

STARTING SCHOOL



Everything you always wanted to
know as a new school parent but were
afraid to ask...

Welcome to Kidmore End CE School...



...and especially to the Foundation class

We look forward to welcoming you to Kidmore End School soon and hope that you will find this booklet answers some of the questions that you may have as a new school parent.

Some of you may already have children at the school and so will know many of the details set out here. If you do, then please share your wisdom as an “old hand” with those new parents and children to whom everything might not seem so obvious!

Novices or old-hands, we are delighted that you and your child are joining us and hope that you will all be very happy being part of our school.

WHAT UNIFORM WILL MY CHILD NEED?

Kidmore End School has an attractive and low maintenance uniform of red polo shirt with school logo, navy sweatshirt or cardigan (also with logo), navy skirt or pinafore for girls, with white or navy socks or tights in the winter, or grey trousers or shorts for boys, with grey socks. Girls may also wear smart, navy trousers. Summer uniform for girls is a red and white gingham dress (optional); for boys it is red polo shirt and shorts. You will find a full uniform list on the school website.

Uniform can be ordered and paid for online via the ParentMail website, and then will be sent home with your child. Other uniform items such as skirts, pinafores and trousers can be found in many stores in Reading or online. We also have a stock of 'pre-loved' uniform which is definitely worth a look.

☺ *Don't go mad buying uniform for your child! Work on the "one on, one off and one in the wash" principle for items such as sweatshirts, polo shirts, trousers and skirts and you will have enough. Also, don't forget that your child grows quickly – if you are dithering between two sizes get the larger one! They will have grown into it before you know!*

SHOES

Outdoor shoes: Do make sure your child has smart black outdoor shoes he/she can take on and off on their own. Velcro or buckle fastening shoes are usually better for the first few terms and will increase their independence when arriving and departing from school.

P.E. shoes: We encourage the children to have trainers for outdoor PE as their foot support is better. We tend to have bare feet when doing indoor PE. Please inform your teacher if your child has a verruca.

☺ *Remember: There may not always be someone to help your child put their shoes on – practice this task with them before they start school!*

NAME LABELS

One of the least exciting but crucial parts of your child starting school. Labelling everything is a tedious chore but is really worth doing – lost NAMED items of clothing can be returned to the owner, UN-NAMED ones often cannot. For non-sewers there are the stick on or iron-on labels, or permanent marker. At worst a biro on the label will survive several washes but do check frequently for legibility – it will gradually wash out!

You can help the School Association raise funds and organise your labels through EASY2NAME. You'll be able to get everything you need from one source, and delivery is usually very quick. The School will benefit from 20% of your order. An order form is enclosed with your pack, or order online at www.easy2name.com quoting FR-KIDMOREEND-95. There are many other label companies including M&S and John Lewis.

☺ *Don't forget to order plenty, so you can label everything that doesn't move! Coats should be labelled inside the hood.*

☺ *Don't forget to label shoes – they have a tendency to wander too!*

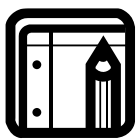
LOST PROPERTY

The school has a Lost Property box, situated on the main corridor. Remember to check in here if your child has lost anything and remind your child that they are responsible for their own things at school.



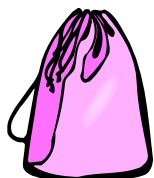
WHAT ELSE WILL MY CHILD NEED TO BRING TO SCHOOL?

Pencil case: There is no need for your child to bring a pencil case to school – all stationery is provided.



Reading folder: Your child will need a folder to keep their reading book in. These are available from the office, and should be clearly labelled.

PE Kit: The PE kit includes the following: Summer: red PE T-shirt and navy shorts, winter: red PE T-shirt, sweatshirts and jogging bottoms. Your child will be asked to wear the PE kit to school on the day that they have Physical Education or Games.



Drinks: All children need to bring in a drink of fresh water from home every day. Children are encouraged to drink when they need to and when their drinks bottles are empty we can fill them with water. Please try to find a leak-proof container – sports top bottles are ideal – and again, clearly mark them with your child's name. There is a designated space where your child should put their lunch boxes and drinks in the morning when they arrive – the class teacher will show this to you when you first arrive.

Snack: The Schools' Fruit and Veg Scheme will provide your child with a piece of fruit (or veg) every morning. Please feel free to send in an alternative piece of fruit for your child if they do not like what is on offer, but **no nuts** please.

