

19.05.25

Dear parents and carers

Update on plans for St Nicholas and Fir Tree schools, September 2026

Parent survey

We are very grateful to those with Reception and Year 1 children at St Nicholas for taking part in the survey during the Spring term. The survey asked for indications of school preference for September 2026, to establish need for Year 2 and Year 3 places and help inform the transition strategy.

We now expect to be able to plan a class structure that supports these aims as much as possible:

- Children entering Year 2 or 3 in September 2026 and have siblings at Fir Tree to have the option to apply to attend school there.
- Children entering Year 2 or 3 in September 2026 and live much closer to Fir Tree to have the option to apply to attend school there.
- The year 2 and 3 cohorts in September 2026 are split relatively evenly across the two schools.
- No child needs to move schools more than once during this transition period.

Application processes

To remain at St Nicholas for September 2026 - No application needs to be made for children remaining at St Nicholas, in the new building. This includes those entering Year 3 in September 2026, when St Nicholas will have a Year 3 cohort for the first time.

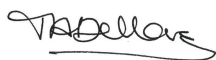
To transfer from St Nicholas to Fir Tree for September 2026 - Please note that, as Fir Tree becomes a Primary rather than a Junior School, the current Oxfordshire County Council Year 3 application process will no longer operate. Instead, this will be managed by ODST for the transition year. We are making arrangements and will keep you updated as to when and how this process will take place. Admissions for 2026 will be subject to admissions criteria, as is always the case.

For entry to Reception year at either school in September 2026 - Applications to be made via Oxfordshire County Council's standard Reception admissions process.

Construction progress

We are very pleased that construction of the new St Nicholas school building has begun. Some of the children and staff were able to visit the site last week and we look forward to more visits as it progresses. Work to add Early Years facilities at Fir Tree is expected to begin in Autumn 2025.

Yours faithfully



Anne Dellar
ODST Chief Executive Officer