



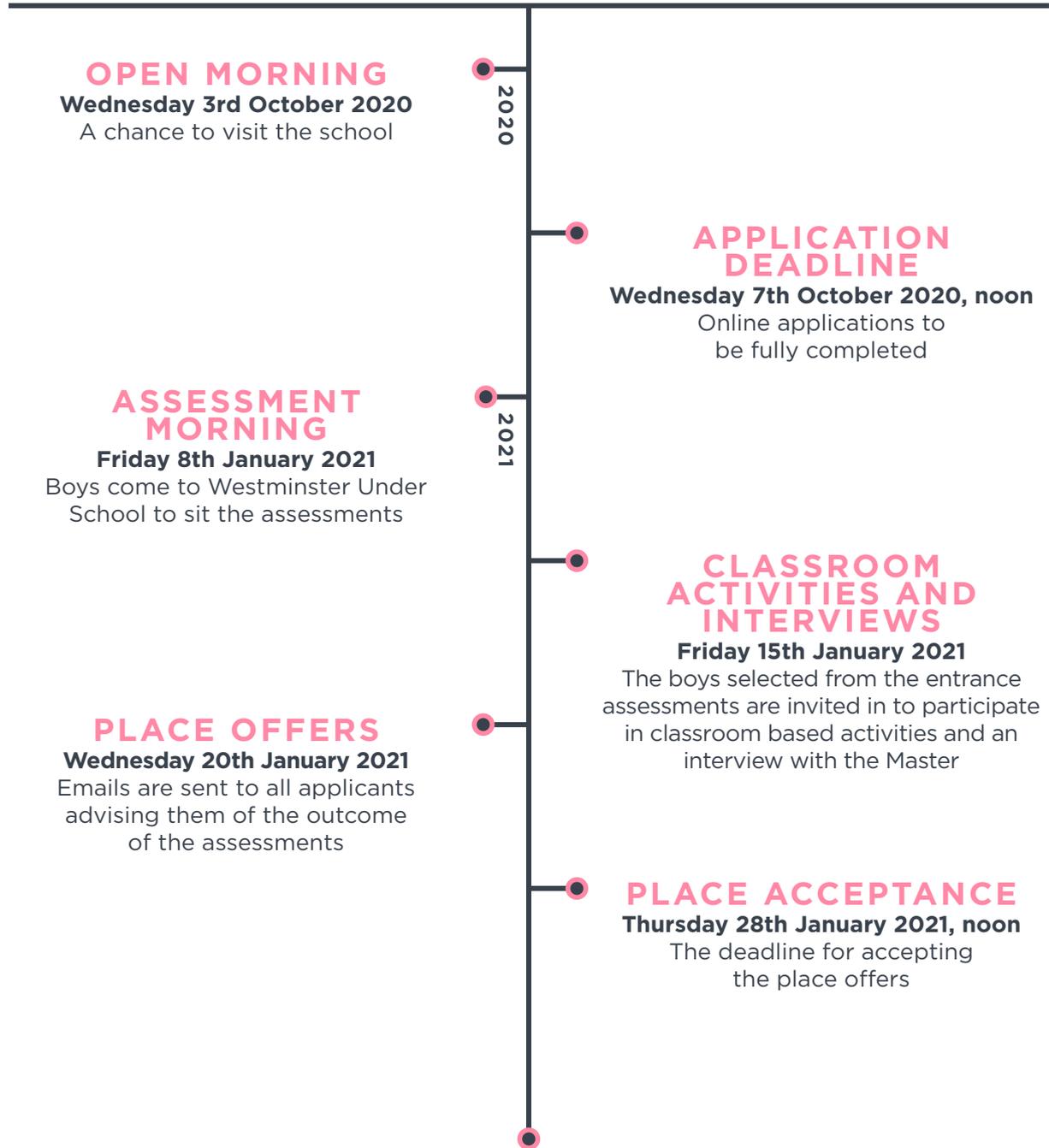
WESTMINSTER
UNDER SCHOOL

8+

ADMISSION
INFORMATION PACK



KEY DATES



ADMISSIONS PROCESS

REGISTRATION

Parents who wish to register their sons for the September 2021 8+ entry should complete the online registration form, which can be found in the Admissions section of the school website: www.westminsterunder.org.uk/admissions. The deadline for all September 2021 applications is noon on Wednesday 7th October 2020.

WRITTEN PAPERS

At the Under School we look for potential in the boys and for boys who have natural ability and will therefore thrive here. Our challenge is to find that potential, rather than simply select intensely-tutored boys, and whose natural ability will grow with the challenges a Westminster education provides. We, therefore, strongly recommend that you do not “cram” your son, or have him specifically tutored. This can detract from the freshness, spontaneity and eagerness to learn which are some of the qualities we are looking for. All boys for the 8+ entrance assessments will sit written papers in Mathematics, English, Verbal Reasoning and Non-Verbal Reasoning.

