



Home visits play an important part in ensuring your child's transition into school is a positive and happy experience for the whole family. A home visit takes place in your home by school staff that will include your child's new class teacher. These visits are planned following acceptance of a place at the school. They enable a two-way partnership to be formed with the home and school to support a smooth start and successful school experience for your child.

## Supporting your child

Children may often act differently in their home environment. A home visit provides the teacher with an excellent insight into understanding your child's interests and what they like to do. It is an opportunity for your child to get to know the teacher on a one to one basis and establish a trusting relationship. This then helps with your child settling in by knowing a familiar face on their first day. The main aim is to help your child settle and become happy and relaxed at school as quickly as possible.

## Supporting you

Staff recognise that parents may feel anxious about their child starting school. The home visit will provide you with an opportunity to speak about any concerns, ask questions and to talk about your child in the comfort of your own home. It is perfect opportunity to find out about how you can regularly share information between yourself and school.

## What to expect

- Your child's teacher and a member of staff will come to your home at a time that has been confirmed with you.
- The teacher will discuss arrangements with you prior to the visit to ensure all corona virus health and safety requirements are met to ensure you and your family feel safe. This may include arranging the visit to take place outside in the garden or on the doorstep.
- They will bring some small items from the classroom to share with your child. This may include a book of photos, a toy or a books.
- The format may consist of one adult in conversation with you and the other adult getting to know your child. They may play with your child and encourage them to show their favourite things at home.
- If you provide permission, the teacher will take a photo of your child to use in the setting.
- The teacher will provide some information about the routine of the day and recap on important dates, drop-off and collection times.
- They will ask you if you have any questions or if you would like to share any relevant information about your child.
- The meeting will last for approximately 15-20 minutes.

**We hope you enjoy your visit and thank you for allowing us into your home.**



## What is a home visit?

A home visit is an informal visit to your home by school staff. This is usually your child's new class teacher and practitioner. It is part of the transition process following acceptance of your child's place at their allocated school. It is an opportunity to begin to build the relationship between home and school that will support a smooth start and successful school experience for your child.

## Why do we make home visits?

A positive school experience starts with positive relationships that are formed between school and home. Home visits are an effective way for our staff to get to know both you and your child and vice versa. It is an opportunity to spend some time in a relaxed atmosphere, exchanging information and planning your child's start at school. You will also have the chance to ask questions and express any concerns you may have. It is not an inspection of you or your home! You are under no obligation to accept a home visit and a meeting can be arranged at school if you prefer. All information is considered confidential and will not be shared without your permission.

## Who will do the home visit?

Your home visit will usually be attended by your child's new class teacher and practitioner. We will let you know if a different member of the team will be coming on the visit.

## How long will the visit be?

Each home visit is scheduled for a maximum of 20 minutes.

## What can I expect to happen during our home visit?

Your child's class teacher and practitioner will visit your home together. It is best to make sure that your child is home during the visit so that they can start forming relationships with their new teachers by welcoming them into their home. One member of staff will get to know your child by playing with them.

We will bring some photographs and toys from school but love to share your child's favourite toys as well. The other member of staff will have a chat with you and capture some notes about your child's interests and favourite things to do. You will also have the opportunity to ask any questions or discuss any concerns that you might have.

## Do I need to prepare anything for our home visit?

No, you don't need to prepare anything. If you have any paperwork that you are unsure of or need help with, please let us know and we can help you when we are there. This is a chance for us to focus on your child, so it is a good idea to turn off the television and remove any distractions, for example family pets. Your child will probably be excited to show us their favourite toys so have these available. You might also want to think about any questions or worries that you have and possibly write them down to remind yourself but don't worry if you think of something after the visit as you can contact us at any time.

## How can I arrange a socially distanced home visit

Please talk to your child's teacher prior to the visit to discuss how the visit can still go ahead alongside safety considerations to prevent the spread of infection. (corona virus). This could include meeting in the garden, keeping a distance inside from each other with the teacher wearing a mask, keeping the window open to allow ventilation.