



Starting School At Ledbury Primary 2023



Dear Parents,

We are delighted that you have chosen Ledbury Primary School as the school for your child. This brochure has been written with you and your child in mind.

We hope that the information within it will help your child settle into school and gain the most from their experiences here. We also hope that it will provide some of the answers to the many questions that you may have about your child's start to their first year at school.

We will be giving you and your child a special 'Starting school' pack which will comprise of a few little activities that you could do with your child in order to help us get to know them better. Activities could include collecting photos of friends, family, pets, places you visit over the summer holidays, pictures/paintings, colour collages, e.g. a red picture, made up of red objects, papers, etc. number collages, e.g. 1 dog, 2 pigs, 3 cows etc. and favourite foods. We would also encourage the children to send us a postcard if they go on holiday or have a day out. These postcards, along with the scrapbooks, provide interesting talking points at the start of the term.

Starting school is a very special milestone for you and your child. We are here to support you and your child every step of the way to ensure all children experience the very best transition into school. There will be numerous opportunities for you and your child to come in to school, before they start in September.

We would welcome you to have a look at our school website and EYFS Twitter pages @REC_LPS @RRP_LPS @LPS-HFD, or #LPSeyfs to get a flavour of some of the exciting opportunities your child will get in their first year of school. Your child's first year of school really is magical. They will grow and achieve so much and we are looking forward to sharing this with you.

We will give your child an excellent start to their school life. With your support we are confident that your child will achieve both success and happiness.

Warm regards

Mrs Rachel Ussher

Headteacher

What is our school mission and vision?

At Ledbury Primary School, it is our mission to inspire every child so they are determined to succeed and be the best they can be. This is what we believe in. This is supported by our vision.

Mission Statement

Determined to Succeed

Vision Statement

At Ledbury Primary School we will all:

- Achieve our best
- Love life and learning
- Be confident and happy
- Show respect, responsibility and resilience



Transition: How will my child start school?

Over the next term we will be making contact with your child's pre-school setting. This will either be through a visit, if possible, or a telephone call, which will enable us to obtain valuable information about your child, prior to their school start. In addition to this, you and your child will have several opportunities to come in to school before they start in September.

Transition sessions

We would like to invite your child to two story sessions where they will have the opportunity to explore their new classrooms and meet their new teachers. You will be encouraged to leave your child in their classrooms, but you will not have to go far! Our amazing PTA will provide you with tea, coffee and biscuits in the main hall where you can get to know the other parents and meet our Senior Leadership Team. If your child usually attends Little Wrens during these sessions, staff will take your child through to the Reception classrooms and collect them afterwards.

Story session 1	Tuesday 27th June 11-11:30am
Story session 2	Wednesday 5th July 2:15-2:45pm

Parents Meeting for our new children

We will be holding a new parents meeting in the main hall on **June 20th at 6.30pm**. This will give us an opportunity to give you some more information about your child's first year at school and allow you to ask any questions that you may have.

Home Visits

We offer every family the opportunity for your child's class teacher and their teaching assistant to visit you and your child in your home. We do this so that we can meet your child in a place where they feel secure and safe enough to ask questions and get to know us. You will also have a chance to talk about any worries or ask any questions that you may have. The visits last for around 20 minutes. Home visits will take place on **Wednesday 6th September** and **Thursday 7th September**. You will be able to make an appointment at the parents meeting.

Whole school move up day

On **Thursday 6th July** all the children at Ledbury Primary School move up to their new teacher for a taster morning. If your child is not at Little Wrens you should bring your child to the front office at 9am where they will be met by their class teacher and taken down to the Reception classrooms. They will need to bring a water bottle and sun hat if it is warm. We will provide them with a snack during the morning. Please come to the Reception playground at 11.45am to collect them.

How will my child start school?

When your child starts school it is really important that you and your child have the support and attention from us that you deserve. With this in mind, we stagger the children's start date. The children will be split into two groups and there will be two starting dates. Starting the children in two smaller groups enables us to do everything we can to ensure your child feels happy, safe and secure. It makes the process of starting school less daunting for them. You will be notified which group your child will start in after May half term. Your child will attend on **only one** of the following times:

	Starting date
Group 1	Friday 8th September 9-11am
Group 2	Friday 8th September 1-3pm

From **Monday 11th September** all children will be attending school full time.

On your child's **first day of school** please bring your child to the Reception gate at 8:40. Reception staff will come out to the gate and meet your child. You will need to say goodbye at the gate and the children will then come into school with the staff and their friends.

We are confident that the gradual entry to school will mean that the children settle in to full-time schooling without any problems. When the children attend school on a full-time basis, it is common for them to become tired (particularly at the start of their first term). Please help your child by ensuring that they get lots of sleep and have a good breakfast. We also want the children to bring fresh water in a clearly labelled bottle to school everyday.

