



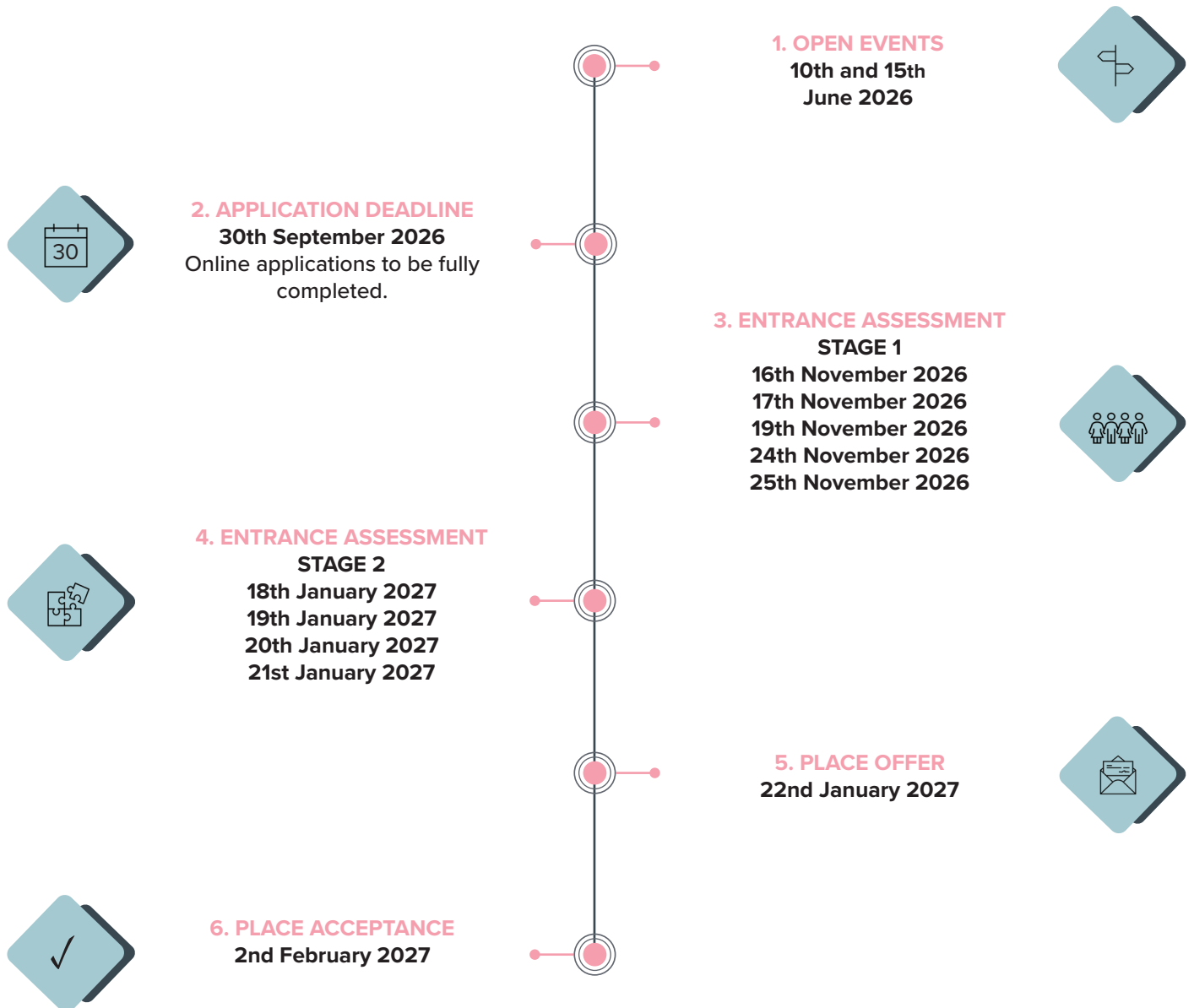
**WESTMINSTER
UNDER SCHOOL**

4+

**ADMISSIONS
INFORMATION PACK**

4+

KEY DATES



THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

LOOKING AHEAD

September 2026 will bring one of the most significant changes in Westminster's almost 500-year history - the arrival of girls across all years and the launch of a new Pre-Prep. This is a landmark moment, and a special time to be applying to Westminster Under School.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR IN A PUPIL?

At all entry age points at the Under School, we look for children who are bright, kind, and curious about the world around them. Our aim is to identify children with potential, whose natural ability will flourish with the opportunities a Westminster education provides.

THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Our 4+ assessments are designed to be informal, friendly, and age appropriate. We aim to create an environment where children feel relaxed and confident to be themselves.

There are two rounds of assessment. We strongly believe in a play-based childhood and no specific preparation is needed for either stage.

