



Milton Mount Primary School
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Frequently Asked Questions for Prospective Parents

We have put together the below questions, either asked by prospective parents already, or put together by us as things we think you might like to know when choosing the right school for your family.

How do you settle children and support their transition?

In the Summer before your child starts school, we will work really closely with nurseries and you as parents/carers, to get to know your child's needs and interests. We will visit them at nursery and invite them in to 'stay and play' here at school on multiple occasions. By working closely with nurseries we will have a good understanding of established friendships from nurseries too, and try to put children in classes with people they know, if appropriate. Before starting in September we will also come and visit your child at home, in the place they feel most confident, to reintroduce ourselves and give families an opportunity to ask any final questions. In September we will stagger the entry for around a week to allow the children to settle in small familiar groups where we can spend time nurturing and building a relationship with them, and helping them to develop friendships. By the time they start full time in September they will already be familiar with the adults in the setting, and us with them. Our children always settle in really positively and we love this time getting to know our new little ones!

How many adults are in the setting?

Each class in Early Years has a Teacher and a full time Teaching Assistant. We have a mixture of full and part time teachers and teaching assistants, and we would ensure where we can that if a class had 2 part time teachers, then the TA would be full time, or vice versa. Your child will get to know all the adults and children in the setting really well as they will spend time in our shared and outside area as well as in their own classroom.

What's the school lunch like?

All children get a free hot school meal for their first 3 years of school, and we encourage all children to have a nice warm meal to get through the day! Lunches are catered by a company called Chartwells and are heated up on site. Chartwells have a website you can see example menus on. If your child has food allergies or dietary requirements, you can specify this with Chartwells and ensure your child gets a meal that is appropriate for them. If you would rather send your child in with a healthy packed lunch, you are very welcome to do so.

We are lucky here in that Early Years, children have their own 'small hall' to eat their lunch in, and children are supervised by lunchtime staff in this time, who they get to know well throughout the year. After lunch they have a playtime on the playground. This may be just Early Years, or we may mix with Year One.

Are there clubs, before and after school?

If you're a working parent on full-time hours, you'll need to think about the work-school juggle. Whereas some nurseries run from 8am to 6pm, our school hours are 8.50am to 3.10pm – and that's a big difference!

Our school can provide before and after school care through an outside company called Treetops. You are able to book online in advance for regular or one off sessions, from 7:30 am and until 6pm after school.

How do you communicate with parents?

Communication with parents is very important to us. You know your child best and by building positive relationships with families, we can work together to really support your child's development. We have an open door policy and (in a COVID-19 free world) would always be around after school to catch up about your child, share things we are proud of, or talk about how we can support each other. We would also usually have a home-school communication book that gets checked first thing every morning. This is a good way to let us know important information, and saves you trying to tell us things in the morning rush! We use an online platform called Tapestry to share your child's learning at school, so you might receive photos, or little videos of the things they have been up to in the day, which parents always love! We also have parent's consultation evenings twice a year and your child will receive a report at the end of every term, so that you are kept up to date with how they are getting on. It's really important that you feel there will be someone on hand to talk to if you have any worries or concerns and our Head teacher and Deputy Head teachers are also around every morning, or to make appointments with if you ever needed to speak with them too.

What's our take on behaviour?

We have a positive approach to behaviour here. We spend a lot of time learning about our school 'Golden Rights', which are 'be kind', 'be safe', 'be fair', and 'try your best'. A big part of young children's development is learning how to behave, follow rules and routines, and develop social understanding, and this will be an ongoing process through their first year of school. We like to be able to reward children instantly by putting them on the 'superstar board' when they have demonstrated the Golden Rights. We also have a special circle time on a Friday where we talk about who has been particularly kind/safe etc., and children work to gain a golden leaf to put on the tree, which is very exciting! We also celebrate a 'Star of the Week' from each class on a Friday. We have a behaviour policy on our website which details how we support behaviour throughout the school.

What facilities does the school have?

We are really lucky here at Milton Mount, to have some fantastic facilities on offer for your child to engage with. Firstly our school forest! We absolutely love our on-site woodland area where children take part in forest school sessions for 6 weeks a year from year 1-6. Early Years visit every Friday afternoon which is our favourite time of the week! There is a music area, campfire, dens, a bug hotel, and so many learning opportunities we can utilise. There is also a separate pond area where we can pond dip in the Summer. We also have a children's kitchen equipped with everything we need to make some tasty recipes. Every year group has access to computers and Ipads, and we also have a beautiful library with a dedicated librarian, to nurture our children's love of books. We are also lucky to have specialist teachers further up the school for music, French, PE, and forest school.

What does a typical day look like?

Young children learn best through play, and we carefully design our day to maximise the opportunity for children to choose what interests them. Most of the day is dedicated to 'discovery time', where children play and engage with learning through our carefully planned environment. They may choose to play in the classroom with children from their own class, or in the shared area or outside where children from all three classes can mix. They will have access to our mud kitchen, woodwork area, music area, sand, water, playdough, role play, mark making, art, stories, maths, small world, bikes, climbing, exploring in the garden, the list is endless! During this time, the adults in the setting would be around to guide and support children in their play and learning. This might be through modelling, challenging them, providing a resource,

questioning. We may also use this time to work with small groups on specific skills, and read 1:1 with all children each week. During the day we will also have whole class carpet times where we introduce new learning or practise skills such as phonics and maths. Every morning we also stop and have a snack time altogether where the school can provide a piece of fruit and a cup of milk.

How do you support children with additional needs?

We have two part time Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinators (SENCO's) who work split hours across the week. They will work with you as parents, with your child, and with teachers, to ensure that children are supported to make progress, and develop emotionally, socially and academically. They may also work with outside agencies such as Speech and Language. If your child has additional needs or you are concerned that they may need additional support upon starting school, we would urge you to get in touch with our SENCO's as soon as possible, so that we can support your child as much as we can and ensure they have the best start to school. We will work closely with nurseries too to ensure we can understand your child's individual needs, and may undergo extra transition visits in the Summer term if needed.

We really hope these questions and answers are useful and we urge you to put your child and their personality at the heart of your decision. One size doesn't fit all, so you need to imagine where they will be happy and really thrive. We are really disappointed that we haven't been able to show parents and carers around our school properly- we are really proud of our setting and we would have loved for you to see it!

Please do attend one of our upcoming zoom sessions if you have any further questions, or email us at admissions@miltonmount.co.uk and we will get back to you. Whatever your decision, we hope you find the right school for your child.

Kind Regards,

The Early Years team