



Frequently asked questions

We have compiled a list of questions we often get asked during a physical tour of the school with prospective parents. We hope these help you. If there is something you want to ask which we have not included, please call the school office and someone will answer your query.

Our uniform is available for you to see on our website and all children are expected to wear this as we believe it supports a sense of belonging to our special community.



What makes Crest different to other schools?

The staff team at Crest really do go the 'extra mile' to get to know your child and to support them to be the best they can be, not just academically but socially, emotionally and morally.

Many of the staff team are long standing demonstrating their commitment to the school and the children.

We place a huge emphasis on developing the whole child centered around our focus on character education. We enable the children to develop resilience, co-operation, respect and perseverance so that they are increasingly able to manage their own feelings and cope with situations they find themselves in as part of growing up.

Crest is a great place to learn in. We have a Forest School on site with full accreditation. This is such an exciting part of our offer for the children. We also place a lot of emphasis on PE and Sport along with Music and the Arts so that our children experience a wide range of activities.

Our site is well maintained and the grounds enable us to provide rich learning experiences both inside and outdoors for all year groups.

We have a real 'family approach' as we believe that in order for our children to be in a good place to learn, we need to be there for them but also their family as well. Most

families go through the school without requiring any support but our skilled and knowledgeable Home School Support Worker, Louise is on hand for those who do.

In September, do all the children start at the same time?

In the best interest of the children, we stagger the start of term for our new entrants. Traditionally this means attending for mornings or afternoons only to begin with so that half of each class is in for the first few days.

The children then all stay and have lunch before going home about 1pm for a few days and they usually attend full-time from around the middle of September. Some children may need an adapted timetable so this is flexible and very much dependent on the needs of the child.



What happens at lunchtimes?

All the children at Crest are entitled to have a school lunch free of charge under the Universal Free School Meals initiative. Our meals are cooked on site and the menu each day consists of the choice of a hot meat dish; hot vegetarian dish; jacket potato with a choice of fillings plus a dessert. There is also a salad cart available.

After lunch the Reception children have their own play space and are looked after by their class Learning Support Assistants who know them really well.

What will my child learn?

Children in Reception follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and this will follow on from any pre-school experience your child may have. The children learn through play and exploration so for them it may not seem like they are actually learning but that is down to the skill of our teachers and support staff.

Each day the children will have time following their own interests (child-initiated learning) as well as times when the adults choose the learning e.g. phonics and maths sessions.

Children will learn both inside and outdoors and the most important part of their first year at school will be to form friendships and learn to become increasingly independent.

Our Home School Support Worker, Louise, works with Mrs Marco and a team of Learning Support Assistants to support children and their families who may be going through a bad time and need some short-term emotional support.



Do you have clubs for the children to join?

There is usually a range of clubs either before school or after school for our children. The timetable below shows our offer before the COVID-19 pandemic.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime	Quiet Zone Playdough Puzzles/Games Recorder	Quiet Zone Maths Club Craft Club	STEM (Science) Club Computer Club STAR Readers	Quiet Zone Lego Club Yoga	Quiet Zone Wellbeing and Fitness Eco Club
After School	Cookery Football (MFSE)	Choir	Dance	Football (MFSE)	

How does the school involve parents?

The school prides itself on its excellent relationship with parents and we try to invite you in as often as we can. Here are some of the ways we involve you in your child's learning and their life at Crest:

- Weekly reading time – each Wednesday morning for Y1 & Y2. (Reception start this in term 3 and it is usually at 2.50pm on a Friday afternoon.)
- Invitations to concerts and festivals such as Harvest, Christmas, special assemblies, sports events, fundraising events
- Parent surveys so we can gather your views
- Homework activities and an opportunity each term to come in and see the learning which has been done at home
- Parents evenings, information sessions and 'meet the teacher' times
- Stay & Play sessions in the EYFS

