

## Top tips for starting Nursery.

Starting nursery is a major change in your child's life and we hope that this leaflet will outline key areas and changes that you, as a family, will experience. At Offwell, we try to ensure a smooth settling in process, but understand that this can be an emotional period for you and your child, especially if you have not had any significant time apart.

Ash class welcomes children from the term in which they turn 3 (Rising 3's) until the end of their Reception year. We teach the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, suitably differentiated to meet the individual needs of each child. Our timetable is arranged to allow sessions for all of the children to interact, as well as more guided group times for individual year groups. You may like to take a look at this document, that outlines 'What to expect when' in a child's development and how you can support your child at home. [What-to-expect-in-the-EYFS-complete-FINAL-16.09-compressed.pdf](http://foundationyears.org.uk/What-to-expect-in-the-EYFS-complete-FINAL-16.09-compressed.pdf) ([foundationyears.org.uk](http://foundationyears.org.uk))

We currently have 4 experienced members of staff and aim to build strong relationships between home and school, as we recognize that partnership working is the optimum way to support your child's development. Mrs Hunt currently teaches the class from Monday to Thursday, with Miss Hansford and Mrs Jordan full time and Mrs Sutton teaching on a Friday.



Mrs Hunt



Miss Hansford



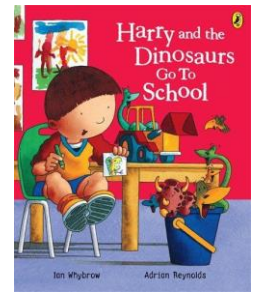
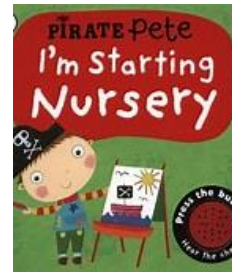
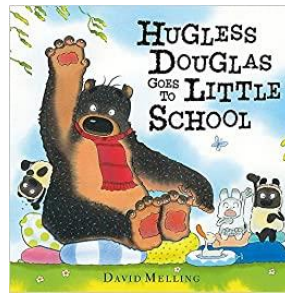
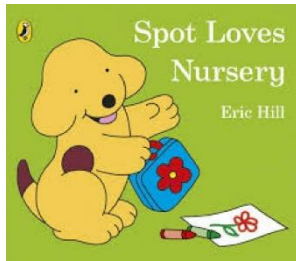
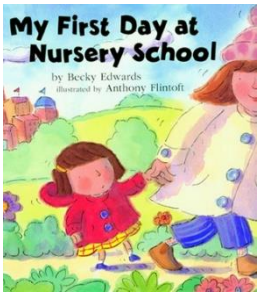
Mrs Jordan



Mrs Sutton

Tips to support transition:

1. **Don't pretend it's not happening!** Regularly talk about 'school' as the more you talk about it, the easier it will be. Perhaps drive past a few times, or park in the village hall car park and have a little walk through the village. Help your child to recognise members of staff and their names, from the pictures above. Try reading picture books about starting nursery together, so that they build more concrete expectations of what nursery will be like. Try to keep it light-hearted and part of everyday conversation. Find photos of you and other family members at school, and chat about happy times you spent there, or role play going to school with your child's favourite toys. Letting the staff know names of family members and pets will also be helpful, so that we can talk about home with your child and build that link between us.



2. **Getting used to separation.** If your child isn't used to being apart from you, it can take a few weeks for them to settle, depending upon how many sessions they attend. Children have no concept of time and will not understand that you may only be apart for a short time, so it is important to reassure them that members of staff will stay with them, until you return, and that you **will** return!

We are happy to build up the length of sessions over the first few weeks and will always contact you if we feel you need to return earlier - but please be reassured that this is seldom the case. There may be tears as you leave, and possibly again on your return, but in between there is usually lots of fun! Once you have signed up to our Tapestry on-line Learning Journals, we will be able to send photos to show you what your child is getting up to, after you have left.

It is fine to bring a favourite toy or 'snuggly' in to school to ease transition, if needed, but we ask that this is limited to one item and that, when the time is right, we wean your child off of this, to keep 'school things at school and home things at home.' This avoids the heartbreak of special items getting lost or broken and ensures fairness and parity for all children.

Be prepared for the answer 'nothing,' when you ask your child "what did you do today?" Sometimes they just need to process it all first and then often chat away over tea or at bedtime.

3. **Getting used to routines.**

Please minimise change, such as moving bedrooms, a few weeks before starting nursery if at all possible, as this is a big enough transition in itself. Keeping everything else as settled as possible will help your child to take it in their stride.

Perhaps practise the school morning routine, including getting dressed and eating breakfast in time to leave. We all know that feeling of arriving somewhere late and in a rush - not the best way to start a day! The school gates open at 8.40 with all children asked to be in class by 8.45. We may agree some individual changes to this, if we have several new children starting on one day however, to ease the transition and ensure a member of staff is available to be 1-1 with your child, if required.

Your child may be extra tired after nursery so be prepared for sleeping routines to alter slightly and perhaps a little more irritability too!

#### 4. What should I provide?

Please dress your child in comfy clothes and make sure they can pull clothing down or up easily when they go to the toilet. Despite our best attempts, clothes will inevitably become dirty through your child's involvement in activities, so please provide **spare clothes**, including pants, socks and pull ups if appropriate. If toileting accidents are likely, or if you are potty training, please discuss this fully with staff.

Children should also have a **sunhat** and/or **waterproof coat** depending on the weather and you are advised to apply sun cream before school. Please name all clothes clearly. All children should have a named **water bottle**. We provide a choice of water or milk, alongside a fruit snack mid-morning, but feel free to send in your own fruit snack if you so wish. Nursery children may buy hot school dinners or provide their own packed lunches. Information about school dinners can be found on our website, or alternatively contact Mrs Davey at [admin@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk)

**Please ensure that you have fully briefed staff of any medical, religious or cultural needs and completed relevant permission slips. If English is an additional language, please provide staff with key words in your home language, such as toilet, tired, hungry, drink. Thank you.**

#### 5. Illness.

If your child is ill, or will not be attending nursery, please inform the school first thing in the morning. Our policy is that if your child has been sick or had diarrhoea, they must stay at home until 48 hours after their last bout. We will inform families of any known cases of infectious diseases such as chickenpox, that we have been made aware of.

Please do ask if you have any further concerns or queries. You can email Mrs Hunt at [shunt@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:shunt@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk) We are here to help and truly believe in the importance of building relationships with both you and your child. We look forward to getting to know you all very soon.