WHERE WILL MY CHILD PUT HIS/HER THINGS?

In school your child will be given their own named cloakroom space, with a peg and a space for their wellies. Do be sure to check in your child's reading folder every day for any notes from the teacher (or – very important – party invitations!).

WHERE CAN I PARK?

This is a tricky one. Many people park on the road along by the church wall or at the front of school. The managers at The New Inn kindly allow us to use their car park at drop off and pick up times, but please park considerately and ensure that you do not block anyone in as this has caused problems in the past.



We try very hard to keep a good relationship with Kidmore End villagers and to this end we ask all parents to park sensibly on the village roads, enabling the free flow of through traffic at all times. Parents should be particularly careful not to park close to junctions, on the yellow zigzags, or in front of the mirror near the well. We encourage lift sharing – many parents make these arrangements between themselves once they have discovered who lives where; if you'd like help with this, please contact the school office. It cuts down not only on traffic but also on your time – a most precious commodity!

HOW DO WE GET INTO SCHOOL?

For security reasons all entrances to the school grounds are locked during the school day. Foundation children will be met at the Foundation gate to the outdoor area from 8.40am.

The school gates will be open from 8.30am to allow parents in older year groups to drop off earlier. Children in the Infant School should always be dropped off and collected by a parent or carer.

The front entrance to school is not used by parents and children at the start or end of the day, unless they need to visit the office, however after the boundary gates are locked between 8.55am and 3.05pm parents and visitors entering the school do so via the front entrance. If you are staying at school (e.g. to help in the classroom) please sign in the visitor's book and wear a badge.

LUNCHTIME 12.15 – 1.15pm

School meals are taken in the school hall and packed lunches in classrooms, or on the field in fine weather. Foundation children all sit in the hall together. Foundation children are always in the first sitting for lunch. After they have had their lunch children go outside to play in the main playground/ field.

School Dinners: A cooked lunch is available for your child at School and meals are free for all infant children (Foundation to Year Two). **We encourage children in Foundation to Year Two to take advantage of the Universal Infant Free School Meal offer.**

The menu is on the school website, it changes twice a year. Children will need to tell their teacher in the morning if they would like a hot meal. Your child should still bring a water bottle to school even if they are having a school lunch.

Packed Lunch: If your child is not a big eater at home he/she probably won't be a big eater at school. Pack what you would normally give them at home: sandwiches, fruit, cake, crisps etc and a drink. No fizzy drinks, sweets, chocolate or nuts please.

- ☺ *When your child first starts school don't worry if they sometimes come home with a half-eaten lunch – this is quite a common concern for new school parents but most children's appetites seem to pick up as they settle into school. We send leftover food home so you can see what has or hasn't been eaten.*
- ☺ **IMPORTANT! Please don't send in foods containing nuts, such as Nutella or cereal bars, as we have a number of children in school with nut allergies**

PARENTS' EVENINGS

Each term there will be an opportunity for you to meet your child's class teacher, the first being before October half term. However, you do not have to wait for Parents' Evening. If it is urgent write a note or email and we will arrange a time to meet. After school is usually better – mornings are not the best time as we are preparing for the day's activities. Please do ask if you have a query – sometimes things get lost in translation between school and home, especially when mediated by a four year old!

A Parents' Expectation meeting will be held early on in the new term, details to follow.

SCHOOL REPORTS

Towards the end of the Summer Term you will receive a report reviewing the progress your child has made throughout the year.



STRESSES AND STRAINS

Tears: Everyone will try to do all they can to make your child's start at school a happy one. However, there may be tearful times. The moment of separation in the morning can be hard for both you and your child. Rest assured if your child needs a hug and a cuddle there will be someone there to provide that, and they settle very quickly once indoors. Your child will come bouncing out of school at the end of the day, as if the morning was a million years ago. However, if you are really concerned that your child is unhappy then you should not hesitate to discuss your worries with the class teacher.

Tiredness: You will probably find that your child is completely exhausted (and quite possibly very bad-tempered) for the first few weeks after starting school. This is quite normal, even if they have previously been used to several sessions at playgroup or nursery each week. Don't be surprised if they want to come home from school and do very little.

Don't forget yourself either, as you may also find it quite stressful to start with – getting everyone into the car on time in the morning, doing the school run, leaving your child at school, not knowing the routine or other parents. It can all be a bit much to begin with, but it does get easier.

