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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **news release**  **07 October 2024**  **Applications for primary and junior school places in West Sussex are now open**  Applications are now open for children who start in reception at primary and infant schools across West Sussex in September 2025.  The quickest and easiest way to apply is online via  [School places - West Sussex County Council](https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/school-places/) and the deadline for applications is 15 January 2025. Children born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021 are eligible to start school next September.  Children who are currently in Year 2 at an infant school will also need to apply for a place to start a junior school in September next year.  We strongly advise that parents and carers apply on time, before 15 January 2025, which will give them the best chance of being offered one of their three preferences. Those who apply late are far less likely to get a place at one of their three preferred schools and will still need to apply, as they will not automatically be given a place.  Councillor Jacquie Russell, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Learning and Skills, said: “Helping people and communities to fulfil their potential is one of the key priorities in Our Council Plan and our schools play a significant role in helping to achieve this.  “When thinking about school preferences I would encourage families to do as much research into the schools as possible. Please look at school websites and contact schools directly to ask any questions and find out about their open days.”  All of the information about applying can be found on the county council website here: [School places - West Sussex County Council](https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/school-places/).  Free use of computers with internet access is available in all West Sussex libraries, there’s no need to book. Those unable to apply online can request a form be e-mailed or through the post by calling 033 301 42903.  Parents/carers are advised:   * To include three preference schools on your application, listing them in order of preference. * Parents/carers who want their child to go to their catchment school (where applicable) will need to include that school as a preference for it to be considered. * If you apply after the closing date you are far less likely to get a place at one of your preferred schools.   West Sussex County Council Admissions staff are available for those who need help with their application. Contact the admissions team by phoning 033 301 42903 or email the Admissions Team North: [admissions.north@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:admissions.north@westsussex.gov.uk) or the Admissions Team South: [admissions.south@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:admissions.south@westsussex.gov.uk).  Secondary school applications are currently open for September 2025 and close on Thursday 31 October 2024 and the application form is available via: [Secondary school places - West Sussex County Council](https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/school-places/apply/secondary-school-places/#apply-for-a-place).  **For further information please contact the news desk on 0330 222 8090 or email** [**pressoffice@westsussex.gov.uk**](mailto:pressoffice@westsussex.gov.uk)**.   For urgent out-of-hours enquiries please call 07767 098415.**  [Image removed by sender. Twitter](https://twitter.com/WSCCNews) | | | |

West Sussex County Council, County Hall, Chichester, PO19 1RQ, United Kingdom

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