Five Islands Academy
Carn Gwaval
St Mary's
Isles of Scilly
TR21 0NA

Headteacher
Rachel Lewin
MA Oxon, MSc, NPQH

Tel: 01720 424850

enquiries@fiveislands.org

Equity, Excellence, Evolution

The Five Islands Academy is an all-age, multi-site, Church of England Academy, serving the island communities of Bryher, St Agnes, St Martin's, St Mary's and Tresco. It is part of the Leading Edge Academies Partnership.

Joining our Early Years Foundation Stage

Dear Parents and Carers,

Below is all the key information you need in preparation for your child joining EYFS at Five Islands Academy. Starting school is a significant milestone for both children and families, and our priority is to ensure every child has a gentle, positive, and confident start to school. We work flexibly with parents and carers to make this happen.

As a multi-site school, each island base has slightly different arrangements. During the transition process in the Summer Term before they start school, your child's class teacher will share specific information so you have a clear understanding of what school will look like for your child. There is also an FAQs section at the end of this document. All our essential information can be found on our website https://fiveislands.scilly.sch.uk/

If you have any queries or would like to speak to a member of our EYFS team, please just email enquiries@fiveislands.org

We very much look forward to welcoming your family to FIA and to working in partnership with you throughout your child's learning journey.

Yours faithfully,

The Five Islands Academy EYFS Team

Joining our Early Years Foundation Stage

Admission Documents

For all new admissions please complete the admission form and return to Five Islands Academy as soon as possible. The admissions form can be found on our website. Please ensure you complete all sections including any information about your child's medical or special educational needs. These help us to plan so that we can meet your child's needs from the beginning of their school journey. https://www.fiveislands.scilly.sch.uk/admissions/.

If you have any admission queries please contact School Reception enquiries@fiveislands.org

Once you have registered with the school, you will be contacted in the Summer Term (before your child starts school in September) with transition information.





Transition into FIA

Please see the general information below regarding the transition process for your child. Each island has slightly different arrangements due to their unique setting. Specific arrangements will be shared by each class teacher in the Summer Term once you have registered your child with FIA. Our main focus is that your child has a gentle, positive, and confident start to school.

Each School Base runs transition sessions to support children as they prepare for starting school. These sessions are designed to help children become familiar with the classroom environment, meet adults and other children, and begin to feel comfortable in school. Sessions are intended to be relaxed and supportive, allowing children time to settle and explore. There is usually a mix of morning, lunchtime and afternoon sessions. Parents and carers will also be invited in to see the school and ask any questions you may have.

Children from off-island bases will be invited to a St Mary's transition session, as they will visit St Mary's on Collaboration Friday when they start school. Where children attend an EYFS setting during any of the sessions, FIA will liaise with providers to support drop-off and collection arrangements.





Liaising with local EYFS settings

We liaise with local EYFS settings for school transition, and visit them each year to discuss the children and get to know them in advance. Thank you to all of these EYFS providers for their help in supporting a smooth and enthusiastic start to school. If your child attends one of these settings, the guide below from the EYFS Network group shows how this process works between us.

What will happen before my child starts School?

The Isles of Scilly Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Network is a group of practitioners working with 0–5-year-olds and their families. Together the Network have created a family friendly flow chart to give an overview of the transition process from your child attending EYFS settings on the islands to them joining Reception Class at FIA (if you choose).

The flow chart focuses on flexibility and enabling parents, carers and EYFS staff to look at how they can meet the individual needs of each child.

My child has SEND/Medical Needs...

Autumn Term: (September - December)

With your permission the EYFS setting will make contact with the School to share key information about your child. Support will be available to assist you in making contact with the School, who have an 'open door policy' should you wish at any stage to get in touch.

The School EYFS Lead and/or School SENDCO will contact you to discuss an Individual Transition Plan for your child.

Invitations to attend School based events to help familiarise your child will be shared (Nativities, open afternoons etc).

The School's 'Joining EYFS at FIA' handbook is available on the school website.

Spring Term: (January - April)

The School EYFS Lead and/or SENDCo will arrange to meet with you/and the EYFS setting that your child attends to make transition plans.

School staff will liaise with the EYFS setting to arrange visits to meet and build relationships with your child and their cohort.