Headlice: Please check for these little visitors regularly, and if you find them, please treat your child before they return to school. Please also inform your child's class teacher. Weekly 'bug-busting' sessions (lots of conditioner and combing through) will help greatly.

Illness: You may find that your child falls prey to all sorts of things the minute he/she starts school. Please don't worry about them having time off school to get well again – we understand. We would rather they stayed at home and recovered than have a sick child in the classroom – bugs and colds can spread like wildfire! Please practice a good hand washing routine, as this helps prevent the spread of germs. If your child has been sick, or had diarrhoea, he/she must remain at home for at least 48 hours after the last episode.

It is our policy to only administer medicine which has been prescribed and is necessary to be given within the school day. If your child has a condition which requires ongoing medication, please discuss this with us so that we can provide appropriate support in liaison with the school nurse. Parental permission must be given for any medication in school. If your child needs doses of paracetamol to get through the day, they should probably be at home.

If your child is unwell, please email the office before 9.30am, to explain the reason for your child's absence. Alternatively, you can also report an absence on PMX (ParentMail). We have a legal duty to investigate unexplained absences as part of our Safeguarding responsibilities.

KIDMORE END SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

This is the Association of parents, teachers and governors. Many of you will have heard of Parent/Teacher Associations (PTAs). You will hear a lot about KESA during your time as a parent at the school and hopefully you will be an active member on occasions during your child's time here. KESA plays a very important part in creating a social community for the school and raising much needed funds for many things such as interactive whiteboards in

classrooms, new PE equipment, and termly enrichment days. Government funding is limited so fundraising is on-going and significantly enhances our school.

As with all committees, members come and go, but we are delighted when every year brings new members, new ideas and new talents. PLEASE consider giving a small amount of your time and talents towards enhancing school life for your child and others. Come along to a meeting and find out more, or contact the current chairperson via the School Office. A year representative is nominated to help arrange social events for parents of that year group, coordinate activities and distribute information.

CLASS ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE LISTS

The School Association holds and distributes a list of phone numbers and email addresses for parents each year group. This list is invaluable when you want to arrange parties, lifts to and from school or have your child's new friends around for tea. Please let the School Office and your year representative know if you would like your details removed from the list.

SOME OTHER THINGS YOU WILL HEAR ABOUT

Team points: Children will be put into teams when they arrive at school (Jupiter – yellow, Mars – red, Saturn – blue, Neptune – green). Points are awarded for trying their best, good behaviour, being helpful etc. At the end of each term the team points will be added up and the winning team will have a non-uniform day - usually during the last week of term.

Star of the Week: Children who have been helpful, worked hard or achieved something of note are chosen by the teacher. Stars of the week are celebrated on Monday mornings, when they receive a certificate in assembly and their photograph is displayed in the hall. Children can also bring in certificates, medals etc from out of school achievements e.g. swimming certificates, player of the week trophies.

Newsletter: Newsletters from the School are produced and distributed approximately fortnightly. Keep a look out for it as it contains school news, reminders of dates and events and other essential information. We aim to distribute most newsletters electronically using ParentMail®, and they are available on the school website.

After School Club: This is held in the school hall Mondays to Thursdays from 3.15-6.00pm . It is very informal and all children are welcome. The registration form and information are available on the school website and the email address is asc@kidmore-end.co.uk.

Breakfast Club: Breakfast Club is held in the Learning Zone from 7.30am every morning. Please email breakfastclub@kidmore-end.co.uk for more details.

Sports Day: This is held at the end of the Summer Term on the school playing field. Children compete in their colour teams with a variety of races ranging in difficulty to accommodate all capabilities. Please be sure to support your child at this event if you can – the first Sports Day can be a daunting occasion for the smallest ones! It is a great chance to meet up with other parents and families – refreshments are served, and the sun almost always shines.

Educational Visits: During the school year most classes will go on at least one educational visit. This is usually related to an area of the curriculum and is often the highlight of the year!

School website: The school website (www.kidmore-end.co.uk/) has lots of useful information including a new parents' section, photographs of recent events and a regularly updated school calendar. It is a useful first port of call, particularly if you have lost your newsletter! We also have a school Facebook page to help you keep up to date, search 'Kidmore End CE Primary School'.