

Reception Class 2020

Wildmoor Heath School



REACH FOR THE STARS ★★
Respect - Empathy - Aspirations - Courage - Honesty

Wildmoor Heath is proud to be part of the  GREENSHAW LEARNING TRUST, a family of like-minded schools that collaborate to provide mutual support, share best practice and achieve the best possible outcomes for all our learners.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Wildmoor Heath School and the Reception Class. We are delighted that your child will be joining our thriving community school in September 2020 and we hope that your family will have a long and happy association with us. At Wildmoor, we pride ourselves on being a school where the needs of all our learners are met with care, compassion and ambition. We are extremely proud of our learners who are confident, socially and academically, and play a significant role in their local community.

Your child's first step into primary school is an important one for the whole family; we are keen to work with your family to make it as smooth and enjoyable as possible. This year, due to the CV-19 pandemic, we have had to adjust our arrangements and are not able to hold our usual welcome presentation and transition days during the summer 2020 term. Instead, we have produced welcome presentations and some film clips of our setting from key staff to help familiarise your child with their teacher and to show you the setting. We will also invite each family into school for an individual 'Welcome Meeting' with the class teacher, Mrs Joseph, at the beginning of the September term. This will give us the opportunity to spend some time getting to know your child and your family. We would normally do this first session in their nursery learning setting or in your home, however due to CV-19 we are unable to do this.

It is difficult for schools and families to map out September as there is still significant uncertainty in the primary school sector as to when we can actually return. As soon as we have clear information from the government, we will write to all families. Once we are able to confirm that the government will indeed allow all primary pupils, including new Reception learners, to start in September 2020, we will inform you of your family's 'Welcome Meeting' time and date. Thereafter, we will put in place a phased start programme for the children to allow them to get to know their new school and adjust to the new environment and routines. Should the government delay the start of Reception, or indeed wider primary, pupils, rest assured that Mrs Joseph will provide a comprehensive home learning package on our school platform, Edmodo, together with Phonics lessons, daily stories, maths lessons, etc. We also use Tapestry as a wonderful resource for parent to communicate daily with the teacher and upload photos, etc. Our comprehensive home learning programme has been well supported by our parental community throughout the CV-19 school closure period.

I am pleased to include with this pack:

- An 'All About Me' sheet for your child to complete;
- 'Proud Clouds' for parents to fill in with any 'wow' facts (or moments) related to your child;
- A 'Chatterbox Challenge' for you to try over the summer and bring to school in September

Thank you for your support and patience as we work our way through the CV-19 restrictions on primary schools. Rest assured that we will be quick to communicate with you as and when things become clearer. Also, please remember that we are here to help! Please feel free to call the school, or send an e-mail enquiry, at any time. If you require assistance or wish to seek our advice at any time, please contact the school office at secretary@wildmoorheath.org.uk or call us on 01344 772034. **This is particularly important if you no longer require a place as we have a waiting list with some anxious families who are very keen to join Wildmoor Heath.**

We are really looking forward to meeting your child and family and to building a lasting partnership with you.

Leslie Semper Headteacher Wildmoor Heath School

WILDMOOR HEATH RECEPTION CLASS – INFORMATION FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2020

THE EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

As children enter Reception, they begin their final year of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum (EYFS). The EYFS is an active curriculum where children learn through play, across seven areas of learning.

There are three **Prime Areas**, these are:

1. Communication and Language
(Listening and Attention, Understanding, Speaking);
2. Physical Development
(Moving and Handling, Health and Self-care);
3. Personal, Social and Emotional Development
(Making Relationships, Self-Confidence and Self-Awareness, Managing Feelings and Behaviour);

There are also four **Specific Areas** of skills development:

1. Literacy
(Reading, Writing);
2. Mathematics
(Number, Shape, Space and Measure);
3. Understanding the World
(People and Communities, The World, Technology);
4. Expressive Arts and Design
(Exploring and using Media and Materials, Being Imaginative);

These seven areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities and the teachers work hard to make sure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs. We chose a weekly theme for our learning depending on current interests in the class.

Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creating and thinking critically. Their learning and experiences take place both indoors and outdoors every day across the three academic terms. Their learning is continuous and progressive throughout the year.

In the autumn term, each child will be assessed by the teacher during their first six weeks in school. This is a baseline national assessment, conducted informally, and will help us to measure your child's future progress as they progress through the school.

