

Starting school is an important step for both you and your child. As teachers, our aim is to make this time as happy and reassuring as we can. We believe your child's first year with us is vital, as it will lay the important learning foundations for years to come.

You are the most important person in your child's life. Your interest, praise and encouragement will help them to grow in confidence and therefore learn successfully.

We want to work in partnership with parents, to give your child the very best start in school.

Please talk to your child about starting school and begin to prepare them by, for example, giving them the opportunity to wear their school uniform and walking past the school.

The early years at home are those in which a child learns more than at any other time in his or her life. It would be helpful if when your child starts school that he/she could do some of these things:

- Go to the toilet unaided
- Wash and dry their hands
- Get dressed and undressed
- Do up their shoes
- Put on and take off their coat
- Open and close their lunchbox
- Use a knife, fork and spoon

How Can I Help?

This section has been written to give you more general ideas on how you can help prepare your child for starting school. You may already use many of the ideas suggested or have ideas of your own.

- Encourage your child to discuss what they are doing or what they have done.
- Play make believe games in which you can act out different roles.
- Read and share books with your child and encourage them to handle books correctly.
- Tell them traditional fairy tales and sing nursery rhymes together.
- Find opportunities to practise counting. Sing number rhymes together.
- Discuss the colour of objects.
- Play games involving memory, matching or finding the odd one out.
- Give your child the opportunity to use scissors, glue, pencils, etc.
- Help them to make friends and become more independent.
- Most importantly - give them confidence! School is great fun and we are sure they will enjoy it!



Tel. 0118 981 3805

Tadley Primary School
The Green
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Email: adminoffice@tadley.hants.sch.uk

Our website: www.tadleyprimary.co.uk

Children in Reception receive free milk until age 5 and a free fruit/veg snack daily, so they don't need to bring a snack (unless providing a suitable alternative); please update the school on any allergy changes. All children need a named water bottle each day. Up to Year 2, children get free school meals or can bring a packed lunch, with Chartwells menus provided for school meal choices.



What Will My Child Need?

When your child starts school, they will need:

- a blue book bag
- a water bottle

These are all available from SkoolKit in Basingstoke but there is no requirement to have a logo.

See the uniform leaflet in your pack for more info about uniform,



Year R Information for Parents 2026-27



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Tadley School family! We are excited to get to know you and your child and hope you enjoy being part of our friendly community.

Our aim is to nurture curiosity, confidence, and a love of learning through our engaging "Learning for Life - the Tadley Way" curriculum, helping every child thrive.

This booklet provides key information about starting school, the Early Years curriculum, daily routines, staff and how you can support your child.

We value every member of our community and believe that strong partnerships with families are vital to children succeeding. We look forward to working closely with you and are always here to help with any questions.

Joanne Bruce-Carter
Headteacher

The Year R Curriculum

Children in the first year at school follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. The curriculum is planned to underpin all future learning by supporting, fostering, promoting and developing the following areas:

Prime Areas of Learning

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Your child will be given the opportunity to become a valued member of a group, develop a strong self-image as well as build upon self-esteem. Opportunities are provided for them to work cooperatively and to develop sharing and turn-taking skills.

Communication and Language

We will be encouraging confidence in speaking in different contexts. Opportunities will be provided for your child to explore, enjoy and learn about new words through a range of rich and exciting experiences.

Physical Development

Through a range of different activities, your child will be given the opportunity to develop their fine and gross motor skills and develop an understanding of how their bodies work.

Specific Areas of Learning

Mathematics

Through a range of daily opportunities, your child will explore numbers, shapes and measure through rhymes, counting and practical activities.

Literacy

Children will explore a variety of mark-making experiences before beginning to write short sentences and captions. They will explore a range of books, rhymes and complete daily phonic activities using the Little Wandle Phonics Scheme.

Knowledge of the World

Children will be given the opportunity to consider the world around them, communities, other cultures, as well as technology.

Expressive Arts and Design

Creative development is fostered through dance, music, art and practical activities.

We promote a play-based curriculum throughout the year. This is carefully planned and structured and provides opportunities for teaching and learning in all curriculum areas.

Early Years' experience should build upon what the child already knows; the content will be relevant and appropriate, matched to different levels of the children. Literacy and Numeracy activities take place daily through a range of practical and hands on experiences.



Meet the staff



Mrs Walker
Class Teacher o.6
Mon-Wed



Mrs Brant
Class Teacher o.4
Thu-Fri



Mrs Meakes
LSA



Mrs Howells
LSA



Mrs Bruce-Carter
Headteacher



Miss Mohain
Deputy Head Teacher
and SENCo

Parent Meetings

Meetings are held in Autumn and Spring to discuss progress, with a written report in Summer. Contact your child's teacher anytime with concerns.

Supporting Learning

- Reading: Taught using Little Wandle phonics and Cued Articulation; more information provided in September.
- Writing: Encourage your child's own writing style, including early scribbles, and model writing in everyday situations.
- Numeracy: Practise recognising numbers in daily life and use songs or rhymes to support counting skills.

Homework

Homework is short and enjoyable, starting once children are settled. This includes weekly phonics and a reading book, with additional activities throughout the year.

The Three Es

- Encouragement: Build confidence through praise
- Example: Model enthusiasm for learning
- Environment: Create a supportive space for learning

Key information

Tadley Community Primary School fosters inclusive, curiosity-driven learners by delivering a diverse, values-led curriculum that builds confidence, celebrates individuality, and strengthens relationships with every child and family.



We know it can be hard to say goodbye to your child, especially on the first day. We ask parents to say goodbye at the school door where we have many adults that can greet your child and support their transition into their classroom.

Children may arrive at school between 8:40am and 8:50am each day. All children should arrive by this time but if they are late they must report to the school office before going to their classroom.

In Year R we endorse coming to school on time, which will ensure that no activities are missed. It will also establish a routine for your child's school life.

School finishes at 3:20pm when your child can be collected outside the classroom door.

Illness

If your child is ill or has an appointment on a school day, please ring the office by 9:30am to notify us of your child's absence. In the case of sickness or diarrhoea, the child needs to stay at home for 48 hours after the last symptoms have been seen. Any further questions on health please speak to the school office.

Medicines

Should your child require to take prescribed medication during the school day you must complete an Administration of Medicines form that can be obtained from the school office. All medicines must be handed in to the school office at the beginning of the day.

Health Questionnaire

This will be sent home and needs to be completed and returned to school as soon as possible so that we are fully informed of any medical conditions that your child may have. The questionnaire will be sent home annually but should there be any changes to your child's health, it is your responsibility to notify the school.