



Downs View Infant School

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Kennington
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Tel: 01233 632339

.....April 2018

Dear

I am writing to tell you how pleased we are that your child has been offered a place at Downs View Infant School for September. I have no doubt that before we know it September will be upon us, and in preparation for this exciting time, we have arranged for you and your child to get to know us first. Our comprehensive 'starting school' programme is based on research that we have carried out over several years. Research clearly shows that the more opportunities that you and your child have to visit their new school, the quicker your child will settle in and the better he/she will flourish. For this reason we strongly encourage you to seize every opportunity we offer you to visit us. Details of our starting school programme are explained within the attached timetable of events.

We have listened to feedback from last year and altered our transition arrangements again to ease your child into school gently and gradually, whilst also understanding that many parents work and that many children have attended full days at nurseries. We are sure that these new arrangements will enable the whole experience to be a positive one for you and your child.

Our first meeting with you is an **adults only** event on **Thursday 24th May at 6pm-7.30pm** where we will meet with you to enable you:

- to answer any of your questions
- to tell us more about your child
- to learn about our extended services
- to bring in all documentation enclosed and your child's birth certificate and proof of your child's address (child benefit statement is ideal).

If you have a child or children that have come to Downs View in the past, please still attend this meeting as things change each year and lots of key information is given.

The first sessions for **your child and yourself** are:

'WATCH ME GROW!' sessions which will be Adult and Child sessions for four sessions, each one will take place in **a Reception classroom**. (all dates and further details are on the attached sheet)

By attending **all four** sessions you and your child will:

- Get to know Downs View School and key adults.
- Get to meet some of their peers/parent/carers before starting school
- Play, be yourselves and most importantly have fun!

These sessions will be led by teachers from the Early years team for next year and will be supported by teaching assistants from the same team. Sarah Collins, Deputy

Headteacher, Lisa Somerville, Inclusion Leader and myself will also be in regularly to meet your child and have a play! The first two sessions you can stay with your child and for the last two you are free to leave your child if they are happy for you to do so. There will be 20 spaces for each session, 10 for children and 10 for adults.

Please telephone or email office@downs-view.kent.sch.uk to book your sessions.

Home Visits in September

Your child's class teacher and teaching assistant would like to visit you and your child in your home.

Our aims:

- To form the beginnings of a strong and positive relationship between teacher/teacher assistant and your child.
- To get to know you and in particular your child on 'home ground'.
- To give you the opportunity to talk freely with the teachers and teaching assistants about your child and starting school.

It will last for approximately half an hour and we ask for to stick to the time we give you due to the large number of children we have to see.

If you are likely to change your address before the home visit would you please let the school office know as soon as possible.

If you have any questions or issues you would like to discuss before the school visits take place please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

I look forward to meeting you at our Welcome evening on **Thursday 24th May at 6pm.**

Yours sincerely,

Tracy Kent
Headteacher

Working in partnership with
Kennington C of E Academy

