

Transition timeline for parents of children starting Reception Class in 2026

September 2025 – January 2026

Parents must apply for a primary school place a year before their child starts school [School admissions: School starting age - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/school-admissions)

- [Applications](#) open in September and close on the 15th January. Your child will be 3 or have just turned 4 when you apply.
- You must apply then, even if you want your child to start part-way through the year.
- If your child is at a **school nursery** you still need to apply for a place.

16th April 2026 – Primary School allocations are confirmed

- Let your nursery provider know which school your child is going to.
- Your nursery teacher will talk to you about transition and seek views about how they can support your children to prepare.
- If your child has special educational needs, your nursery teacher will seek your permission to start an 'enhanced transition' by sharing information and planning with your child's new school.

May 2026

- If your child has special educational needs or disability, an agreed enhanced transition activity will start.

June 2026

- Your nursery provider will discuss early years transition information with you that you can add information to. This will be shared with the reception teacher.
- You will be invited for activity to help you get to know your new school.
- If your child has special educational needs or disability, your school will work with you and your nursery provider to plan what might need to be in place to support them.

June – July 2026

- Your nursery provider and school will work in partnership to support transition for your child.
- Transition information will be shared to support this.

September 2026

- Your child starts Reception Class.