



Betty Huff Elementary School

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August 28, 2023

Dear Kindergarten Parent/Guardian:

Your child is enrolled in Kindergarten, at Betty Huff Elementary, beginning in September, 2022. We have included some important information below regarding the first weeks of school. If you have any questions after reading this, or if your child is no longer going to be attending Kindergarten at Betty Huff Elementary, please call the office at (604) 585-3104 between 8:30am and 3:00pm, M-F.

We have included an additional document as the last page of this letter.

- Gradual Entry Calendar for the first two weeks of school. FULL TIME begins September 18.

We are very excited to be welcoming back all of our students and most especially, our new Kindergarten students! The first few weeks for Kindergarten will be a gradual entry process at Betty Huff as it is for all schools in Surrey.

You will find out your Child's Gradual Entry Group on Tuesday. If the teacher doesn't find you, please make a point of introducing yourself to a teacher and asking which group your child will be in. At that time, please refer to the attached calendar for the times your child will be attending.

Our new K students will be welcomed by a team of teachers at the red playground and grass area near the driveway entrance on Tuesday at 10:00am.

Kindergarten children will attend at 10:00am until some time before 11:00am. **Stay with your child.** During this time, you will confirm your child's attendance and then we will engage with children, reinforce importance of washing hands, and observe them playing. At present, we have 46 children registered for Kindergarten at Betty Huff, which will result in either two Kindergarten classes and one K/1 class, or preferably, three Kindergarten classes, so long as all registered children attend. In accordance with the BC School Act, class size maximum for Kindergarten is 19 or 20 depending on certain circumstances.

Teachers will advise you of pickup areas moving forward.

During gradual entry, the children will need a small snack and eventually a lunch. Parents are asked to send the snacks with their child. We do not permit parents to move in and out of the building freely during the school day – it not only interrupts learning, but it is also a security risk. Parents are certainly welcome in the school for organized activities when pre-established with the classroom teacher or principal. If you happen to have forgotten to send a snack, the school can provide snacks for children. Please ensure your child brings all snacks /lunch and a refillable water bottle with them

in the morning each day. Healthy eating is a must in Kindergarten (and all grades, but this is where we begin establishing habits). **Please leave pop, soda, juice boxes, sweets, and chips for home.**

Students will be attending full days (8:35 - 2:27) beginning on Monday September 18.

Items to buy for Kindergarten: **Please bring these items on Monday, September 18.**

- \$45 for school supplies for the year – these will be communal and shared. Our teachers purchase supplies at a better price point and are able to stretch your dollar further.
- Velcro running shoes with no laces. These shoes will be kept at school to be used inside daily. These shoes will be worn at school and in the gym. They must be running shoes. Please no slippers, party shoes, water shoes, crocs, high tops or shoes with laces. Students will use INSIDE and OUTSIDE shoes in Kindergarten.
- Small School-sized Backpack- 16-18" long. This will carry your child's lunch, library books, if necessary, and other items. Please do not overfill it, as it can be hard on a small child's back.
- Spare set of clothing to keep at school: Clearly labelled T-shirt, leggings or pants, underwear and socks. These should be in a zip-loc bag so that the dirty clothes can go back in after an accident. Yes, accidents do happen!
- Lunch bag & refillable water bottle
- Please write your child's name on all their personal items, but not on school supplies (because we are providing those from your \$45 cheque). *If finances are a challenge for your family, please have a conversation with one of the Kindergarten teachers so we can support your child with supplies.*

Please note, by the time school starts, Kindergarten teachers expect the following (unless there are special circumstances):

- Students are able to open their own lunch containers and eat independently
- Students will be able to do up their own jackets and put their shoes on independently (further reason why we do not want shoelaces in Kindergarten)
- Students will be fully potty trained.
- If your child has had difficulty meeting a typical benchmark, please have a private conversation with your child's teacher so we can provide added support as needed, or support you in how you might find out more information about your concern.

We look forward to working with you and your child this next school year and we can't wait to see you all in September!

Sincerely,

Mr. B. Helland, Principal
Ms. C. McClean, Vice-Principal
and our Kindergarten team

Kindergarten Gradual Entry Model • September 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4 STAT HOLIDAY – LABOUR DAY. All schools closed.	5 Confirm Registration & Welcome Families 10:00 – 10:30	6 1.5 hour class <i>Group A 8:35 - 10:05</i> <i>Group B 12:57 - 2:27</i>	7 1.5 hour class <i>Group A 8:35 - 10:05</i> <i>Group B 12:57 - 2:27</i>	8 2 hour class <i>Group A 8:35 - 10:35</i> <i>Group B 12:27 - 2:27</i>
11 2 hour class <i>Group A 8:35 - 10:35</i> <i>Group B 12:27 - 2:27</i>	12 3 hour class <i>Groups A & B 8:35 - 11:35</i> Child-Focussed Conversations	13 4 hour class <i>Groups A & B 8:35 - 12:35</i> Children stay over lunch Child-Focussed Conversations	14 4 hour class <i>Groups A & B 8:35 - 12:35</i> Children stay over lunch Child-Focussed Conversations	15 K Students not in session. Child-Focussed Conversations
18 Students attend full classes	19 Students attend full classes	20 Students attend full classes	21 Students attend full classes	22 Students attend full classes
25 Non-instructional day No School	26 Students attend full classes	27 Students attend full classes	28 Students attend full classes	29 Students attend full classes

Advantages: Planning for a full day of child-focussed conversations at the end of gradual entry provides a gradual increase of stamina in the classroom throughout the first and second week without a break in the schedule. It also allows educators to connect with families of the children assigned to their classroom during individual meeting times.