



ÉCOLE POIRIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PO Box 940, 6526 Throup Rd,

Sooke BC V9Z 1H9

Tel.: 250-642-0500

Principal – Vicki Ives & Vice Principal – Erin Russell

Dear Kindergarten Families,

July 3, 2026

As we begin preparing to welcome our newest learners in September, we are excited to share information about Kindergarten Gradual Entry for the 2026/27 school year.

This year, all elementary schools across the district will follow the same gradual entry schedule to provide consistency for families and students.

Gradual entry is an important part of helping children transition successfully into school. It allows students to:

- Get to know one another in smaller groupings
- Develop classroom and school routines
- Build up stamina for the length of the school day
- Adjust to being around many children and adults in a school setting
- Learn where important spaces are in the school and on the school grounds
- Practice independence skills during snack and lunch times
- Give teachers and specialized staff opportunities to learn about each child's strengths, interests and needs so we can best support them

Kindergarten Gradual Entry Schedule 2026/27

	Monday Sept 7	Tuesday Sept 8	Wednesday Sept 9	Thursday Sept 10	Friday Sept 11
AM – Week 1	No School Labour Day	Grades 1-5 ONLY	Grades 1-5 ONLY	Grades 1-5 ONLY	Kindergarten Group 1 9:00 -11:00am
PM – Week 1		Non- Instructional Administrative Time	Grades 1-5 ONLY	Welcome to Kindergarten Event 1:00-2:00pm (parents/caregivers attend this event)	Kindergarten Group 2 12:30-2:30pm
	Monday Sept 14	Tuesday Sept 15	Wednesday Sept 16	Thursday Sept 17	Friday Sept 18
AM – Week 2	Kindergarten Group 2 9:00 -11:00am	Partial Day for ALL Kindergarteners 9:00 am –12:00 pm	Full Day for ALL Kindergarteners 8:47am – 2:40pm	Full Day for ALL Kindergarteners 8:47am – 2:40pm	Full Day for ALL Kindergarteners 8:47am – 2:40pm
PM – Week 2	Kindergarten Group 1 12:30-2:30 pm				



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The **Welcome to Kindergarten** event is designed for **students and their parents/caregivers to attend together** on Thursday, Sept. 10th from 1:00 to 2:00pm. During this event you will get an opportunity to meet all the Kindergarten teachers, tour the classrooms and the school, play on the playground and more. For the remainder of the gradual entry schedule, students will attend independently. (Please see the gradual entry details below.)

Children will be placed in classes on Wednesday, September 16th. Throughout the month of September, we may make changes to the class configurations. This will allow plenty of time to get to know all of the students and create balanced classes that will meet the needs of all learners. This gradual entry will give every child an opportunity to experience the classroom setting with a smaller group and meet new friends. During the 3 gradual entry days, your child will participate in table-top activities, story/carpet time, paper activities, gym time, recess and snack time.

Things to bring: - backpack with a change of clothes; water bottle; gym shoes; snack

Note: - please do not bring school supplies until Wednesday, September 16th

Friday - September 11th

- 9:00am -11:00am Last Name starts with A – J (Group 1)
- 12:30pm -2:30pm Last Name starts with K– Z (Group 2)

Monday - September 14th

- 9:00am -11:00am Last Name starts with K – Z (Group 2)
- 12:30pm -2:30pm Last Name starts with A – J (Group 1)

Tuesday - September 15th

- 9:00am - 12:00pm All Students for partial day

Wednesday - September 16th (students will be placed in their “unofficial” classes)

- 8:47am - 2:40pm All Students for full day (Students may ride the bus today!!)

Kindergarten children can take the bus to school starting on Wednesday, September 16th. If your child has been registered for bus services and receives route information in late July, please note that our transportation system operates on **regular routes** only. As a result, your child’s pick-up and drop-off times on September 11, 14 and 15 will differ from their regular transportation schedule, which will begin on Wednesday, September 16. We kindly ask families to plan accordingly for alternate transportation to school on these initial days. Transportation related questions should be directed to busing@sd62.bc.ca.

We know that starting kindergarten is an exciting milestone for children and families alike. Our gradual entry process is designed to help students feel comfortable, confident and successful as they begin their school journey.

Ms. Vicki Ives is the Principal, **Mrs. Erin Russell** is the Vice Principal and **Mrs. Alisha Shea** is our Administrative Assistant. We will all be back to work starting on Monday, August 24th.

We look forward to seeing you in September!

Respectfully,

Ms. Ives, Ms. Russell and the Kindergarten Team



Kindergarten