil grip for writing.

Independence when toileting

Support your child to be confident about getting to the toilet in time and wiping properly. Chat about the importance of washing hands with soap and water after going to the toilet.



Tidying up.

Encourage your child to hang up their own clothes, put their toys away and clear their plates after dinner as this will be part of their daily school routine.



Feeding themselves

Encourage your child to use a full-sized knife and fork and drink from an open cup. They also need to be able to carry a plate to clear it away when they are finished.



The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the stage of education for children from birth to the end of the Reception year. When your child starts with us, they will continue their EYFS journey.

It is based on the recognition that children learn best through play and active learning. This is a very important stage as it prepares them for their future learning and successes.



The 7 Early Learning Goals

3 Prime Areas of Learning

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

- Building Relationships
- Managing Self
- Self-Regulation



Communication & language

- Listening, Attention & Understanding
- Speaking

Physical development

- Gross motor skills
- Fine motor skills



The 7 Early Learning Goals

4 Specific Areas of Learning

Literacy

- Comprehension
- Word Reading
- Writing

Mathematics

- Number
- Numerical Patterns

Understanding the World

- People, Communities and Cultures
- The Natural World
- Past and Present

Expressive Arts & Design

- Creating with Materials
- Being Imaginative and Expressive



Parental Involvement

- **Home School Diary**

These are primarily used to note any reading at home and school. You may use it to write messages to us or to ask questions, but they are not checked everyday, so urgent messages about things such as collection **must** go through the office or staff on the gate.

- **Events**

Workshops, Book shares, Christmas Performances, Fayres, Sports Days and so on.

- **Newsletter & Home Learning**

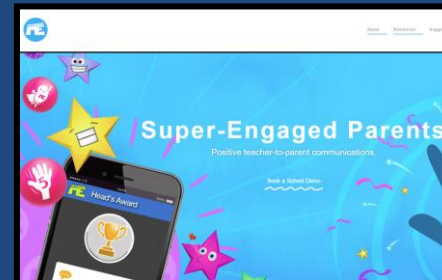
Our Foundation newsletter is sent home every Friday, alongside our whole school newsletter.

- **Marvellous Me**

A website that we use to celebrate the children's achievement using 'badges' and 'thumbs up'.

Contact:

enquiries@sandgate.kent.sch.uk



Sandgate PTA

Our wonderful PTA is an open community of parent volunteers working alongside school staff to benefit the school and ensure the best educational experience for all its pupils.

They are a small independent charity that raises money to fund school initiatives through activities and events. Most recently, they ran a brilliant 'Colour Run' on the last day of Term 5.

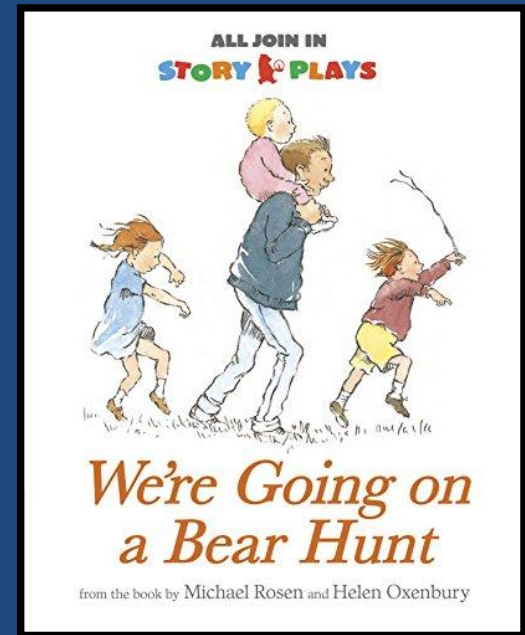
The money raised has recently been used for –

- A new Forest school that was implemented in 2025 – providing alternative classroom and outdoor learning for all students.
- Leaver hoodies – for year 6 students, providing a lasting memento for those leaving in September
- Providing £50 funding to all classes which is used for new books and other classroom equipment

**Looking to become a PTA member? – they meet once a term at 7.30pm
(dates of meetings are advertised in newsletter and PTA board)**

Transition

- We have spoken to and visited your child's pre-school setting.
- Each pre-school has been given a transition pack, which contains a copy of the story 'We're going on a bear hunt' and some suggested activities, to support the transition from pre-school to school. When they start with us in September, we will continue with this story.
- Teddy Bear's Picnic – Wednesday 10th June 2pm – Bring a picnic to enjoy on the field with us. Don't forget their favourite teddy.
- Transition Sessions – 3.30pm to 4.30pm. The google form to sign up will be emailed to you tomorrow -



<p>Tuesday 23rd June Thursday 25th June</p>	<p>Please select one session from these two dates.</p>	<p>Children can be dropped off in the classroom and then adults are asked to leave the children to enjoy the session. You can head home or wait in our community room near the office.</p>
<p>Tuesday 7th July Thursday 9th July</p>	<p>Please select one session from these two dates.</p>	


- Summer Sizzle – Friday 10th July 3.30pm to 5pm
- Photo pack sent home – end of Summer term

Getting to know your child

We are really looking forward to getting to know your child and your family and welcoming you into our Sandgate community.

The transition events are a great opportunity for us to do this, but we would also kindly ask that you complete a short questionnaire to help us further understand your child.

These will be handed out this evening and can be returned to us at any of the upcoming transition events.