Children also have different reactions to starting school. Some are eager to talk about everything that they have done during the day whilst others may prefer to keep it to themselves! Both are perfectly normal responses – some children need time to think through what they have done before they share it with others. If this is the case and you wish to know what your child has been doing, please come in and ask.

Tapestry

Many Nursery settings currently use the online platform Tapestry to share your child's progress, achievements and any important messages both from school and home. If you currently have a Tapestry account the Nursery will forward these details to us when your child leaves Nursery and your account will remain active. If you don't have an account we will set you up with one once your child has started school. In Reception we use Tapestry as a communication tool between school and home where we can exchange messages and news, provide you with home learning ideas and keep you up to date with the ways we teach your child in school. Please continue to upload photos and news from home as the children love to share what they have been doing.

When does the school day begin and end?

Drop-off: School starts at 8:40am. All Reception children should arrive at Children's centre gate. The children will then be asked to say goodbye to you and come in through the gate by themselves where they will be welcomed by staff from both reception classes. The children will then walk into school all together.

Pick-up: School for the Reception children ends at 3.15pm. Please come to the bottom gate next to the Children's Centre and onto the Reception playground. Staff will dismiss the children from the classrooms directly to you. Please be patient as at the beginning of the year it can take a little while for staff to remember all the parents' faces.

What is the Reception class daily routine?

8:40	Gates open and children are welcomed by the adults in their classroom. Settling time.
9:15	Register is taken
9:20	Literacy
9:30	Free flow between the classrooms and outdoor space
11:00	Snack
11:15	Phonics
11:40	Sharing news, learning or games and stories
12:00	Lunchtime
13:00	Maths and free flow between classrooms and outdoor space
14:30	Skills teaching
15:00	Story time
15:15	Home time
And relax...take time to let your child enjoy books, do some colouring, fall into daydreaming, be creative, chat away or simply be quiet. We recommend a nightly routine we call the 3 B's- bath , book and bed . If this is put into your daily pattern, both you and your child will benefit from the consistent pattern.	

Which class will my child be in?

We have two Reception classes at LPS each with a full time teaching assistant.

Robins: Mrs Chaplin (Tues-Fri) and Mrs Mason (Mondays), supported by Mrs Kostova

Goldfinches: Mrs Pullen, supported by Miss Cotton

When making the two classes we take time to talk to the Nursery settings that the children have attended in order to ensure the children are placed in classes where they will be happy. Each class is carefully balanced and friendships are especially considered therefore we are unable to move children between classes once they have been finalised.



We strive to have a good balance of focused learning time which consists of direct teaching time and small group work as well as free flow opportunities throughout the day. When the children are not engaged in direct teaching activities, there are many opportunities for them to explore free, creative and imaginative play in either of the Reception classrooms and the outdoor space. Activities on offer are carefully planned and aim to offer the children additional learning opportunities through independent exploration.

How will I be involved in my child's first year at school?

Establishing a strong partnership with parents is incredibly important to us at Ledbury. Through working closely with you, the children will achieve much more and make greater progress throughout their time at school. There will be many opportunities throughout the school year for you to come into school and share your children's learning. Some of these events include:

- ❖ Parents Evenings
- ❖ Parent workshops in supporting children with phonics, maths and reading
- ❖ Tapestry
- ❖ Sports day
- ❖ Coffee mornings
- ❖ Stay and play session

How can I support the school?

At Ledbury we aim to develop an honest and friendly relationship that will encourage, recognise and support home and school as part of your child's everyday experience. The key to any successful partnership is effective two-way communication between yourselves and the school. We believe that by working together, parents and school will provide the support needed for your child to really enjoy coming to school and this in turn will aid your child in their learning development.

If at any time you have any concerns or issues, then please talk them through with your class teacher or the Early Years Phase Leader, Mrs Chaplin. Please be mindful of the fact that at the beginning of the morning session, the main priority for the teacher and teaching assistant is the safety and learning of the children, so it is recommended that you arrange an appointment at the end of the school day if you need to speak to either of them.

What should my child wear to school?

Daily uniform	Grey trousers / skirt / pinafore White shirt *School V neck jumper *School Tie Socks- black, grey (or white with a summer dress) Black shoes (not trainers or open toe sandals)
PE kit	*Navy T-shirt with logo Black shorts, leggings or tracksuit bottoms Trainers Named bag for storing PE kit



School shoes are a very important part of school uniform and we discourage the wearing of heeled shoes, trainers or boots.

***School uniform is available from:**

Clubsport Ledbury

24 The Homend

Ledbury

HR8 1BT

Telephone 01531 635242

www.clubsport.co.uk

Jewellery, e.g. rings, bracelets, necklaces and earrings should not be worn because of the risk associated with accidents. Small ear studs may be worn provided they are able to remove them or tape over them for P.E. Long hair should always be tied back as appropriate.

PLEASE NAME LABEL ALL COATS, SHOES AND ALL ITEMS OF SCHOOL UNIFORM INCLUDING PE KIT.

