



TELFORD INFANT SCHOOL
LOVING LEARNING

**Every child to be an inquisitive, resilient and successful learner
who is eager for their next challenge.**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN STARTING IN
RECEPTION 2021**

Latest update – 23rd November 2020

Additional information will be added as parents ask us further questions.

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to get in contact with us:

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1) Can I visit the school?

In pre-COVID times we enjoyed welcoming visitors to our school. Each year the school hosted a number of Open events in the Autumn and early Spring terms for prospective parents and children so that they could experience the wonderful learning that takes place in our school first hand. We usually had over a 100 visitors across these events!

Sadly due to COVID-19 we are unable to offer visits this year. We hope that prospective parents and carers will find our website a helpful starting point and we have set up a dedicated page on our website sharing information for new families which is regularly updated.

We are filming a virtual tour of our school on 4th December and this will be uploaded onto our website as soon as possible afterwards.

2) How many children do you have in a class and how many children are there in the school?

In line with government regulations for infant aged children, we have a maximum of 30 children in a class.

Telford Infants is a 3 form entry school - this means we have 3 classes in each year group - 3 in reception, 3 in Year 1 and 3 in Year 2.

We have a maximum of 270 children on the school roll.

3) What are the induction arrangements for Reception children at Telford Infants?

Shortly after Warwickshire Admissions Service have completed admission arrangements for our school we contact parents to introduce welcome you and your child to our school and to invite you to various events. These include:

- An evening Welcome Meeting for new parents in June.
- A play and stay session with half of their classmates (approx 45 minutes in the morning) in June/July – parent stays with their child.
- A whole class storytime session (approx half an hour in the afternoon) in June/July– children have a story in their new classroom with their teacher and teaching assistant. Parents stay for tea on the school site.
- A session for the children to come and explore their classroom (approx 1 hour – sessions are in the morning and afternoon) in July – parents drop off and collect.
- A login to Tapestry (an online learning journal) so you and your child can engage in summer learning challenges and learn more about the teachers and classroom before September.
- At the start of the Autumn term we offer home visits for all our new children during the first week or so of the school year.
- During the second week of term children attend on a part time basis in groups of 15, before moving to full time as a class of 30 in the third week.
Arrangements may change should COVID-19 restrictions not be lifted by summer 2021. Feedback from parents about the arrangements we put in place for September 2020 induction was extremely positive.

4) Do you provide wrap round care and extra curricular clubs?

Wrap round care – we run our own Breakfast and After School Club called SMILES.

Breakfast Club runs during term time from 7.45am (£4.20 per session) till the start of school and After School Club runs from 3.20pm to 6pm (£10.00 per session).

Parents of children due to start in Reception at Telford Infants in September 2021 are welcome to apply for a place at SMILES once they have been offered and accepted a place at our school through Warwickshire Admissions Service.

Extra curricular clubs – these are currently on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions but the school intends to reinstate after school clubs as soon as it is safe to do so. We offer a range of clubs run by external providers including Cookery, Craft, Dance, Football, Spanish, Tennis.

5) What are the arrangements for school dinners?

Hot lunches are freshly prepared in our school kitchen and are free of charge for the children during their time at Infants. There is a daily choice of 2 main meals, including a vegetarian option, and all dietary requirements are catered for. Alternatively parents may wish to provide a packed lunch for their child.

Lunches are eaten in our school hall and each class has its own dedicated Midday Supervisor who remains with that class throughout their 3 years at Telford Infants.

During the current COVID-19 restrictions children in Years 1 and 2 eat their lunch in their classrooms.

6) My child has a special educational need – can I speak to someone regarding his specific needs before I make a decision which school to send him to?

Yes, please contact the school office and our Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENDCo), Mrs Suzanne Penton, will get in touch with you.

7) **I am considering delaying the Reception start date for my child for a year, what should I do?**

Below is a link to Warwickshire's Local Authority information on deferring a school place, which would be your starting point to find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/applying-school-place-reception/deferringstartingschool/2>

8) **What is the school uniform code and where can I purchase it from?**

Our children are very proud of their smart, practical school uniform which consists of:

Royal Blue sweatshirt or cardigan

White or pale blue polo shirt

Grey trousers or shorts

Grey pinafore dress or skirt

Sensible black shoes

Plain socks of tights – grey, black or blue

Summer – light blue and white gingham dress. Sandals (not open toed) to be worn with socks

Items of uniform with the school logo can be purchased from our online school shop:

https://www.telford-inf.warwickshire.sch.uk/web/school_uniform/320423

and all other items can be bought from large supermarkets/other high street stores.

Our PTA regularly hold their popular Second Hand Uniform sales where quality items of uniform are sold at bargain prices. You do not need to purchase a book bag for your child as the PTA kindly provide this as a welcome gift for all children. Class teachers will let you know when your child will need a PE kit which will not be straight away.