 Getting to know your child	
In order for us to further support your child and family with the transition to school, we would be grateful if you could complete this form. Please return to school as soon as possible. Many thanks in advance.	
Child's full name	
Child's preferred name (if different from their full name)	
Who else lives in the same house as your child? Does your child have any siblings? How old are they? Who are the adults that your child lives with?	
Who will collect your child from school? Will they attend any after-school care?	
Please tell us about your child For example, what are their interests and hobbies? Is there anything they dislike doing? Is there anything that upsets or frustrates them? How can we best help comfort them? Etc.	
Please let us know how your child copes with the following self-care tasks: -Toileting and hand washing -Dressing and undressing -Eating and drinking Are they able to complete these tasks independently or do they require some level of support?	
Which language do you primarily speak at home? Please let us know if you speak more than one language at home as well	
Any further information you would like to share about your child or family	

Starting School

The First Week:

Your child will be in either Ladybirds or Bumblebees class and are then split into two cohorts. We will give you this information at the end of this presentation.

Although your child will be a Ladybird or a Bumblebee, opportunities to mix across the year group and get to know all children and adults happen daily during Explorer Time, which is our child-initiated learning, and also during playtimes and lunchtimes.



Tuesday 1st September	Staff Development Days – No children in school	
Wednesday 2nd September	Staff Development Days – No children in school	
Thursday 3rd September	Cohort 1:	8:50am – 11:30am
	Cohort 2:	12:30pm – 3:10pm
Friday 4th September	Cohort 2:	8:50am – 11:30am
	Cohort 1:	12:30pm – 3:10pm
Monday 7th September	All children in school full time 8.30 -3.10pm	

The first day

Things to bring:

- A book bag
(suncream, sun hat)
- A water bottle
- A smile! 😊



Initially, children are brought through the gate and into class when dropping them at school. At the end of the school day, please collect your child by coming in through the school gates and heading to the Foundation playground, where they will be dismissed via the back door of their classroom.



Uniform



- Please name everything!
- Book bags with a small key ring please
- P.E kits are worn on set days of the week. We will inform you of this once the children have had a couple of weeks to settle.
- Children should bring a named drinks bottle to school with them each day, containing water.
- Your child will be taking part in lots of interesting and sometimes messy experiences, so may come home dirty! All paint that we use is washable.



Breakfast Club

- Children can arrive from 7.45am for breakfast club and pre booking is not necessary.
- The cost is £3 a day.
- The children can choose from cereals, toasts, pastries, yoghurts, fruits and fresh juices or milk.

After School Club Options

Sandgate Primary School – please note that this is currently full but please contact the office to be placed on the waiting list.

Little Oaks, Sandgate – this runs out of Sandgate Primary School however, is independent from the school. Please contact them directly - 01303 210395



Greenfields – this is in the mobile on site. It is independent from the school. Please contact them directly – 01303 226406



Absence and Medical Information

Attendance Officers – Mrs Hill and Mrs Shoob

- If your child is unwell then please call the office before 9am, each day they are not in school. (01303 257280)
- Any sickness or diarrhoea must be followed by 48 hrs absence from the last incident.
- If your child has any medication or an asthma pump the relevant forms can be obtained from the school office giving authorisation for staff to administer.
- Attendance is carefully monitored across the school for each child.
- Holidays- Unauthorised during term time. There is new guidance around attendance which can be accessed on the Department for Education website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education>

Snack Time



- A range of fruits and vegetables are provided each day at snack time.
- Alternative fruit can be sent from home if you wish.
- Milk is free until your child is 5
- Water Bottles
Please ensure your child brings a named bottle each day.

Pabulum Your School Caterer

LUNCHES

- All children in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free lunch under the universal infant free school meals scheme. Our school meals are catered by Pabulum.



pabulum
HONESTLY GOOD FOOD

Menu Example:

A choice of 3 main meals each day:
fish / meat, vegetarian / vegan &
jacket potato or pasta

A choice of 2 vegetables

A choice of 8 'help yourself' salads

A choice of 2 fresh breads

A choice of 3 puddings, fresh fruit
platter, homemade yoghurt or hot
pudding with homemade custard

Your child can choose each day if they are having a school dinner or packed lunch from home. It does not have to be same every week. You will have the menu to help you decide in advance.

Allergens & Special Diets

We have our own in-house team of nutritionists who will cater for any children with allergens and will look at every special diet on a case-by-case basis. Our team will speak with the family / carers to understand their needs and create a menu that will be nutritious and safe.



Pupil Premium

- Pupil premium is additional funding which is allocated to schools based on the number of children they have who meet a certain criteria linked to household income.
- Your child will get Universal Free School Meals until the end of year 2. If you fit the criteria below, this will be extended to year 6 and include the additional pupil premium funding (which the school receives directly to help support your child).
- You can apply here: <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/kent/>
- If you are in receipt of any of the following, your child will be entitled to a pupil premium grant:
 - Income Support
 - Jobseeker's Allowance (income-based)
 - Employment and Support Allowance (income-based)
 - Child Tax Credit based on income below £16,190
 - The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
 - Asylum Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
 - Working Tax Credit 'run on' (this is the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
 - Families who receive any level of Working Tax Credit are not entitled to free school meals

We will now let you know which class your child will be in for their Reception year and their cohort for the first two half days.

Across the whole school, at the end of each academic year, we consider if classes need to be mixed.

Please pick up a questionnaire and a FAQ's sheet before you leave and look out for the transition session booking form via email tomorrow.

If you have any questions, please come and talk to us before you go. Many thanks for your time this evening and we look forward to seeing you at the transition events soon.

This presentation will be available on our school website - www.sandgateprimaryschool.co.uk

