



Leamington Federation
Sydenham Primary School and Lighthorne Heath
EAL International New Arrivals Settling-in Advice for Parents (English)

Dear Parents and Carers,

Coming to a foreign country and adapting to a completely new life is a great challenge for everyone who experiences it. Supporting your children, helping them adapt and overcome their difficulties alongside your own problems and anxieties can add a tremendous amount of pressure to your life.

We want you to know that we understand your anxieties and your worries, and that we want to help you and your children go through the difficult process of adapting to your new life.

Here is some advice you may find useful:

- Feel free to ask as many questions as you wish and as many times as necessary; every question you have is important to us because it's important to you.
- Be aware that it may take some time before your children start taking an active part in lessons and school life in general; sometimes it takes many weeks, even months before children become comfortable with the new school environment, new friends, new language and a very different school.
- Don't worry if you don't speak English well – with time and effort you will eventually master the language to the level you need it. We will do our best to find people who will be able to help us with initial communication. You may already know somebody who can help you communicate with us – 'a communication buddy' – and we will include their contact details at admission.
- If your child is literate in their first language, encourage them to use their dictionaries as a matter of course – they are indispensable for learning a new language.
- Encourage your children to make social contact with their English classmates, it may be a challenge at the beginning but it will get better and easier with practice.