



Europa School UK
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<https://europaschooluk.org>

Queridos Padres, Dear Parents,

We look forward to welcoming your child to our Reception class. You will receive more detailed information in September, but we would like to share some key messages now, to aid a smooth start for you and your child.

We hope you and your children are finding our Power Point useful and are getting an idea on what to expect in September. We are always excited to meet a new class and we hope you are too.

As you may already be aware, your children will be settling into school over a couple of weeks in Groups A and B and attend either a morning or an afternoon session. This allows children to settle and play a little, firstly getting used to the new surroundings and then to a fuller day at Europa School. These first few weeks can be very exciting and tiring for the little ones (and parents too !!!!) Your child will be taught in **English Monday- Wednesday am followed by Spanish Wednesday pm- Friday**. If you wish for your child (under 5s only) to only attend half days on Wednesdays, please inform the school in September.

Communications, equipment, and snacks

- During the first couple of weeks at school your child **will get a blue book bag from Europa school** which he/she should bring to school every day.
- The children will have PE at least twice a week. For this, you need to bring a pair of **gym shoes (no laces unless your child can tie them)**, or plimsolls. Please also include a T-shirt, long jogging bottoms or shorts and socks **kept in a drawstring bag clearly labelled** (not a backpack, space is very limited in the cloakroom). Although the school has clothes, we may use the PE kit as a set of spare clothes for your child in case he/she needs it.
- She/he will also need a **pair of boots** for outdoor play in wet weather as well as a pair of **indoor shoes** because we want them to be comfortable in the classroom (slippers, plimsolls...). Both will be kept at school. **Please label both.**
- Children will change from outdoor shoes to indoor shoes and vice-versa several times a

day. We will appreciate it if you can practice this with your child during the summer holidays.

- Please provide your child with a **bottle of water** (marked with their name) daily. It will be kept in the classroom during the day and taken home in the afternoons.
- Your child will go outside whatever the weather (under a canopy if it's raining), so please send them to school with **outdoor clothes** suitable for variable temperatures.
- Your child does not need spare clothes in case of toilet 'accidents' or getting wet or dirty outside: we have all we need at school. We will send soiled clothes home in a bag. Please wash and return borrowed items as soon as possible.
- Please **label all your child's belongings** carefully: bags, shoes, coats and water bottles, etc. In the winter, if they bring gloves, please make sure they are on a string threaded through the coat so they cannot go missing.
- The children will be given **school fruit snacks** mid-morning, and you can **sign up** for free **milk** the afternoon. Milk is free for under-fives, but you do have to register: <https://www.coolmilk.com/>. Free milk will stop as soon as your child turns five, but you can pay for them to continue receiving it. Most children really enjoy this. **Children will need to bring another healthy snack for the afternoon.**
- **Each child can receive a free school meal until the end of year 2.** If you wish for your child to bring a packed lunch, please supply drink and food in a clearly labelled lunch box, **your child will not be able to have cooked lunches on some days and packed lunches on others, it is either one or the other.** If you or we feel that perhaps they are not eating the cooked lunch, we will be in touch, and you can always put them on a packed lunch later.
- Our school has a strict **NO NUTS policy**, so please be sure to be vigilant about it with any food brought to school or eaten just before school.
- Both Hannah and I like to provide the children with plenty of opportunity to make, draw and colour. We would therefore like to ask you to send your children into school in clothes which are suitable for such activities; it is impossible for us to prevent spillages or marks on clothes. You are most welcome to send in an art apron if you are worried in any way (please named and large enough).
- **To do Arts & Crafts** we want to ask you to bring lids, corks, toilet or paper towel tubes, buttons that you do not use and an individual pot of playdough for your child.

Arrival and pick up times and routines Due to COVID 19 we might update this in September.

- For drop off and pick up, **use the gate to access the REE classroom.**
- School starts at 8.20 for Reception classes. In the mornings, **please use the Thame Lane entrance into the school.** It is also the place to park when you pick up. For any other times, please use the main entrance to the school.
- Pick up will be from 3.10 pm. We ask you to pick your child up by waiting by the main entrance into the class. We will open the doors when we are ready to hand over your children one by one. If you have to pick up your child at another time due to **medical appointments**, it must be communicated to reception, and **you must sign yourself in/out of reception** when you pick up your child. **If your child is ill or cannot attend school for another reason, you will need to call or send an email to reception letting them know.**

Entry profile:

Please complete the '**all about me**' form and include a lovely picture of your child (if possible) as well as the 'who picks me up' sheet. We would prefer a printed version of the forms please as we will place them all in folders. An additional bit of information you may be able to provide in the profile is any details on what your child did during the periods of lockdown. Did she/he go to nursery or stay at home? How did that go? Is there anything relevant that we should know about, any issues we should be aware of?

Home – school

We need a Class Rep. Our wonderful Class Rep last year took on tasks such as communicating about trips, liaising for parent helpers, etc. This is a vital help for us, and it is important to both have the time (and disposition) if you are kind enough to offer your help.

School bus- After school care

We do not recommend the use of the school bus for reception children during the first term. The day at Europa is very long already and taking the bus can be an overwhelming experience and a tiring one. The bus children in reception will be asked to sit quietly in the three reception classes. Buses often do not come to collect the children until 15:45 the earliest. There is the afterschool club if you need any extra childcare. It is also a great chance to make new friends through sharing lifts to and from school, children very much enjoy going into school with their friends.

We are very much looking forward to the year ahead with your child and you as parents and carers. We will provide any updates to the information in this letter as and when available.

Best wishes,

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