



At Rokesly...

Our community is warm and welcoming

Learning is fun and fascinating

We celebrate the things that make us special

We are delighted to welcome your child to our school in September 2021

You will have already received information about your child's class and the staff that will be teaching them. You will now also know the start date for your child for September.

YELLOW CLASS - Saffron Koumbas and Hanim Ibili
GOLD CLASS - Caroline Preston and Marisa Schultz
SILVER CLASS - Yael Glanvill / Shahrina Rashid and Anita Sharma

In September, we expect children to be back in school full time in their classes, but government guidance means that some things may not be back to normal.

The guidance we have now means that we plan to continue staggering entrance to the school site class by class. These staggered starts have worked well this year to help reduce congestion at the gates for drop-off and pick-up. The times for your arrival as we settle the children in are below:

Your first day of school – by start date

The guidance also means that parents will not be allowed into the school building. We think it is really important that you can come onto the school site, meet the staff, chat to other parents and help to settle your child in the morning before they go in to school. In the morning, you will arrive and come in to the Year 1 (pencil) playground. Your child will be collected by the staff and you will say goodbye at the playground door. We want your child to feel welcome and happy at the start of their school day, and we are ready to help you if your child finds this difficult.

	Yellow	Silver	Gold
Entrance	Y1 gate – Pencils playground		
First day only	9.20 – 1pm	9.30 – 1.10	9.40 – 1.20

Your first week of school

From your start date, your child will stay for mornings only for the next 5 days. They will have lunch and play with their friends and then be collected from the Y1 playground at their pick-up time. At pick-up, parents will need to wait outside the gate and the children will be brought out to you.

	Yellow	Silver	Gold
First week only	8.55 – 1pm	9.05 – 1.10pm	9.15 – 1.20pm

The rest of the year

	Yellow	Silver	Gold
Usual Start time	8.55	9.05	9.15
End of day	3pm	3.10	3.20

During lockdowns, we felt the benefit of utilising different forms of communication to keep our school community informed and engaged. It is so important that we have the correct email and phone contact details for you. Please let us know as soon as you can if these change.

If you feel you need to talk about any issue in school that you think is important, the first port of call are your class practitioners. **If you need to make an appointment to see your child's teacher, please talk to them at the gate or contact the school office.**

Preparation for starting school

1. Prepare your child for what to expect

Helping children to prepare for change is the first step in tackling any transition. Talking openly about when and why things will happen helps children to make sense of the world around them. It is important to make sure that they know what is going to happen as far as is possible so that there are no surprises. Talk through the arrival at school, seeing friends, saying goodbye to you, etc. This can help them to feel safe and secure.

2. Get back into a routine

Getting back into a routine can be a great way to prepare for school. Bedtimes and waking times may have changed – especially during lockdown; try to adjust these gradually so that children are ready for the school day.

3. Listen to your children

Just being there and available to listen to children's thoughts and feelings is so important. It can be helpful to reassure children that you and the staff at school are there for them if they need to talk. Every child is different and will experience things in their own way.

4. Encourage them to talk

Sometimes, children can find it difficult to talk about how they are feeling. They may not have the words or know what to say. It can help to offer prompts and open questions as a starting point for conversations. Here are some suggested questions that parents could ask children to help them talk about their feelings about going back to school:

- What are you looking forward to?
- What do you enjoy doing at school?
- What might be hard?

Getting ready for Reception may be a new challenge for families whose pre-schoolers would ordinarily be in childcare in the run-up to starting school. **BBC Bitesize Starting Primary School** has lots of resources to help you have fun together at the same time as supporting your child's learning and sense of independence.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/collections/starting-primary-school/1>

Pre-schoolers don't need to do lots of what you might think of as schoolwork at home before they start. At Rokesly we always say that getting dressed and undressed and using the toilet independently are key skills for new starters - skills which can be encouraged at home. The simple things can be helpful, too, like getting familiar with numbers, letters and sounds, singing nursery rhymes, and just doing fun things with your child like baking, going for a walk and simply chatting with them. Parents often underestimate the value of talking with their children, and that's something that preschool children who are at home might get a lot more of!

We can't wait to meet them.

Yours sincerely,
Grant Bright
Headteacher