

**When will my child start school?**

We usually settle the rest of the school back in on the first day of term and hold meetings with Reception parents on the first day of term to find out more about your child. Reception children start for a couple of mornings, then we add in staying for lunch with collection at 1pm and finally they stay all day. Sometimes they can be quite tired, so we are always happy to have a chat with you about how they are and be flexible with this where needed.

Will they meet their new friends and the teachers beforehand?

Yes. We offer getting to know each other sessions where your child can come into school and play (great fun!) for an hour a week for the 4 weeks preceding the summer holidays. This gives you the opportunity to meet the class teachers, ask any questions and get to know the other children and other parents during drop-off and pick-up. Your child will be able to play with their new friends and feel more confident when they start in September.

How will you let me know how my child is getting on?

We have a close partnership with our families and are always happy to have a chat. The Reception class teachers will keep you updated on how your child is doing though:

- Regular informal chats at pick up time about how their day has been
- Tapestry –an online programme which allows us and you to share photos and information about your child’s learning and key milestones on a daily basis
- Notes in our home/ school communication book
- Stay and play sessions (you are invited into class to be involved in their learning)
- We are also always available by phone/e-mail

Will there be a place for my child at Messing?

We have an intake of 12 pupils, these come from a wide surrounding area including (Witham, Tiptree, Great Totham, Mersea, Tollesbury and Messing). Most people who put the school first in their choice will get a place –please bear in mind this can’t be guaranteed and depends on demand. Distance, siblings and children with SEND or who are LAC have priority.

(Essex manage our admissions for us –please see our policy on the website)

Please see the information sheet ‘How to apply for a place at Messing Primary’

**How will my child be supported with their learning?**

- LSA's (learning support assistants) support in classes throughout the school at different times in the day so that there is a good adult child/adult ratio
- Our class sizes are small (most have 24)
- Children have a great start with just 12 children in their class. They then move into Robins Class which has Year 1 and 2 combined. As they progress through the school the older year group moves up each year.
- Teachers meet with the Headteacher each term and talk about every child. If they are above or below their age expected levels we put in place additional support to make sure that learning is tailored to their needs and that they meet their full potential
- We focus on the whole child –their emotional and social development as well as academic learning. Our growth mindset approach encourages children to be reflective learners, to persevere with challenges and to celebrate their successes when they have overcome these.
- Ms Gooday (our office manager) and I are always at the end of a phone should you have any worries or concerns. Good home/school communication is the key to a happy child!

Can parents come in and join in with the learning?

Yes please! We have two very helpful parents who run our library for us as well as a parent who volunteers to listen to children read aloud. There is also a small parent team who help with gardening and keeping the school looking beautiful. You may also be called upon to join the children in class to share your skills and knowledge with them where this ties in with their topic. We run regular parent 'share and learn' or 'stay and play' sessions where you are invited into classes to see and hear about the children's key learning over the term.

Will my child have less opportunities in a small school?

Far from it –in fact the opposite. As we have fewer children, the children have the opportunity to be involved in far more events and experiences from sports to music events and performances.

Sport: As well as our partnership with New Hall School, we are part of a large consortium of 24 local schools. Children across the year groups take part in inter-school events and competitions such as cross country, netball, cricket, rugby and athletics. The Reception children also have an inter-school sports festival at a local school. Children in Key Stage 2 have a term of swimming each year at New Hall School and taster sessions are offered to Key Stage 1 in the summer term. Our sports clubs include netball, football, multi skills, tennis, and dance. We also offer taster



sessions of less familiar sports (e.g fencing/ archery/ golf) to give children the opportunity to then take this up out of school or later in life.

Music: We are a musical school with children able to learn a range of instruments through Essex Music Service who come into school to offer individual tuition. Whole classes also have a chance to learn an instrument- these have included recorders, ukuleles, doods and clarinets in the past. We love singing for the joy and mental wellbeing it brings. Our Key Stage 2 choir has over 30 children attending who then have the opportunity to join the Young Voices performance at the O2 with over 4000 other children. A truly magical experience. Music clubs have included choir, drumming, glockenspiel and recorders.

Visitors and visits: We have our residential visit for Owls Class (Year 4 and 6), once every 2 years so that all children have the chance to enjoy this. Each class has at least one visit each year linked to their topic and the whole school gets to enjoy a travelling pantomime company at Christmas supported by the PTFA. Children have visits from a range of support services and charities, helping them to keep safe and to become active citizens through raising money for these through events they have planned and organised, such as our annual Macmillan coffee morning. The whole school also visits the local church, All Saints, as part of our Harvest and Christmas celebrations.

School events: The active PTFA organise fun events throughout the year and performances and celebrations take place in the school hall and local church.

There is a lot happening at Messing Primary!

Where do I park?

We are in the very fortunate position of having 2 car parks. One at the side of the school building for the staff use and the other, a large car park on the right hand side of the school (as you face the school) for parents. If the car park is full, then parking on the road avoiding the yellow lines and junction is an option.

We hope you enjoy looking at our website too. If you have any further questions then please do get in touch with us.