

# New to Country:

## Inclusion & Wellbeing pathway-

### Starting School

**Welcome to Dunchurch Boughton CofE Infant Academy and Nursery!**

We are truly delighted to welcome you and your child to our school family.

Starting school in a new country can feel exciting, but it may also feel unfamiliar for both children and parents. Please be assured: you are not alone. We are here to guide, support, and celebrate your child every step of the way.

At Dunchurch Infants, our school vision '***Roots to grow, wings to fly***' is at the heart of how we welcome new families.

***Roots to grow:*** We help your child build strong foundations through safety, routine, nurturing relationships and a sense of belonging.

***Wings to fly:*** As confidence grows, we support your child to explore, communicate, learn English in their own time, and flourish both personally and academically.



#### **Our Promise to Your Child**

From day one, we prioritise that your child feels:

*Safe*- emotionally supported and cared for

*Included*- valued for who they are and the language they bring

*Welcome*- greeted warmly and kindly each day

*Ready to learn in their own time*- we never rush or pressure a child to speak before they are comfortable

We recognise and celebrate the strengths your child brings including their home language, culture, identity, and life experiences.

#### **A Gentle, Supportive Start**

Our step-by-step settling pathway is designed to help children:

- build confidence at their own pace
- connect with other children through play
  - feel emotionally safe
  - understand daily routines
- develop trusting relationships with school adults
- feel that this is *their* school, *their* class, and *their* community



We believe that when children feel safe, included, and valued, they grow their “roots”... and when they feel confident, supported, and inspired, they find their “wings.”

## **How We Help Your Child Settle In:**

### **1- School Tour — Getting to Know Us**

Before starting, you and your child are invited for a friendly school tour.

- You can ask any questions
- Your child can explore the classrooms and outdoor area
- We learn about your child, their interests, and home language
  - We explain how we will support them

This helps your child feel *familiar* and reduces first-day worries.

You will be provided with a set of school uniform for your child to wear on this day.



### **2- Stay & Play Session (With Parent)**

Your child attends a 1-hour session with you in the classroom.

This helps them:

- See that school is a safe and happy place
  - Meet their peers
- Start building trust with staff

We take things slowly, so your child feels secure. You will also be given log in details to Class Dojo so that you can communicate with your child’s class teacher(s)/ keyworker.

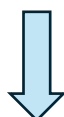


### **3- Settling Session 1 — Short Independent Visit (9:00–10:30am)**

Your child comes into school independently for a short visit. You will drop and collect them from the school office.

We greet them warmly and help them join activities at their own pace.

A specially chosen buddy stays with them to guide and reassure them. Your child will also be given a set of communication cards.

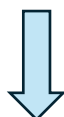


#### **4- Settling Session 2 — Morning Session (until 12:20pm)**

Your child will enter the classroom via the playground with their peers. You will collect your child from the school office. Your child takes part in morning routines such as:

- Classroom learning
- Snack time
- Story/ rhyme time

We continue to check how they are feeling and offer gentle support.



#### **5- Afternoon Session (12:20–3:20pm)**

Your child will be dropped at the school office, and you will collect your child from the playground at the end of the day. Your child experiences a full afternoon, so they gain confidence with:

- Lunchtime
- Afternoon learning
- End-of-day routines



#### **Full Days- Beginning After Week 1**

Once your child is comfortable, they start attending full days.

We continue to monitor their wellbeing closely and keep communication open with you. Staff use our EAL Progression Framework to support them to thrive in the classroom and in their learning.

#### **How We Support Your Child Every Day:**

Your child will be invited to attend toast club every morning from 8:30am.

A Buddy to Welcome Them-

Every new arrival is given a buddy who helps them with:

- Finding their way around
- Understanding routines
- Playing with others

- Feeling included and supported

If possible, we pair your child with another child who speaks the same language.

### **Communication in Your Home Language:**

We want you to feel confident and fully informed.

- We translate important messages where needed including letters/ text messages home.
- You will receive a ClassDojo login during your first settling session- ClassDojo allows you to translate teacher messages. You can also message us in your preferred language. This ensures strong partnership between home and school.

### **Building a sense of belonging:**

We provide your child with a set of uniform on their first day. This removes barriers and helps children feel included from the start.

### **Communication Cards:**

Your child will be given visual cards to help them communicate simple needs such as:

- Toilet
- Drink
- Help
- Sad / Worried
- Hungry

These cards reduce frustration and grow confidence.



### **Support for Learning English:**

Teachers use a structured EAL Progression Framework to help your child learn English step by step.

This includes the use of:

- Gestures
- Visuals
- Modelling
- Repetition
- Play-based learning
- Daily opportunities to hear and use new words

Your child is never pressured to speak before they are ready- we celebrate every small step.

## **Our Commitment to Inclusion:**

We are proud to be an inclusive school.

Every child regardless of their language level or background — has the right to feel

✓ Welcomed

✓ Understood

✓ Respected

✓ Able to participate fully

Our approach demonstrates strong inclusive practice through:

### **Belonging:**

We ensure your child is part of the class from day one through a buddy, uniform, supportive routines, and warm relationships.

### **Wellbeing**

Staff carefully observe how your child is feeling. We prioritise emotional safety before language or academics.

### **Communication With Families:**

We make communication accessible in your home language, so you feel confident and connected.

### **High Expectations**

We believe every child can thrive. Our school EAL progression framework ensures ambitious but achievable steps.

### **Cultural Respect**

We value your child's home language, culture, and identity. These are seen as strengths, not barriers.

***We are excited to welcome your family!***

If you have any worries or questions, please speak to Hannah Owen (Inclusion lead) who is here to support you every step of the way.