

Transitioning into Group I

We recognise that starting a new school is an important step for both children and parents. We want your children to feel safe, welcomed and happy in their new learning environment.

With this in mind, we have created a staggered start for our new learners in Group I. We begin with reduced days and build up to full days over a week. This is to ensure that children ease into school life at a steady pace, become familiar with their environment and with new people, and so they can build confidence when it comes to joining Group I for full days.

Home visits

In the first week of school, we offer an optional home visit. The aim of the home visit is to introduce ourselves to children in an environment that is comfortable and familiar to them. This helps with the transition from home to starting a new school.

The home visits usually last around 20 minutes, and two members of the Group I team will visit. One teacher will spend some time with your child and play with them and one teacher will talk with you about key information about your child, so we can get to know them as well as possible. We will also be able to answer any questions you may have.

The Early Years lead will be in touch before your child's start date to ask if you would like to have a home visit. The home visits will usually take place in the days before your child joins Group I. When we have a lot of children joining at one time, it may be that your child attends school and then a home visit happens a few days later. This is still beneficial as it reinforces and strengthens the link between home and school for children.

If you have just moved to the Netherlands or to a new home, it may be that a home visit is not purposeful. If this is the case, we will be in touch with an alternative suggestion to a home visit. If you live in the Netherlands and apply for your child to begin after the summer holidays, we will offer a home visit to you before the summer holidays begin.

Soft start: week 1 for new students joining throughout the academic year

Children can start in Group I the day after their fourth birthday. This means we will have lots of children joining us throughout the year. Children's first day in Group I will always take place on a Wednesday. If your child will join us at some point through the academic year, please see the table below of how your child's first week will look:

	AM	PM	After school
Monday			Home visit
Tuesday			
Wednesday	8:05 – 9:40 First day of school! Stay and play morning for new children with parents/carers <i>Please bring snack</i>		
Thursday	8:05 – 10:15 (Without parents) <i>Please bring snack</i>		
Friday	8:05 – 11:45		

	(Without parents) <i>Please bring snack</i>		
Monday	8:05 – 12:15 (Without parents) <i>Please bring snack and lunch</i>		
Tuesday	8:05 – 12:45 (Without parents) <i>Please bring snack and lunch</i>		
Wednesday	8:05 – 12:15 Full day (Without parents) <i>Please bring snack</i>		

** Every Wednesday is a short school day for all primary students. The school day runs from 8:05 – 12:15.

Joining a class

When children join us on Wednesday in Group 1, they won't be officially assigned to a class yet as we want to ensure we get to know the children before assigning them to a class. There are three classes in Group 1: Maple, Juniper and Cherry class.

When assigning children to a class, we consider a balance of boys and girls, languages spoken, nationalities and a variety of abilities. On Friday afternoon, at the end of the first week, you will hear from the Early Years lead via email which class your child will join from Monday in the following week.

We are looking forward to meeting you and welcoming you and your child to Group 1!