Summer Term: (May-July)

Handover information will be shared with the School from your child's EYFS setting, including Early Years SEND documents, reports, Individual Learning Plans (ILPs), Health Care Plans etc. The final handover of documentation will depend on when your child finishes at their EYFS setting.

Invitations will be sent to School for appropriate staff to attend meetings such as ILP reviews as part of the 'getting to know you' process. School visits will take place, these will vary across the bases and be flexible to meet individual needs and transition plans. Additional paperwork such as a Communication Passport and Social Stories will be created as necessary. Further visits can be arranged.

My Child...

Autumn Term: (September - December)

Invitations to attend School based events will be shared with EYFS settings and families (Nativities, open afternoons etc).

The School's 'Joining EYFS at FIA' handbook is available on their website.

Spring Term: (January-April)

School staff where possible will visit the EYFS setting your child attends, to get to know and become familar with your child and their cohort. This will vary across the islands.

The School have an 'open door policy' should you wish at any stage to get in touch.

Summer Term: (May-July

Information will be shared with the School about your child (e.g. access to online 'Learning Journals') and transition meetings held, enabling staff to see your child's journey to date.

Once you have registered with the School, they will communicate with you to share transition plans and starting school details.

School transition sessions will take place, (which will vary across the island bases). These sessions may involve attending transition mornings, lunchtimes and afternoons.

SEPTEMBER:

A warm welcome will await you and your family when School begins.

Contact and communication

Our School Reception for all queries can be contacted at enquiries@fiveislands.org.

You can also call the school - each School Base phone number can be found on our website https://fiveislands.scilly.sch.uk/contact/

When your child starts school, we will use an app called Arbor to communicate with you. We also use an app called Seesaw to share your child's learning and class teachers can communicate with you via its messaging feature. Before your child starts school you will receive all the information for how to download and register for these apps.

If you ever have any questions once your child has started school about your child's education or wellbeing, or queries about school logistics, please do email the class teacher or message them on Seesaw.

School Uniform

Our uniform information is on our website. Please label every item of clothing. https://fiveislands.scilly.sch.uk/academy-uniform-and-equipment/



Attendance expectations for Reception children

Statutory guidelines state that schools provide full time schooling for children from the term after their 5th birthday. We offer full time schooling for all children in Reception, however we also offer a staggered start for our Reception children should parents/carers wish to send them in part time (for example, mornings only). This is to support you and your child with flexibility as your child starts school. If this is something you are considering, please speak to the Class Teacher during the transition process.

Curriculum

The EYFS Early Learning Goals outline the key skills and knowledge children work towards during their Reception year at school. They focus on helping children develop confidence, independence, and a love of learning through play and everyday experiences. The goals cover seven areas of learning, including; communication and language, physical development, personal, social and emotional development, early reading, writing and maths, understanding the world, and creative expression. By the end of Reception, children are supported at their own pace to build strong foundations in these areas, preparing them for a smooth transition into Year 1.

















Collaboration Friday

Collaboration Friday is an exciting part of our school life. This is when all of our off-island bases come over to spend the day at our St Mary's Base in their year group cohorts. This happens weekly (weather depending) and offers the children a chance to play and learn together. For Reception children, this provides valuable opportunities to build friendships beyond their own base, work in collaboration with larger peer groups and develop confidence in different learning environments. Staff support children carefully during these days to ensure they feel safe and secure. More information about these days will be shared during the transition process.




SEND

If your child has SEND, we work closely with you to make sure their transition into school is smooth and positive. Once you have registered with/contacted us we can liaise with you about your child starting school.

In the Autumn Term before they start school, the School EYFS Lead and/or School SENDCO will contact you to discuss an Individual Transition Plan for your child. In the Spring Term the School EYFS

Lead and/or SENDCo will arrange to meet with you to make these transition plans. In the Summer Term we receive all the documentation for your child (Early Years SEND documents, Individual Learning Plans, Health Care Plans etc). School visits for your child will take place, which will vary across the bases and be flexible to meet your child's individual needs and transition plans. Additional paperwork such as a Communication Passport and Social Stories for their timetable will be created as necessary. Further visits can always be arranged to support your child.

If your child attends an EYFS setting on the islands before starting school, you can view how we work together during the transition process with the guide on the council website.

FAQs

These FAQs were collected from current EYFS and KS1 parents at our school to support future families as they begin their journey at Five Islands Academy!