To help you prepare your son for our papers, we recommend the following areas of good practice, all of which can and should be achieved through normal schooling.

MATHEMATICS

It will be assumed that the boys have completed a programme of study contained within the National Curriculum. Boys should have a sound understanding of place-value, a grasp of the four arithmetic operations and the ability to apply them in problem solving.

They should have a range of mental calculating strategies (for example, doubling and division for the 2,4,5 and 10 times tables, and to be able to deduce other results from these). They should also have a practical experience of measurement and shape. They should understand the concept of fractions at a basic level.

ENGLISH

Writing

We are looking for boys who are able to express themselves creatively and accurately. The creative writing task will be thematically linked to the comprehension passage and will require boys to write in a form that should be familiar to any pupil who has followed the the Key Stage 1 and 2 programme of study, or equivalent, checking for spelling, punctuation and grammar is also to be encouraged. Examples may include an informal letter, a diary entry, a short news report or a short piece of descriptive writing. Marks will be awarded for style, content and accuracy, but not for length.

Reading

Your son will be reading aloud to others as well as reading to himself regularly. He should be able to discuss the stories, their meaning and any new vocabulary encountered.

Reasoning

There will be papers in Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning, which will test thinking skills. The boys do not need to do any preparation for Verbal and Non-Verbal reasoning, although familiarisation with these type of papers may increase confidence for those that have not had previous experience with them. There are a number of examples of reasoning books available online or from a wide number of bookshops.

Please be reassured that a teacher will be on hand to support and prompt your son if he requires it during the tasks on the assessment day. Most boys finish the assessment day having enjoyed the challenge of these papers.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITY AND INTERVIEW

Based on the results of the written papers, we will invite approximately 50 boys back for some classroom activities and an interview. This will take place on Friday 15th January 2021.

The boys will enjoy a session similar to a typical school morning. They will be settled in with games before they start their assessment. The day will include an outside play break and a snack and drink.

They will be interviewed by The Master and a member of the Senior Management Team where they will be encouraged to talk about themselves, discussing their genuine interests and enthusiasms. We are looking for boys who have a spark and a passion. Quiet or shy boys are equally effective in talking about the topics that fascinate them.

This is a chance for us to get to know the boys and we aim to make both days as normal and as comfortable as possible with friendly teachers encouraging and supporting the boys.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL FEES

The school fees for the academic year 2019/2020 were £6,834 per term, £20,502 per year. Fees for 2020/2021 will be released in July 2020.

SCHOOL HOURS

The school gates open from 8am and boys should arrive at the side gate in Douglas Street, between 8am and 8.15am. Registration is at 8.20am.

Year 3 and 4 boys finish their lessons at 3.15pm every day. Boys attending clubs will go to their clubs at 3.20pm, while those not attending clubs will be brought to the school gates for collection at 3.20pm.

HOMEWORK

Year 3: 20 minutes per night, plus reading
Year 4: 30 minutes per night, plus reading
Year 5: 50 - 60 minutes per night
(two subjects)
Year 6: 60 minutes per night
(usually two subjects)
Year 7: 90 minutes per night
(three subjects)
Year 8: 90 - 105 minutes per night
(three subjects)

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS: “EXTRAS”

These clubs include activities such as Fencing, Judo, Karate, Bridge, Chess, Indoor Cricket, Climbing, Table Tennis, LAMDA,

Clay, Film-Making and Swimming. At the Under School these are known as “Extras”.

GAMES

Our main sports are football and cricket, but as the boys move through the school they will have the opportunity to compete in other sports such as athletics, basketball, cross-country running, hockey, Fives, rugby, swimming and tennis.

Games takes place twice a week on Vincent Square or at the Sports Hall.

The boys also have PE and swimming each week, with swimming taking place at the Queen Mother Sports Centre on Vauxhall Bridge Road.

DOOR TO DOOR TRANSPORT

There is no official school transport; however, the following services are available and currently used by pupils. This transport is arranged by the parents directly with the operators:

Mini Bus Services

North West London Route

The route is:

Stanmore - Edgware - St Johns Wood - Baker Street - WUS

West London Route 1

The route is:

W2 to W8 - SW7 - SW3 - WUS

West London Route 2

The route is:

W10 - W11 - W2 - WUS

Taxis

There are two main external taxi providers chosen by parents who take several boys to and from school.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Pimlico Tube Station, on the Victoria Line, is less than 5 minutes walk away. Victoria and St James's Park, on the District and Circle Lines are approximately a 10 minute walk away.