



Swindon Village Primary School

'Learning From Each Other, Achieving Together'

Frequently Asked Questions



Do we have a catchment?

No. However, over the past 5 or 6 years we have noticed that the families who live about 1 mile (as the crow flies) have managed to secure a place. **Our advice has been if you like what you see and hear then put us down as your first choice.**

Do we know how many siblings of current pupils will be applying this year?

At present we do not know our exact siblings numbers. As above, our advice would be if you really want Swindon Village for your child in September 2026 then the best opportunity you have is to put Swindon Village Primary School down as your 1st preference when the applications come out.

How many children are in an average class?

Each of our 14 classes have approximately 30 children in. Currently we have 420 children attending SVPS.

Many year groups now have a waiting list, which shows that we are providing a great offer for the children at Swindon Village.

What are your school lunches like?

Hot lunches are provided by ABM, who cook for our school on site. All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have lunches paid for by the Universal Infant Free School Meal (UIFSM) budget. Once children reach KS2 parents pay for school lunches. The price is currently £2.55. They are nutritiously balanced and the salad bar offers a great addition as well. Children normally come into the hall a class at a time and have food served. In Reception we take a little longer for our lunchtime so we can teach the children how to carry trays and hold knives and forks.



How do we allocate children into our two Reception Classes?

The children are grouped using the following criteria:

- We talk to their nurseries/pre-school settings prior to deciding the class lists.
- Where possible they are with at least one friend or with at least one person they know.
- Age - Autumn, Spring, Summer
- Gender

How is the induction period organised?

Each September starts with a personal touch – the EYFS staff meet with all parents and their child on a one to one basis in September.

The children then attend for a mixture of mornings and mornings + lunch

They attend full time by the end of September at the very latest.



Do children need other clothing besides their uniform?

A PE kit – this will be in their 'SVPS House' colour

Warm old clothes, a coat or waterproof jacket and a pair of wellies for Welly Boot – more on this when you start 😊



Do children do P.E. and other outdoor activities in Reception?

The children do PE, they also develop their physical strength by playing on bikes and trikes and visit Forest School. This is on top of our lovely outdoor area which is an extension of the classrooms.

What would we hope children will be able to do before they start school?

Recognise their name

Form some letters correctly in their name (but don't worry if they can't)

Know basic colours

Ideally recognise numbers to 5

Share toys/equipment with other children

To put their coat on by themselves and manage their own toileting needs.

What Phonics Scheme do we follow?

We use Sounds Write and parents are invited into a workshop to help see this in action and to know how to support their child at home.



What is the school's view of homework?

The single, most important to children's development is their ability to read and understand what they read & know that being able to recall number facts quickly and accurately is key. We have placed a huge emphasis on reading and have invested heavily in good quality reading material for all the children.

We currently run the 'Rule of 3' as a minimum

- 3 lots of reading a week
- 3 lots of maths work a week
- 3 lots of phonics/English a week.

We feel this strikes a good balance between busy home lives and also keeps children 'ticking-over' on the key fundamentals of learning.



How do you cope with difficult, or unwanted, behaviour from children?

Often 'Poor' behaviour is always a sign of something else and we aim to provide support to children who may find it difficult to behave in a way that is acceptable at school.

We have a clear Relationships & Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy.

What is your SEND & Pastoral Provision like?

Swindon Village Primary School is totally inclusive and we welcome all children. Where a child has a recognised special need or disability, we will try to make reasonable adjustments to meet those needs to ensure your child thrives in our mainstream setting. Our school is fully accessible and whilst supporting our children we will also encourage independence skills. This team is headed up by our Assistant Head & Inclusion Manager, Mrs. O'Leary and is supported by Mrs. Brown.



What opportunities are there for pupils to demonstrate leadership/have responsibility?

We have Head Girls and Boys, Prefects, House Captains, Green Team and many more. They play an active role on charity days and other special days.

How do we keep in touch with parents?

- Tapestry [this app will be explained when your child starts with us]
- Weekly Headlines
- Regular Announcements on Class Charts, text message and emailing to parents
- SVPS Facebook Page
- Phone Calls

We pride ourselves on all of the above, and we strongly believe our communication is very good.



Do you have a Before and Afterschool Provision?

Yes. Terrapins is run independently from 7:30 – 8:35 [Breakfast] and 3:15 – 6:00 [After School Care]. Children are provided with a healthy breakfast and are also given a range of food after school to keep them going.

We are also running a Drop & Go service for parents to use at 8:30am as our classroom doors open at 8:45am. There is a minimal daily charge of £1 to use this.



What sport and physical activities do the children do?

We are able to provide for a wide range of sports, including hockey, tennis, football, netball, cricket, cross country, rugby, athletics, multi-skills... We participate in a range of local competitive competitions in Bishops Cleeve and in Cheltenham.

Does your school have a active PTA/Friends Committee?

We have always had an active FOSVPS who have helped run a variety of events such as Easter Eggstravaganza, Sponsored events, great dress-up days, and the very popular 'Christmas Disco'. They have helped the school purchase school iPads/laptops, climbing equipment, sound systems, PE equipment, Reading Books, as well as subsidising trips for children...and much, much, more.

