

April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Arrangements for Starting School

Welcome to Arbury Primary School. We are really looking forward to meeting you and getting to know you and your child. This is a very exciting time!

Getting ready for school

Pre-School Visits

During the summer term, our staff will visit your child in their pre-school setting to meet them and to talk to the practitioners about their interests and learning journey so far. If your child is not attending a pre-school setting, we will be in touch to make an alternative arrangement.

'Stay and Play' sessions – Thursday 25th June and Thursday 9th July at 1.45 until 2.45pm.

We will be holding two 'Stay and Play' sessions in school for children to attend with their parents/carers. This is a chance for you to come and visit our classroom spaces, meet the staff who will be working with your child, meet other families who are starting school with us and have some fun together. We have found that children find this a really positive experience and very much hope that you will join us both sessions (please let us know if you are unable to attend either session). **Please note that parents/carers need to stay on the school site for the duration of both of these sessions** (see details below).

Session 1 – Parents/carers to stay with their child/ren for the entire session and explore the EYFS learning space together alongside the EYFS team and senior staff.

Session 2 – Children will have an opportunity to explore the outside space at school alongside school adults. Parents and carers will remain nearby in school and attend an introduction briefing with Ben Tull (Headteacher) and Sophie Morris (Deputy Headteacher responsible for leading EYFS/KS1). There will be a chance to talk through ways to prepare for school, have a tea/coffee, and meet other new parents/carers.

Please arrive at the KS1 playground (either the top gate, to the left of the car park or the side gate to school, at the end of Roland Close - off Brimley Road). Gates will be open from 1:40pm. You will be met in the playground by senior staff and class teachers, who will walk you round to the EYFS learning area at 1:45pm.

Starting School in September

Week 1

Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September - mornings only, with a slightly later start (9am)

Children new to Reception will come into school for the mornings only, arriving at 9am (this is slightly after the other KS1 children arrive to ensure a quieter start to the day). Children will enjoy a morning at school and then will be collected at 12pm. Please arrive at the KS1 playground (either the top gate, to the left of the car park or the side gate to school, at the end of Roland Close - off Brimley Road). You will be met in the playground by senior staff and class teachers, who will support the children coming into school. You will then need to return to collect your child at 12pm (from the main hall, which is where your child will be collected each day).

Week 2

Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th September - mornings only, including lunch (usual start time of 8:50am)

Children will be at school for the whole morning, including having lunch together and another, longer playtime. They may bring a packed lunch from home, or have a free school dinner. The children will arrive at 8:50am (gates open from 08:45am) and be collected at 1.30pm (again from the main hall).

Wednesday 9th September onwards

From our experience, we anticipate that most children will have settled and be ready to be in class full-time from this point, arriving at 8.50am (gates open from 8:45am) and being collected at 3.25pm (gates open from 3:15pm). Please note, EYFS are usually dismissed a few minutes earlier to allow parents who have multiple children to pick-up to collect their EYFS child first). Whilst we find this transition schedule suits the majority of the children beginning their school journey with us, some children may benefit from a longer period of reduced days. **Please let us know if you think your child may be better suited to a more gradual start to school.**

We understand that some parents may need a full-time place from the first day of term due to other commitments. If this is the case, please don't let this be a source of worry for you, just let us know so we can plan ahead.

Website

We use the school website as our main way of communicating and sharing information with you. Over the coming weeks, there will be a special section called 'Starting Reception in September 2026'. In this section, you will find lots of pictures, videos and information about our school. We will also cover some Frequently Asked Questions. We will continue to update this section over the summer term so please do return often. We have another area called 'News and Events,' which acts as a little photo gallery – you might like to browse through there with your child and look for some of the activities the children in the current EYFS classes are getting up to at the moment.

We are really looking forward to meeting you all. In the meantime, if you have any questions, do feel free to email Sophie Morris (Deputy Head Teacher) at smorris@arbury.cambs.sch.uk.

Ben Tull
Headteacher

Sophie Morris
Deputy Headteacher

