



Willaston School, School Road, Willaston, Douglas, Isle of Man



Department of Education, Sport and Culture
Rheynn Ynsee, Spoyrt as Cultoor

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Dear parents of children due to start Willaston School in September

RE: Induction for new "Reception" children

Please allow me to officially welcome you and your child to Willaston School. Preparations are well underway at school to make your child's first year with us a fantastic success and a truly positive first step in their formal education. We can't wait to welcome you and your child to our friendly school and we will do all that we can to make this important time in your life as worry free as possible! We hope that this pack of information answers any questions you have, but please, if you remain unsure about anything then please do get in touch with us. No issue or query is too small!

On Wednesday 3rd July, your child is invited into school from 2pm. This will give the incoming Reception class an opportunity to experience the school environment, their new classroom and meet their teacher. Parents are invited to come in as well, and once the children are settled, we will be politely asking you to leave! This is the hardest part for any parent, but we absolutely promise you that it is the best thing for the children for you to leave as quickly as possible. It is anticipated that parents can then enjoy a couple of hours of freedom before returning to pick their children up at 3.20pm, just before all the other children finish.

On Thursday 4th July, your child is invited back into school for a second time, this time arriving at 9.30am, and parents can collect them again at 11.30am from the front playground. Again, there is no need for parents to stay. This second visit will allow the children to experience a school playtime, and should parents have any questions following the previous day's visit, there is an obvious opportunity to raise these with the school straight away.

We will assume that you and your child are able to attend the induction days as detailed in this letter, unless you contact us to tell us differently. We would urge you to make every effort to attend on these days as it will give your child the opportunity to meet all the other children who will be starting school with them.

Please note that induction visits are staggered so the information you are receiving re times and dates may be different to that which other parents are receiving. Please do not be alarmed if other parents have been given different details. Stick to the times in this letter addressed to you.

I also have great pleasure in enclosing some key information for you in this pack. First and foremost, please find a copy of our Parent Handbook which contains all of the information you need in advance of starting your child at Willaston. In addition to this, there is a letter from your child's new teacher, Miss Irving and Senior Education Support Officer, Mrs Brain.

Miss Irving will be your child's teacher, and is an extremely qualified and experienced practitioner, especially working with our younger age-groups of children. Mrs Brain is one of our longest serving members of staff at Willaston and is one of the most experienced SESOs in the Isle of Man. Your child will be in very good hands!

We've also included a "poster" which acts as a guide to helping your child enjoy the exciting journey to becoming school-ready.

I'll finish off with a few practical points which will be of interest:

- We currently have 19 children registered for the class with a reasonably even boy/girl split. This is around the size of a usual incoming cohort at Willaston School, and by no means the largest intake we've ever had. The children have a very spacious area in a gorgeous classroom within the main school building that enjoys a connected shared zone across the upper end of the room. The classroom enjoys easy access to a dedicated outdoor area which is reached via steps from an external door within the teaching space.
- School uniform can be ordered and purchased from Promenade T-Shirts. We would recommend not purchasing this until towards the end of July or during the August school holiday closures. Children have a habit of growing!
- The school has an active Twitter feed and Facebook page. If you haven't already done so, check them out and keep your eye on them as they give a good flavour of what goes on and act as a window into the life of Willaston School. We also have a website at <http://willaston.sch.im> which has a wealth of additional information.

We are also holding a live Information Briefing for parents via Zoom at 2pm on Monday 17th June where we will introduce you to the teachers and talk to you about some of the key information you need ready for September. We'll go through the contents of this induction pack, and talk to you about the consents form too. And don't worry, you won't need to remember everything as we'll make a recording of the webinar available on our website, and on your child's first official day in September, we'll hold a brief physical meeting with all of our new parents too - details about that will be shared in the webinar. Please see the school's social media feeds for the link to register for the webinar.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school.



Mr M Kelly
Executive Headteacher