In the summer term 2021, the Reception teacher Mrs Joseph complete an assessment which is known as the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Profile. This is a written report notifying you of their assessments against the 17 Early Learning Goals (ELGs).

STAFFING AND ORGANISATION

- Mrs Joseph is the Reception class teacher;
- Mrs Smith and Mrs Mahoney Veitch are the Reception class teaching assistant.
- The school day begins at 8.50am - doors open at 8.40am to allow children to come into class.
- Registration closes at 8.55am.

- Children should enter the building and classroom through the Reception garden and patio area. Their cloakroom is inside the classroom.
- You may bring your child into the classroom to help settle them and speak to the class teacher if you need to. We encourage all children to be independent in putting their things away and ordering their school dinners.
- Water, milk and a fruit snack is provided every morning for the children.
- Lunch time is 12.15-1.15pm. Reception children have their lunch first and eat in the hall. For the first week or two, Year 6 children ‘buddy’ the younger ones at lunchtime. They will help them get their lunch and will look out for them on the playground and field.
- End of day: 3.15pm. Please wait in the playground by the Reception garden gate. The class teacher will only release your child to you (or the person you have authorised). The class teacher will be available for you if you should have any questions.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

- Children need a pair of wellington boots that they can keep in school.
- We would recommend that you put a spare set of clothes in your child’s school bags, just in case of toilet accidents and wet weather. This should include spare socks or tights.
- Please make sure all your child’s belongings are clearly named. There is a lost property box near the office.
- The children will be given a Wildmoor Heath water bottle to keep on the first day. These should be taken home each day to be washed and refilled. All children have access to water throughout the day.
- We expect all children to look smart, be dressed in full uniform every day, and to bring an appropriate PE kit into school.

HOME LEARNING

- Reading – after their first few weeks in school, after several daily phonics sessions, your child will be given a reading book, record and target card. These are colour coded to link with our reading scheme – you or your child should then choose books with the appropriate colour sticker, although you are welcome to choose from a wider range for ‘reading for pleasure’. Children are taught to read 1:1 by the teacher, teaching assistant and/or trained volunteers. Most children will have at least two sessions each week and many will have more. These sessions are linked to your child’s target (marked by a red sticker on their card) and are recorded in their reading record. We run a Reading/Phonics workshop for parents in the autumn term and you can find out more on our website.
- Children will also receive ‘tricky words’ and weekly new sounds for you to practise at home.

PARENTAL COMMUNICATION

- Teachers and support staff are available every morning and after school if you need to share information or ask questions. If you would prefer a private or longer conversation, you may wish to make an appointment. You can also make appointments to see Mrs Joseph (class teacher) or Mrs MacManus (Special Educational Needs and Disability Coordinator (SENCO)). The Headteacher, Mrs Semper, and the Deputy Headteacher, Mr. Thomas, are available daily on the school gate if you have any queries.
- There are lots of opportunities, including open mornings and assemblies, for parents to visit the classroom, look at Learning Journals and see their children’s work.
- Proud clouds—these are included in the pack for you to start completing. This can be filled in and

handed to the teacher whenever your child has a ‘wow’ moment at home. They provide us with valuable information about your child.

- Our website provides a comprehensive set of information, including: school values; mission; curriculum intent, implementation and impact; personal development and enrichment; school results and policies. Please use this valuable resource to help you find out more about our school, history, events and of course our Parent Teacher Association. School newsletters are sent home regularly.
- You will also receive a weekly Reception Class update telling you what your child will be learning.
- We will be using ‘Tapestry’ to record your child’s progress. This is a website which can be accessed on a computer, laptop, tablet or smart phone and enables us to instantly upload photos, videos and observations of your children. You are then emailed to alert you that something new has been added to your child’s Learning Journal and can log on and view what your child has been up to and add your own comments. Further details will follow.
- You will have an opportunity to formally discuss your child’s progress and / or next steps twice a year. You will also receive a final written report at the end of the year along with notification of their end of year assessments.