What makes EYFS at Five Islands Academy special?

Five Islands Academy is a unique, all-age, multi-site school serving our island communities. Our Reception children benefit from small, nurturing class environments while also being part of a wider school community across the islands.

What will my child learn in Reception?

In Reception, children follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum. Learning is carefully planned through play, exploration and structured teaching.

The seven areas of learning are:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Our aim is to develop confident, independent learners who enjoy coming to school.

What does a typical day look like?

Each School Base has slightly different routines, but most days include:

- A phonics and maths session
- Short adult-led learning activities
- Child-initiated play indoors and outdoors
- Story time
- Snack and lunchtime

We balance focused teaching with plenty of opportunity for exploration and outdoor learning.

How do you support children as they start school?

We know starting school is a big milestone. We support children by:

- Offering transition sessions in the Summer Term
- Liaising with local EYFS providers
- Building strong relationships with families
- Offering flexibility, including part-time starts if needed

Every child settles at their own pace, and we work closely with you to ensure a positive start.

Can my child start part time?

Yes. Although we offer full-time provision for all Reception children, we understand that some families may prefer a staggered start.

If you would like your child to attend part time initially (for example, mornings only), please discuss this with your Class Teacher during the transition process so we can agree a plan together.

How do you teach phonics?

We use a structured phonics programme called Read Write Inc to teach children how sounds link to letters. Children learn to:

- Recognise letter sounds
- Blend sounds together to read words
- Segment words into sounds to spell

Information about how you can support phonics at home will be shared during the year.

How will I know how my child is getting on?

We use:

- Observations during learning and play
- Ongoing teacher assessment
- Seesaw app to share learning
- Parent meetings
- End-of-year reports

Seesaw allows you to see your child's learning and communicate directly with the Class Teacher.

What should my child be able to do independently?

We understand children develop at different rates and will support them as needed.

It is helpful if they can:

- Use the toilet independently
- Put on and take off their coat

- Wash their hands
- Tidy away toys
- Open their lunch box

What happens if my child has additional needs?

If your child has additional needs, please speak to us as early as possible. We work closely with families and our SENCo to ensure appropriate support is in place.

Our aim is always inclusion, equity and ensuring every child thrives.

How can I support my child at home?

You can support your child by:

- Reading together daily
- Talking about their day and the world around them
- Practising phonics sounds
- Playing simple number games
- Encouraging drawing and mark-making

Simple everyday conversations and experiences make a huge difference.

What happens at the end of Reception?

At the end of Reception, children are assessed against the Early Learning Goals. You will receive a written report outlining your child's progress.

We ensure children are confident and ready for their transition into Year 1.

What apps will I need?

School uses an app called Arbor to communicate, manage payments and share documents with you. We use an app called Tapestry to share your child's learning with you, and class teachers can communicate with you via its messaging feature. There are also helpful learning apps that class teachers will share with you at the appropriate points on your child's learning journey.

Before your child starts school you will receive all the information for how to download and register for these apps.

How can I find out information and what are the main ways school will contact me?

- Our website has all our information on, including our yearly calendar of events https://fiveislands.scilly.sch.uk/
- We use Arbor to share information with you, and class teachers can use Tapestry to message you directly. You can also email School Reception and staff at school.
- We share a weekly Newsletter with a round up of key information.

- We also use our school Facebook page to share key information which parents find useful https://www.facebook.com/fiveislandsacademy
- You can call the school - each School Base phone number can be found on our website https://fiveislands.scilly.sch.uk/contact/

What options are there for snacks and lunches?

Each School Base has different arrangements for snacks and lunches. In the Summer Term before your child starts school, your child's class teacher will send you all the specific logistic information for their setting. In general, all children must bring a water bottle to school. They are welcome to bring a packed lunch in a lunchbox. Reception children are entitled to free school meals (off-islands have slightly different arrangements that your class teacher will share with you). The school dinner menu is published weekly on the school website https://fiveislands.scilly.sch.uk/academy-lunches/

When does my child have PE?

Each class teacher will share which days your child has PE before they start school. On these days children wear PE kit to school and have long hair tied back for safety.

When does school start and finish?

Children go into the classroom at 8:45am. School finishes at 3:10pm. Each School Base has different drop off and collection routines which the class teacher will share with you before they start school.