9) **What is the IT provision at Telford Infants?**

Technology is an integral part of everyone's life and at Telford Infants we use a range of hardware and software to across the curriculum. Each classroom has an interactive Cboard that supports whole class teaching and develops the children's computing skills. Across the school we have iPads that the children learn to use independently to support their learning in a range of different ways. We place importance online safety and teach all the children to be aware of how to use technology responsibly. Other IT provision includes cameras, Beebots and laptops. We subscribe to a wide range of websites that your child will have access to at home to support their learning in school.

10) **What are your outdoor areas like?**

The children benefit from:

2 playgrounds – one at the front of the school and one at the back

A recently refurbished Reception Outdoor classroom

A large field shared with Telford junior School

A school garden and quiet area

A large 'Wishing Wood' where the children can participate in Forest Schools – further information can be found on our website.

Our forthcoming virtual tour will show you all of these areas.

11) **How do you teach children to read?**

We place a great emphasis on reading and believe that every child should develop a lifelong love of books and enjoyment of reading. Opportunities for Reading at our school

are varied from free choice from our class book corners, online eBooks, playtime trolleys or the school library to regular shared, guided, whole class and individual reading sessions.

Children are provided with a range of different text styles and the books children are encouraged to read will match the phonics phase they are learning. At Telford Infants we follow the Twinkl phonics programme to deliver the Department for Education's Letters and Sounds Phonics scheme.

Once children have reached Phase 5 phonics, they follow a colour book banded system made up of books from a variety of reading schemes. Each colour band allows the children to choose from an exciting range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry books.

Our library is open plan and situated at the heart of our school for everyone to enjoy. All classrooms have their own book corners, stocked with reading materials to tempt readers of all abilities and interests.

Much of our curriculum is taught through exciting texts and we always enjoy celebrating special literary events such as National Poetry Day and World Book Day. We have also really enjoyed visits from children's authors.

**12) How are the children sorted into classes? Can my child be with their friends?
Can twins be in the same class?**

We welcome children to Telford Infants from over 20 different pre-school settings across Leamington and Warwick. Children are sorted into classes based on their term of birth (birthday), any SEND (special educational need), EAL (English as an Additional Language need), gender (boy or girl). This ensures that there is a balance across the three classes. Some children from the same preschool setting are placed in the same class, but this is not always possible. We always take the opportunity to place twins in separate classes to help them develop their individuality and friendships. The children get to learn and play together across the three classes several times a days at playtime, lunchtime and in the outdoor classroom.

13) Will my child be helped if they cannot go to the toilet independently?

We encourage all the children to be as independent as possible. However, if your child needs support with toileting this should be discussed with the school before your child starts. Our comprehensive Toileting Policy can be found on our website.

14) Can I come into the classroom and settle my child in the mornings?

Once the children have had their induction sessions with us in the summer term, we ask that parents say goodbye to their children at the classroom door. The majority of children settle quickly and our reception team are very skilled at helping both the children and parents with this transition to school.

15) What is your Music provision like?

We love Music and singing at Telford Infants and are very lucky to have two music specialists on the staff team. Our aim is to inspire a love of music across a wide range of genres and to develop children's understanding of music through active involvement in performing, composing and appraising.

Children enjoy music lessons in their classes and come together as a whole school in assemblies to learn and sing songs. Year 2 children learn to play the recorder and djembe drums. Please note that there are some restrictions currently for schools' teaching of music under COVID-19 restrictions – we can't wait for these to be lifted!

Music features heavily at various events across the school calendar such as Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Leavers' production.

In Years 1 and 2 parents can sign up for their child to learn the violin taught by a teacher from Warwickshire County Music Service, there is a charge for this.

16) What does PE look like?

We are exceptionally proud of our PE provision and we were first awarded the afPE Quality Mark for Physical Education and Sport in May 2016. In December 2019 we were awarded the Mark again for a further three years.

Our aim is to inspire our children to develop a life-long interest in physical activity, whatever their ability. We believe that PE promotes good health and is also essential for children's wellbeing. Our PE curriculum allows children to develop their gross motor skills alongside their fundamental movement skills. It is inclusive and allows all children to achieve at their level and work towards improving their personal goals leading to an active, healthy lifestyle.

We use part of our Sports Premium grant to employ a fulltime PE Apprentice who works across the whole school supporting PE lessons and who leads gross and fine motor interventions, including 'Balanceability' which helps children develop skills to cycle independently.

We offer a range of sports in school and in addition, we offer a range of sports led by sports coaches at after school clubs (these are currently on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions). Our PE Coordinator leads weekly assemblies celebrating sports achievements outside of school and creates a termly Sports Newsletter for families.