STAGE ONE: The 4+ entrance assessments will take place in a relaxed, play-focused mock-classroom setting within Lawrence Hall, our Sports Centre. Children will engage in a mix of structured activities and free play, allowing us to observe how they interact, explore, and respond to gentle prompts. We aim to create an informal, welcoming atmosphere in which children can have fun and participate comfortably. Parents are kindly asked to leave the Westminster site during the assessment and enjoy a coffee nearby.

STAGE TWO: After the initial visit in the Play Term for the Stage One assessment, some pupils will be invited back for Stage Two in January. At this point, we may also speak with your child's nursery. A child's date of birth, the languages they speak at home and their proximity to the school will be considered in the decision-making process. As in the first round, the emphasis will be on ensuring a relaxed environment with structured activities and free play. Shortly after the second visit, the School will contact candidates' parents to let them know whether their child has been offered a place. The deadline for offer acceptance is usually the first half of the Lent term and the specific date will be given when an offer is made.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

JOINING THE PRE-PREP

Transitioning children into our Pre-Prep will be a personalised and supportive process. We understand that this is an important milestone for both pupils and parents. To ensure a smooth start, we offer a variety of events for children joining us in Reception, beginning in the summer before they start. These include stay-and-play sessions to enable children to familiarise themselves with their new environment and peers, home visits to gather valuable insights from parents, and a staggered start in September. In the new academic year, there will be plenty of opportunities for parents to attend workshops and welcome events to understand the School's priorities, ethos and approach to learning. We are a supportive and friendly community which very much values the home-school relationship.

OUR PRE-PREP CURRICULUM

We know that Early Years are some of the most formative in life and, as such, the bedrock of education. The quality of a child's early experiences provides the building blocks for educational achievement, social and emotional intelligence, and responsible citizenship. In the first five years of life, children develop faster than at any other time. At the Under School, we have carefully extended our current provision, in collaboration with teachers across the School, to encompass this incredibly important and instrumental time in a child's development. Reception provides the bridge between nursery and formalised schooling. By bringing this provision 'in-house', we will strengthen this bridge and ensure that pupils have a cohesive, supportive journey into Year 1 and beyond. Our aim is to offer one single journey through school – a cohesive curriculum, lasting friendships, and a Westminster education.

Through a nurturing environment that fosters intellectual curiosity, children will be supported to grow into confident and happy young children, well-prepared for the next stage of their education. We believe in the importance of play, outdoor learning and age-appropriate challenge. Our carefully designed Pre-Prep curriculum is highly engaging and will allow bright children to thrive through a nurturing environment, high-quality input from expert teachers and by exploring their own interests. As a Values Based Education School, we prioritise inter-personal relationships. Children will be encouraged to be themselves, developing independence, self-confidence and a love of learning.

FACILITIES

Our new Pre-Prep, along with our Junior Department (Years 3 and 4), will be based in Adrian House from 2027, which will become a dedicated centre for our Lower School pupils aged 4 – 9. Adrian House is being currently remodelled and refurbished so as to ensure that our Pre-Prep and Junior pupils will learn, play, and thrive in modern and comfortable surroundings. They will enjoy large, spacious classrooms, rooms for creative and project-based tasks, a specialised Lower School, and a covered external play balcony. As with all pupils at the Under School, the Pre-Prep will also have the opportunity to benefit from the 13-acre Vincent Square at break and lunchtimes, and for sporting activities.

TRANSPORT

At present, we do not offer a dedicated travel service for children in the Pre-Prep. Families are responsible for arranging their own transport to and from school. The Under School is very well served by bus, rail and tube services.

CLUBS

We will offer a small selection of optional play-based after-school clubs for our youngest pupils, designed to provide gentle enrichment during their first years at Westminster Under School. Clubs include 'puzzles and play' club and 'dance and movement' club. At this stage we do not offer wrap-around care.

TRANSFER TO WESTMINSTER

We fully anticipate a high number of children joining the Under school at 4+ and staying with Westminster School until they are 18, after successful completion of the 11+ process, for which they will be well prepared. Children will be continually assessed during their time at the school to ensure they continue to thrive in the fast-paced environment we provide.

At the 4+ entry point, children will be offered a place at Westminster Under School for three years – from Reception until the end of Year 2. We anticipate that the majority of children in our Reception classes will continue into Year 3 and beyond. Existing pupils will not sit the 7+ formal tests. Instead, parents should register their interest in continuing at WUS when their child is in Year 2. A selection process will take place internally, through continuous assessment, to ensure that those offered places at 7+ through both routes, internal and external, are of the same calibre and have the appropriate attributes and abilities. Regular, clear and supportive communication throughout Reception and Year 1 regarding pupil progress will ensure that decisions are not a surprise. Internally, the School will explicitly advise parents in the Election Term of Year 1 on potential future schools and whether their child is likely to be offered a 7+ place at Westminster Under School. External candidates at 7+ will continue to participate in the formal assessment process. Routes are at the same standard to ensure consistency.



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