Please ensure that all clothing is named as it is really important that the children can identify their own clothes. If an item of clothing is lost then please come in to check. If it is not near to your child's peg then it may be in the lost property box.

As some children find laces difficult, it may be best to avoid these when your child starts school. Buckles or velcro are often more practical solutions.

We take part in a weekly PE lesson on a Friday. Children should come to school dressed in their PE kit and trainers. Children wear the PE kit all day and so do not need to bring their uniform.

What happens if my child is ill or absent?

If your child is absent, please let the school know by telephoning the school office before 9:00 a.m. You can also report an absence using the school App. Please also endeavour to keep the class teacher informed if your child is absent for a sustained period of time.

If your child is absent from school for any reason, other than illness, prior permission must be obtained from Mrs Ussher. Please note that family holidays in term time will **not** be authorised under any circumstances.

If your child is unwell then we would ask that you please keep your child at home until any treatment has been completed. If your child suffers from any allergies (particularly food allergies) please inform us when completing the admissions forms. This also applies to an asthma inhalers or Epipens which should be brought to school and must be named and given directly to the teacher.

School Meals

Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)

All Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children are offered a free hot meal each day. All meals are ordered through our online system called Parent Pay. Further details will follow together with your login details on your child's first day.

Pupil Premium

The Government gives extra funding to Schools called Pupil Premium. Registering your child could provide an extra £1,345 for our School. This will help to fund additional staffing and resources to deliver experiences for the children which we could not otherwise afford.

Even if you are not sure if your child is eligible, PLEASE HELP US TO OBTAIN THE EXTRA FUNDING by completing the Pupil Premium application form in the welcome pack, and returning it to school. If you have any questions or need help in completing the form, please speak to the School Office.

Any information you share will be completely confidential and claiming Pupil Premium will not affect any benefits you may receive.

See final page for Pupil Premium criteria

If your child does not want a hot meal, a healthy and balanced packed lunch is crucial as the children need plenty of energy for their busy school. Please make sure that your child has a range of healthy foods to eat and water to drink. Although it is tempting, try not to give your child too much food to eat at lunchtime.

No nuts, or nut based products, fizzy drinks or chocolate please.

Milk & Snacks

There is free fruit provided each day for the children but you are welcome to send your child with a piece of fruit from home if you wish.

Milk is provided free for children under 5 years of age and at a subsidised rate for other children in Reception. Milk is also provided free, on request, for all children in receipt of benefits-related free school meals.

Milk can be ordered through Cool Milk: <https://www.coolmilk.com/>

Information about this will be sent out in due course.

LPS PTA

The school is very fortunate to have a committed group of parents who together form our PTA. They play an essential role in school and it is through their fundraising efforts that we have been able to enhance a wide range of areas for the children, for example, new playground equipment and class sets of ipads that the children can use.

If you would like to join, please contact the school office or visit our Team LPS Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/948696442154660/>) or Twitter page.

Preparing for School – Some Helpful Hints

Many parents want to know how they can best help their child at home so that they are really prepared for starting school. We see every child as an individual and they will all be at different stages of 'school-readiness.' However, there are some areas that all children can work on in the summer before starting school.

One of the most important ways to help your child is to make them ready to meet the challenge of independence. In practical terms, this may mean giving them greater independence with dressing and undressing. For example: in preparation for PE; putting on and taking off gloves, hat and coat and hanging them up; using the toilet correctly and being able to flush after use; washing hands and drying; keeping things tidy and clearing away toys; sharing toys and being prepared to take turns; acting confidently and responsibly and being ready to listen when asked. If your child can recognise their own name when starting school this will also be of huge benefit.

The more your child can practise holding and using pencils and scissors correctly, the better. This will stand them in really good stead for starting school.

We hope that this booklet has answered some of the questions you may have about your child starting school. Children's education is a partnership between the teacher and the parent. We value your support and we hope that you will value the teacher's hard work and professional judgement.

We look forward to you and your child becoming part of the thriving community at Ledbury Primary School.

Your child may be eligible for the Pupil Premium if you get any of these benefits:

Income support

Income Based Job Seekers Allowance

Income Related Employment and Support Allowance

Child Tax Credit (provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)

Working Tax Credit “run-on” - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit

We may also be able to get extra funding if your child:

Has been looked after by the local authority for at least one day

Has been adopted from care

Has left care through special guardianship

Is subject to a child arrangement order

or

If you are a member of the Armed Forces

Useful dates to remember

Tuesday 20 th June 6.30pm	New Parents meeting in school hall
Tuesday 27 th June 11am – 11.30am	Story session in classrooms
Wednesday 5 th July 2pm – 2.30pm	Story session in classroom
Thursday 6 th July 9am – 11.45am	Taster morning
Wednesday 6 th September	Home visits
Thursday 7 th September	Home visits
Friday 8 th September 9-11am	Group 1 attends school
Friday 8 th September 1-3pm	Group 2 attends school
Monday 11 th September	Everyone begins school full time



