

## Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Further to the videos and information we have shared with you, below are some frequently asked questions and answers. Please also peruse our website, which has a whole host of information for you. In particular you may be interested in the following sections:

- [Our Vision](#)
- [Primary Curriculum](#)
- [Reporting Pupil Progress](#)
- [Rewards and Sanctions](#)
- [Wrap Around Care](#)

### General Information

#### Q. How many pupils are there in each year group at CFS?

We have 60 pupils in each primary year group, made up of two teaching classes of 30 pupils in each. However, in Reception class all 60 pupils explore the same learning environment and work as one unit. This allows pupils to access a wide range of learning activities both indoors and out, supported by a highly skilled team of adults. In Secondary, there are 120 pupils per year group.

#### Q. What is the shape of the CFS school day?

For Reception pupils the doors open at 0845 and registration is at 0900. The school day finishes at 1500. Doors open for the rest of the Primary phase at 0815 with registration at 0830 and the school day finishes for those other Primary year groups at 1515. We do offer a before and after school club run by Energykidz. This is available before School from 0730 then after school until 1800. Please see the Wrap Around Care link above for further details.

### A Typical Day in Primary

#### Q. How is a typical day structured in Reception?

Children take part in a range of learning across the course of the day. Each day they come into a selection of table-top activities designed to develop children's fine and gross motor skills. This is followed by a short number, reading and writing input, interspersed between times for children to explore the teaching activities set up across the Early Years environment. These are designed to support and develop our youngest learners through the Early Years Framework over the course of the year. Each day children will be exposed to story time and an activity as a whole unit (run like an assembly) which will involve singing, sign language or a personal development activity. Over the course of a week, all children will take part in a Forest School session and a PE lesson.



### **Q. How is a typical day structured in Primary?**

Children take part in English, including reading, phonics, writing, spelling and grammar work, and Maths lessons during the morning sessions. These are delivered to the whole class with activities tailored to support those who may need to build confidence and challenge those who require stretching. Each day pupils will attend an assembly focusing on personal development. Our afternoon session lasts for two hours and focuses upon the wider curriculum. Lessons include a full range of subjects (History, Geography, Art, Music, Science, Computing and Religious Education) and are taught using a topic based approach which links subjects together under the umbrella of an overarching topic. Each week children across the Primary phase will have two hours of Physical Education, some of which is taught by a PE specialist teacher. Every child will also participate in a language lesson from a Secondary specialist where they will begin to learn Spanish.

## **Transition**

### **Q. What transition arrangements are in place for the pupils joining CFS?**

All the new pupils come into school for two play and stay sessions of approximately 1.5 hours each in July where they get to meet their class teachers and new friends. Parents also get the chance to meet the Principal, Head of Primary and class teachers and listen to their presentation.

The Reception class teachers then do a home visit during the first week of the September term, which lasts approximately 20 minutes and the pupils join the School, full time, the week after. Exact dates will be on the School calendar.

## **Uniform**

### **Q. What is the School uniform?**

We are immensely proud of our uniform at CFS. We have recently made some changes to ensure that our uniform is fully inclusive, affordable, and yet still extremely smart. The uniform celebrates both the School, and each pupil's membership of their House. For full details of our uniform, please see our website: <https://www.chichesterfreeschool.org.uk/about-us/school-shop-and-uniform/>

## Forest School

### Q. Do all Primary pupils do Forest School?

All KS1 pupils get to experience our very own on-site Forest School for one session per week, come rain or shine, with our dedicated Forest School Leader. On a Forest School day the pupils come into school wearing their PE kit and bring wet weather gear too.

## PE

### Q. How often do the pupils have PE?

Reception pupils have PE once a week and on that day they again, come to school wearing their PE kit and stay in it all day. All other Primary pupils receive two hours of PE each week, one session is more games focused and the other focuses on areas such as Dance and Gymnastics.

## House System

### Q. How many Houses are there?

There are four houses, Aquila (green), Noctua (black), Pegasus (blue) and Phoenix (purple). There are lots of inter-house competitions that run throughout the year for the whole School with points going towards the House Cup. Each House is led by a staff House Champion, and a host of pupil leaders as our House Ambassadors and House Presidents. Pupils also earn individual House Points, as part of our praise system, and these go towards each pupil's individual totals as well as the overall House Cup.

### Q. How are pupils assigned to a House when they join the School?

If a pupil already has siblings at CFS, we will assign them to the same House – to ensure no family disagreements on Sports Day!

## Enrichment Activities

### Q. What after school clubs do you offer?

Once the pupils are in Year 1, there are a wide variety of clubs to take part in each term ranging from Ballet, Cartoon Drawing club, Karate, Lego Club, Fencing, French Fun and much much more.

### Q. Is the extended day compulsory?

No, pupils from Year 1 upwards can stay every day till 1630 if they wish, alternatively they can leave at the end of the academic day, between 1500 and 1530 too, or a mixture. However, at CFS we strongly believe that it is important that all pupils take part in at least one extra curricular activity and we therefore encourage pupils to do at least one club a week. However, if pupils engage in an enrichment activity outside of school then this does of course count, and we actively celebrate out of school achievements too.



## Travel

### Q. Are parents required to car share?

I'm sure you're aware that the parking facilities on site are limited, as is common in most Secondary schools. Reception parents get priority in the car park and are welcome to drive onto site with just one child in the car. From Year 1 onwards, we do encourage all parents to only come on site with at least two CFS children in the car. We also encourage all Secondary pupils to use public transport or be dropped off north of the A27 and then to walk into school over the footbridge or cycle in from home. Many of our pupils do engage with this and enjoy the level of independence that this encourages.

### Q. What buses pass CFS?

The 51 and 600 buses stop right outside the school and operate on a regular basis. Pupils coming from the Witterings area travel into Chichester on their local bus route and then connect with a bus travelling along Hunston Route on the 51 or 600 bus route. Of course, pupils could opt to walk the 20 minutes from the bus station/railway station to the School site via the protected footpaths and footbridge.

### Q. Can older pupils cycle to School?

Absolutely yes, but all pupils must wear a helmet please and have bike lights in the darker months. There are bike shelters where bikes can be locked up during the day.

## How to Apply

### Q. How do I apply for a place here at CFS?

For a Reception place joining the school in September, you need to apply through West Sussex County Council Admissions, online, and we would be one of your three choices of school. If you select CFS as your first choice, you are likely to be offered a place here. There is no supplementary form to complete.

Any further queries, please contact Karie Wright on [admissions@chichesterfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:admissions@chichesterfreeschool.org.uk)