



2nd June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Starting School: 2020-2021

We would like to begin by offering you a warm welcome to our school and hope that you have been keeping safe during this period of time.

We recognise that starting school is a very important event and we want to ensure that when your child starts school their transition is as smooth as possible. Due to circumstances regarding Covid-19, our transition procedures will look a little different this year. Please be assured we will be doing everything we can to make this time as stress free and enjoyable for both you and your child as possible.

We always like to get to know your child and help them to feel confident about starting school in September. Whilst they are unable to visit school for transition 'stay and play' sessions over the summer term, we would still like the children to become as familiar with the school as possible under the current circumstances.

On our school website: www.hesterswayprimaryschool.co.uk, we have posted a virtual tour of the school and your child's Reception classroom. Please take the time to look through the photos with your child and talk about starting school. This will help them to become familiar with what to expect and recognise the environment when they eventually start school.

In September, we will follow a carefully planned transition process whereby children will initially start in small groups, then attend for the mornings or afternoons alongside half the class then build up to being at school full time. A full induction timetable with all the relevant information will follow in the coming weeks.

We would like to complete home visits in the first few weeks of September and will follow guidance closely to establish if it will be safe to do this. Home visits are an important part of school induction as it allows time for us to talk through any needs your child may have and provides the opportunity for us to get to know you and your child a bit better.

The alternative may be that, in place of home visits, we meet one-to-one with parents and carers at school, have a telephone conversation or via a digital online meeting, during the induction period.

In the meantime, please find some helpful tips on preparing your child for school on the sheet attached.

We look forward to meeting everyone soon and will be in touch with further information shortly.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us on (01242) 525616 or email us on: admin@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk.

Best wishes,

Mrs Gilbert-Green and Mrs Best

(Reception class teachers)