

ADMISSION TO RECEPTION IN SEPTEMBER 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Shillington Lower school and I thank you for interest in a Reception place your child in September 2021. The admission application round is open until 15th January 2021.

Usually we are able to offer open morning sessions for you come and look around the school, visit the classroom and meet some of the key staff. This year however is exceptional and we aren't able to allow visitors to the school during school hours in order to maintain the health and safety of the children and staff in school during this pandemic crisis.

I thought therefore it would be helpful to detail for you what we are able to do in order to help your decision making.

1. On the next page, I have written what I would usually say to parents visiting, to help you to understand what the school is like and what we believe in and promote.
2. There will be a link on our website to a video tour of the school and a more detailed video tour of the classroom as it is now in September 2020.
3. There is a Shillington Lower school prospectus document which will hopefully answer most questions. Myself or Mrs Young would be happy to follow this up with a phone call to you should it be needed.
4. I would also be happy to organise tours in very small groups (with no children unfortunately as I can't risk transference by touch and little people do want to touch!). I have a small number of slots available for this led by either myself or Mrs Young, the Head of School. They are after school between 4.00 and 5.00 on some dates. In order to manage this however I would please ask that you only book these **if you haven't been to the school before and your child isn't in Pixies preschool class and are in catchment area and/or looking to name the school as a first choice.** There just isn't enough out of school available hours to offer any more! After the allocation in April, we will hopefully be in a different position and may be able to invite people into school then.

I hope this helps you in choosing a place for your child.

Miss Woodham

Dear prospective parents and carers,

Welcome to Shillington Lower school and thank you very much for your interest in my school. I have been Head teacher here since 2018 and so this is my 3rd Year. I am also Head teacher at Stondon Lower school since January 2013. The 2 schools which are 3 miles apart have a similar ethos and values and are now formally federated. What this means for parents is that they share me as Head teacher and we have 1 governing body. I divide my time evenly between the 2 schools and have a Head of School in each school to manage the day to day running of the schools. Here at Shillington, that is Mrs Kerry Young who is mainly not class based but does do some teaching.

At the school we have Pre-school to Year 4, which is known as the 3 tier system. But as some of you may be aware local change to the structure of schools and school places which has been consulted on and agreed by the council's executive means that the school will become a primary school in 2023 and extend up to year 6. This means that your child would stay until the end of their year 6 before going on to secondary school.

I am incredibly proud of this school. It is a welcoming, caring and supportive community environment for both pupils and their families embodied in our ethos by our motto "Value everyone, value every chance, value everyday". We have a strong Values culture meaning we introduce children to different values over their school journey and use values language when teaching children how to behave and develop personally, socially and morally. We have 22 school values which run across a 2-year cycle and then repeat, although we consult all of our stakeholders (parents, carers, Governors and children) when we renew these. Another core principle we believe in is developing children's growth mindset. We encourage them to take risks in their learning, not be fearful of making mistakes, use the power of resilience and reflection and be brave accepting that sometimes we learn things easily and other times it takes a bit more perseverance and determination.

As well as a strong focus on core English and Maths skills, all pupils have the entitlement to a broad, rich curriculum which exposes them to lots of different opportunities. A curriculum which develops their independence as learners and makes lots of links in different areas.

I expect parents and carers to support the school, to respect and demonstrate our school values, to encourage and support your child's learning and to share any worries and problems with us so that we can work together to solve them.

I look forward to meeting you all in person, hopefully soon,

Warmest regards and stay safe.

Miss Sarah Woodham

