

Reception Class 2017



Wildmoor Heath School

REACHING for our **BEST**

Respect - Everyone - Achievement - Courage - Helpful & Caring – Individuality - Never Give Up - Go for It!

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome to Wildmoor Heath School and the Reception Class. We are very excited to welcome you and your child to the school. Our aim is that your child's transition into school is a happy one and we will do all that we can to ensure this.

To begin your child's transition into school, we will be visiting them at their current setting. This is a great opportunity to meet your child, spend some time playing with them in their environment and to speak with their key worker. We always look forward to meeting the children in their setting and they normally get quite excited about this visit too!

As well as this the children are invited to three 'stay and play' sessions. At these sessions your child will get to meet other children who will be in their class and explore their new classroom. You are welcome to stay with your child for these sessions or you may feel that it is ok to leave them. Our aim is to work in partnership with you to make transition smooth so please do whatever you feel will work best for your child. They are then invited in for one final session where they stay for the whole morning and for lunch. Children are encouraged to stay without parents for this session and lunch can be packed lunch or school dinners. Further information on dates and times are included in this pack.

Also included in this pack:

- A transition booklet for your child
- An 'all about me' sheet for you to complete
- Proud clouds for you to fill in with any 'wow' moments that your child has
- A 'chatterbox challenge' for you to try over the Summer and bring to school in September

We know that starting school can be a nervous and worrying time for you and your child. We know exactly how you feel and will work hard to make sure that your child is happy and settles quickly. Please feel free to contact the school or come in and see us if there is anything that you want to ask or talk about. We are here to help! We are really looking forward to meeting your child and getting to know them.

Yours sincerely,

Aimee Joseph and Esther Dalton
Reception Class Teachers

Reception Class – Information for Parents and Carers 2017-18

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

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 3 prime areas, these are:

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

As children develop these prime areas they will also develop skills in 4 specific areas:

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

These 7 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. In the summer term of the Reception year the teachers complete an assessment which is known as the EYFS Profile. This is a written report notifying you of their assessments against the 17 Early Learning Goals (ELGs).

Staffing & Organisation

- Mrs Joseph (Monday to Wednesday) and Mrs Dalton (Wednesday to Friday) are the Reception class teachers;
- Mrs Smith is the Reception class teaching assistant;
- The school day begins at 8.50am - doors open at 8.40am
- Registration ends at 8.55am and all children should be in school by this time.
- 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 and to bring an appropriate PE kit into school.

Home Learning

- Reading - At around the October half term, after a good 5-6 weeks of daily phonics, 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.

Parent 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 the Family Support Advisor (FSA), Mrs Talbot, or Mr Strudley the Headteacher or Miss Leadbeatter the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) if they are better able to help you. Mr Strudley is on the main gate most mornings and is always happy to talk.
- 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.
- There is lots of information about the school on our website, including events and term dates. A newsletter is sent home every other week.
- You will also receive a weekly Reception Class update telling you what your child will be learning.
- Your child will have a learning journal which will be their record of learning throughout the year. It will contain observations and examples of learning and is used to and monitor their progress. You are welcome to see your child's journal at any time – just ask!
- 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

- Children enter school and are encouraged in being independent in putting their thing 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).
- 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 – we use the Ruth Miskin scheme (Read, Write, Inc). 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. A sheet is sent home each week – these are for you to keep and practice with at home.
- Literacy activity time – 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 the children's child initiated time. They can choose where they want to play and what they want to do and the teachers support and challenge the children whilst they are doing this. Teachers will also be observing the children in their play, making assessments of them 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

- Relaxing Time – a quiet time where the children lie down and listen to music after a busy 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 —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 Nation Curriculum.
- During the last 3-4 weeks of the summer term, the children will spend part of the afternoon in the Year One classroom, completing some typical Year One learning activities. This will allow them to experience the Year One classroom and to get used to the more formal routines and expectations of the National Curriculum.

To do list from now until September

- Attend the 'New to Year R' Parents Evening – Monday 19th June at 6.30pm;
- Three Trial sessions:
 - Wednesday 21st June and 28th June: 1:30pm to 3:00pm (*parents are welcome to stay*);
 - Wednesday 5th July: 8.40am to 1.15pm, including Lunch (*Pack lunch or school dinner provided and children are encouraged to stay on their own*);

- Children do not need uniform for the trial days however may wear it if they wish to. A healthy snack will also be provided for them. You may bring them into the classroom and then at the end of the session the children will be brought out to the playground for you.
- 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 comms' system. We send out a bi-weekly school newsletter and weekly Reception Class updates using this system.
- Register with Cypad (<http://www.feedinghungryminds.co.uk/>) to order school meals in advance on-line (*this can also be done in school daily*). Registration takes a few days, so don't leave until the night before school starts!
- 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 Schoolwear'. You can order by calling: 0800 404 6644 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 2017-18 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.
- So that the children can find their pegs and self-register it would be helpful if children could recognise and write their own name.

Your Child's First Day – What to Bring / What to Expect

- 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 teachers for this time.
- 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. Teachers and TAs will 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.