A TYPICAL DAY IN THE RECEPTION CLASS

Morning Routines

- **Independence**
Children enter school and are encouraged to be independent and to put their own things away. They can order their school dinner using the interactive whiteboard and then need to ‘self-register’ by writing their name on a board. This means they are securing the ‘name writing’ objective straight away! (The teacher also takes a formal register).
- **Visual Timetable**
A visual timetable is used so that children know what is coming next and can refer to it throughout the day. This is displayed so that parents can see it too.
- **Daily Phonics is Vital to Promote Reading Skills**
Phonics is the cornerstone of reading and writing and is a major part of our work in Reception. The school promotes daily phonics and the acquisition of early reading skills from the day of entry. We use Read, Write, Inc. scheme, together with sounds, songs and gestures to learn our phonics sounds. Children are taught letter sounds (phonemes) in a set order along with ‘tricky words’. As part of phonics, children are also taught to form letters (graphemes). It is important that children learn the phoneme-grapheme correspondence as soon as possible as this will help them with both their reading and their writing. Home learning, including phonics work, will be set on our Edmodo home learning platform and a sheet will be sent home each week – these are for you to keep and practise with your child at home.
- **Literacy Activity Time**
This is essentially group work led by an adult that focuses on reading and writing but also incorporates other areas of learning. Each week we have a theme for the children’s learning, based on current interests in the class.
- **Discovery Time**
This is child-initiated playing and learning time. Children can choose where they want to play,

indoors or outdoors, and what they want to do. Staff support and challenge the children whilst they are doing this, observing the children at play, making personalised assessments and planning their next steps in learning.

- **Tidy Up Time followed by Dough Disco**

Dancing with play dough! Building their arm and hand muscles necessary for writing.

Afternoon Routines

- **Relax and Reflect Time**

A quiet time where the children lie down and listen to music after a busy morning and lunch time.

- **Maths Activity Time**

Group work led by an adult that focuses on mathematics but also incorporates other areas of learning. This again is often linked to our theme.

- **Discovery Time**

As per the morning: child initiated time.

- Individual reading—throughout the day teachers will listen to individual readers.

Transition

- Through the Reception year the expectations gradually increase in preparation for Year One (e.g. longer adult-directed sessions). Once the children have met an Early Learning Goal (ELG) they begin working on the National Curriculum.
- During the last 3-4 weeks of the summer term, the children will spend part of the afternoon in the Year 1 classroom, completing some typical Year 1 learning activities. This will allow them to experience the Year 1 learning environment and to get used to the more formal routines and expectations of the National Curriculum. In Year 1, we have one half-term of transition, with some child-initiated ‘free flow’ activities whilst the children adjust to the new routines.

TO DO LIST FROM NOW UNTIL SEPTEMBER 2020

- Read all school communications carefully.
- Watch the video films and presentations we send to you, with your child.
- Hand in all forms to the office as soon as possible. Please include your mobile number and e-mail on the admissions form. This will allow us to contact you / keep you informed via our 'school communications' system. We send out a bi-weekly school newsletter and weekly Reception Class updates using this system.
- Information about our school uniform and PE kit can be found in the Parent Information Handbook. The children will need a PE kit from September. Branded school uniform (polo-shirts, jumpers etc.), book and PE bags, can be ordered from 'PMG School wear'. You can order by calling: 01895 809 321 or through their website: www.pmg schoolwear.co.uk. You do not have to buy branded uniform.
- Keep an eye on the school website (<https://www.wildmoorheath.org.uk/>) for the 2020 –2021 calendar of events – this will tell you when parent consultations, school photos and other key events are. This is usually available before the end of the summer term.
- Sign up for Twitter and follow us: @WildmoorHeath and download the Wildmoor Heath app;

GETTING READY FOR SCHOOL - HOW YOU CAN HELP US

- Complete Proud Clouds, the 'About Me' sheet and 'Chatterbox Challenge' – these will help us learn about your child.
- Label everything! Please make sure that your child's belongings are easily identifiable. PMG School wear provides a labelling service.
- We encourage children to get changed for PE from September. This is a gradual process and they are supported to do so. You can help us by practising over the summer holidays.
- It would be most helpful if children could recognise and be able to attempt writing their own name. This will enable them to find their pegs, self-register and put up their birthdays.

YOUR CHILD'S FIRST DAY – WHAT TO BRING / WHAT TO EXPECT

- Your child's 'Welcome Meeting' first day will be confirmed at a later stage.
 - Your child should arrive wearing their school uniform. They should bring their PE kit, book bag, wellington boots and if not having a school meal, a packed lunch.
 - Lunch is between 12:15pm and 1:15 pm and will be supported by the staff.
 - School finishes at 3.15pm. The school gates are open at approximately 3.10pm. You should collect your child from the Reception Garden gate – teachers will only release children to those with permission to collect them. Staff will always be pleased to talk to you about your child's first day at school and if there is anything you need to know, they will speak to you.
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