ST. DUNSTAN'S

Arrangements for Starting School September 2026

Our arrangements to welcome children and parents to Reception in September 2026 has four parts. Each element is carefully planned to help children, parents and staff build strong relationships, and to ensure everyone feels prepared and confident for the exciting start to school at St Dunstan's in September.

1. Meetings for New Parents
2. "Getting to Know You" school visits for children (with one parent)
3. Home Visits for children – September 2026
4. Gradual Start to School

1. Meetings for New Parents:

It is essential that all parents attend these meetings, including those who already have a child at the school.
***Please note**: These meetings are for adults only. Children, including babies and younger siblings, cannot attend.*

Thursday 11th June 2026	**Tuesday 7th July 2026**	**Thursday 10th September 2026**
Welcome to St Dunstan's 'Introductory Talk for new Reception parents'	**Getting Ready for School** *'Developing your child's resilience and independence for school'*	**The Year Ahead** 'Introduction to the Reception Year'
Led by the Headteacher in the school hall.	Led by the Headteacher and the Leader of Inclusion in the school hall.	Led by the Headteacher and Reception class teachers in the school hall.
9.30am prompt start 11.00am finish	6.00pm welcome drinks. Talk begins by 6.30pm 7.30pm finish	Arrive from 6.00pm for refreshments. Talk starts promptly at 6.15pm.
This session will give you valuable information about the school, what to expect in September, including your child's class and teacher(s) and your 'Getting to Know You' session allocation. Parking is available in the Lower School playground from 9am. (*Please do not park in the Church car park. Enter via the main driveway*.)	The evening begins socially, giving parents the chance to meet others in their child's class and year group. Practical advice will be shared to help you prepare your child for starting school.	The evening begins socially with refreshments. After the Headteacher's talk, you will meet your child's class teacher to hear more about the learning routines and practical arrangements for the first term at school.

Visits for your child:

Our transition programme supports children to begin Reception confidently. Experience shows that children who attend the "Getting to Know You" school visits and Home Visits settle more quickly in September. **Please prioritise these dates and do not book any holidays during this period.**

2. 'Getting To Know You' school visits	3. Home Visits
Tuesday 23rd June AND Tuesday 7th July 2026	**Between Wednesday 2nd and Tuesday 8th September 2026 (inclusive)**
• You will be allocated a 45 minute session at either 9.15am or 2.00pm • One parent may attend with their child • **These visits are for the child joining Reception only. Please do not bring younger siblings or babies. Allow the visit to be all about your child who is joining school.** • Parking is available on surrounding roads and local car parks (*please check parking restrictions*). • A pre-loved uniform sale (led by Friends of St Dunstan's) and uniform accessories (from Valentino's Schoolwear) will be available on the **7th July.**	• These visits take place at the start of the autumn term for every child and play an important role in helping them make a happy and successful start to school. • The visits help to strengthen the relationship between you, your child and their teachers by giving everyone the chance to know each other in a relaxed and familiar setting. • Parents will receive a letter from their child's class teacher during the summer term, offering an appointment for their home visit.

4. Gradual Start to School

At St. Dunstan's we believe a gradual start helps children settle happily and securely. It also gives teachers the opportunity to get to know each child within a smaller group. Below is an overview of the September start:

Morning or afternoon sessions	Full time sessions
Wednesday 9th September to Tuesday 15th September 2026 (inclusive)	From Wednesday 16th September 2026
• All children will attend **either** a morning or afternoon session each day. *(Sessions are allocated to you by the school.)* • Morning session: 9.25am to 11.55am. (*Please **do not arrive before** 9.00am, to allow staff time to welcome and settle pupils already in school.)* • Afternoon session: 1.00pm to 3.05pm	• The school day commences at 8.55am and ends at 3.05pm. • All children who are ready can attend school full time. (*Parents may request part-time attendance until the child reaches compulsory school age. Equally, the school may also extend the gradual start if a child needs further time to adjust.)* Most children settle quickly, and we expect to offer full-time provision to all children who are ready within the first few weeks of term.

We hope this information helps you feel fully prepared for the school year, and we look forward to welcoming you into school soon as we begin our partnership together.

Yours sincerely

Mrs. Morganti

Mrs G Morganti
Headteacher