



Frequently Asked
Questions
For our New Starters
In September 2020

If you have any other questions or concerns,
please contact office@ladywell.powys.sch.uk

Will we get the opportunity to meet teachers and visit the school before my child starts?

Will there be more of a transition period due to the pandemic and children being out of schools for months?

The Newtown cluster of schools have agreed that we will not be organising visits to school before the summer holiday. This is because we are already stretched putting in place the childcare for key worker pupils, and providing the “check in, catch up, prepare for summer and September” days announced by Welsh Government, all within a 30% capacity, and with reduced staffing.

We are not, at this time, expecting things to be ‘normal’ in September. Therefore, we will start with a short visit, and will ensure that there is a slow and steady build-up of time for your child, to ensure that the transition is manageable and supports their wellbeing.

If things return to ‘normal’ more quickly than is anticipated, we will still ensure a steady transition pace.

How, when and where do we order uniform?

Will it change as both schools come together as one?

Uniform is normally available from our school office, and can be pre-ordered. However, due to the current situation, supplies have been interrupted. We will try to ensure that there is a period of time at the start of term when uniform can be bought. The first few visits to school will not require uniform (as would be the case if those visits were in the summer).

The uniform is likely to change when the schools merge. The governing body of the new school decide what uniform, and when it will be available, and if there will be a ‘changeover’ period.

Children tend to grow very quickly, and most seem to need new uniform every year!

In September, will it be full time, or part time?
Will it be 5 days a week or less because of the virus?

As we are not sure what September is going to 'look like' yet, this is difficult to answer.

To begin with, school will be part time for our new starters, as part of the steady transition process which will be needed after such a long period at home.

It may be that it is still part time for all pupils!

We do not yet know whether school will be 5 days a week for pupils, or whether they will only be able to attend for some days, and continue their learning at home on other days.

If pupils are still learning at home, school is supporting parents/carers with lots of topics and suggestions for learning through play and practical activities, which is the most effective way for young children to learn.

What do I need to do to prepare my child?
What do I need to have ready?

*To help your child prepare, you can watch the 'Meet the Staff' video with them.
Children often like to do this more than once!*

There are also a number of weekly online assemblies on our Facebook page which they may enjoy, and they will get to see the type of things we are doing, as well as seeing more of staff and other pupils.

If your child is not yet toilet trained, this is an ideal opportunity to get them confident. They should be toilet trained before starting school.

Encouraging independence in daily self-care is also helpful – things like, being able to put on a coat, zip it up, put shoes on, dress and undress, feed themselves with a knife and fork.

*We have a healthy snack policy, so a named pot for fruit/veg would be useful.
If your child is going to have a packed lunch, they will need a lunch box.*

School will provide each child with a water bottle, and a book bag.

Are school meals going to be back in September?

Unfortunately we do not know what the situation will be in September.

Normally, we offer a hot meal, and we like our pupils to choose the school dinner option. Our staff are very good at encouraging them to eat and try new things.

Dinners are paid for through ParentPay. You will be given access details to this system when your child starts with us.

If you think your child may be entitled to free school meals, please follow the link to apply as soon as possible:

[https://powys-online.victoriaforms.com/Viewer-VicForms.asp?user=anon&Form=Powys%20Free%20School%20Meals%20and%20Clothing%20Grant%20\(1.0\).wdf](https://powys-online.victoriaforms.com/Viewer-VicForms.asp?user=anon&Form=Powys%20Free%20School%20Meals%20and%20Clothing%20Grant%20(1.0).wdf)

What will be the size of the class?

The class will be 29 or 30 pupils. They work in a large space which is a series of connected rooms, and spend much of the time working in smaller groups with an adult supporting the group.

Will you contact me if there are any problems?

The most important thing for your child when they join the setting is to feel safe and secure. Our staff are very experienced in working with children, and strive to build secure relationships with each and every child that enters the classroom. They will comfort and support them when needed and will keep you informed on how your child is coping in the setting.

Please be assured that it is completely normal for all children to have moments when they feel unsettled and anxious, and our staff are there to support them through these times.

Questions from the children...

What are the teachers' names?

Please watch the Meet the Staff video on Facebook – our staff tell you who they are, and what they do. You can also see what they look like!

Can I play with the guinea pigs?

Bubble and Squeak like to be stroked, and will make visits to the class. We have to be gentle with them, so we don't frighten them.

Can I have a pink cat at school?

Sorry, we don't have a pink cat! There is sometimes a black and white cat who visits the outside of school. But we have lots of other toys for you to play with!

Is there a pudding at school?

Mrs Jones, our cook, makes very yummy puddings! So if you have a school dinner you can try them.

You also get milk to drink in the morning.