



Lessness Heath Primary School

Erith Road, Belvedere, Kent. DA17 6HB

Telephone 01322 433290

Head Teacher - Miss A Bolton

Deputy Head - Mrs R Davidson

#LessnessCAN

Dear Parents and Carers,

Congratulations on gaining a Reception place at Lessness Heath!

Over the last year we have all been living through strange and unprecedented times and at Lessness Heath we are hopeful that we will be able to get back to some normality with our admissions and settling process for your children. This letter will contain a lot of information so please read it carefully.

First of all, I would like to address the application packs. As we move into an increasingly digital world and are always trying to do our utmost to reduce our paper usage, we made the decision to move our admissions paperwork online. On our website you will find an 'Admissions Paperwork' tab, under this section you will be able to see and download all of the forms that you need to fill in, these can be filled in digitally as they are word documents, or if you would prefer you can print and handwrite them. Once your forms are complete please email them to admissions@lessnessheath.bexley.sch.uk

If you would like your child to receive free school milk, then please go to www.coolmilk.com/register and register them.

To admit your children, we will also need to see physical copies of their birth or adoption certificate, and for you as parents and carers we will need to see two proofs of address. Copies of these will need to stay on our school file, if you have access to a scanning app or scanner please scan and email copies to the email address above. Please note, even if you scan and send your identification beforehand, we will still need to see physical copies at the admissions meeting.

We are planning to hold 3 admissions meetings in May. In order to keep these COVID safe we need to adhere to the guidance; this means only one person from each household can attend and at the moment we **cannot accommodate children**. Please wear a mask for the whole meeting and if you are able, we would recommend getting a free lateral flow test before the meeting. We will be assigning your child a class before the meeting so that we can split these meetings into 3 days and keep numbers up a minimum.

Owlet class will take place Monday 24th May at 2pm

Cygnets class will take place Tuesday 25th May at 2pm

Gosling class will take place Wednesday 26th May at 9:30 am



If you are unable to attend your meeting due to work or childcare commitments, there will be a virtual meeting at 7pm on Thursday 27th May. If you need the link to the virtual meeting, please email admissions@lessnessheath.bexley.sch.uk

A face to face induction meeting gives us the chance to talk to you about our Early Years Provision and ensure that everyone has returned the correct paperwork. As mentioned, our admissions paperwork is moving online, but we know that some extenuating circumstances may mean you are not able to access these forms in this way. If this is the case, please make sure you read and understand all of the forms before the admissions meeting. At the meeting we will provide some paper copies for these individuals that will need to be completed before leaving.

Secondly, I would like to address the settling period and home visits. We have created a schedule for our settling period in September and we want to give you ample notice of this. Your children will not start at Lessness Heath full time straight away as it is important they get used to their class, teacher and surroundings in short structured sessions. We would also like to resume home visits, this is when your child's Class Teacher and Teaching Assistant come to your home for a short meeting, we fill out some paperwork and get the chance to meet and interact with your child in their most comfortable space, their home. Dates and times for your individual home visits will be sent out separately, at the moment we can provide the week that they will take place.

Reception Settling Period

Week Beginning 6th September

Monday – Thursday

Home visits - (Exact dates and times to be provided at a later date)

Friday 10th September- Stay and Play with parents (9am -10am)

Week Beginning 13th September

Monday 13th and Tuesday 12th stay until 10:30am

Wednesday 15th stay until 11:30

Thursday 16th and Friday 17th stay until 1pm – Children to stay for Lunch

Week Beginning 20th September

Reception to stay all day

If for any reason your child is not ready to join us full time by the 20th of September, we will discuss this with you privately and come up with a plan.



Readiness for Reception

We are very aware that children have spent a lot of time at home and have not been mixing and socialising as normal, this could make settling difficult for some of our children. However, there are things that you can start doing now to help.

- First of all, and most importantly talk positively about school, talk as often as you can about how much fun they are going to have, all the things they will learn all the friends they will make. We appreciate that as parents not everyone had a positive experience of school, but please try not to share these with your children as this could cause unnecessary anxiety and stress leading up to their first day.
- Help them with their independence! Get them used to putting their own coat and shoes on. Feeding themselves at mealtimes using a knife and fork, drinking from a cup or water bottle, walking with you and not using a buggy or pushchair.
- Make sure that they are fully toilet trained, unless a child has a medical need we expect all children to join our Reception fully toilet trained. If not, they will be on a reduced timetable until they can toilet themselves. This does not mean we cannot accommodate the occasional accident; we are all trained in Early Years practices and understand that accidents happen.
- Work with them on recognising and writing their name. Making sure to use a capital letters for the first letter and then lower case after that.
- Counting to 10 and above.

Finally, I would like to invite you to join our Facebook page! You will be able to see photos of our school and children, read updates about the school and interact with current and new parents. The page is a great way to see what we do at Lessness Heath and you can share this with your child, I am sure they will love seeing images of Lola our school therapy dog.

We are so excited to welcome you to our school and thank you for taking the time to read this letter. If you have any questions about anything addressed in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours Sincerely,

Miss Bolton

Headteacher