

Starting School at Wildmoor Heath

PARENT INFORMATION PACK 2024



Welcome to Wildmoor Heath School



I am proud to welcome you to our vibrant learning community where the enthusiasm, confidence and curiosity of the children light up our school.

Here at Wildmoor Heath, we not only focus on academic excellence but also on nurturing important life skills through our core values of Respect, Empathy, Aspirations, Courage, and Honesty. Our goal is to provide a rich, rounded education in an exceptional outdoor environment where every child thrives. We enhance our curriculum through our key elements of Environment, Wellbeing, Community, Communication and Creativity.

With strong connections to Edgbarrow School and Wellington College, our pupils enjoy unique opportunities to participate in activities at larger institutions, perfectly preparing them for their transition to secondary school. Together with our supportive parents and dedicated staff, we inspire children to aim high, achieve their best, and take pride in their accomplishments. We look forward to working with your family over the coming years.

Mrs Vincent, Headteacher



Welcome to the Butterfly Class

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to Wildmoor Heath and our Reception class, also known as the Butterfly class! We are thrilled that your child will be joining us. We are excited to meet your child and make their first year at school special, filled with wonderful memories.

In the Butterfly class, we appreciate each child's uniqueness. Our goal is to establish a nurturing and secure environment within a structured and engaging setting. Working together with parents, we offer valuable learning experiences that form the foundation for future growth at Wildmoor Heath School and beyond.

This guide provides detailed information on starting school at Wildmoor Heath, which we hope you will find beneficial. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions, as we are here to assist you!

Warm regards,

Aimee Joseph
EYFS Lead & Reception Class Teacher

Contact Information:

The school office is always happy to answer any of your questions. Pop in to see them or contact them on:

Tel: 01344 772034

email: reception@wildmoorheath.org.uk



The School Day

Our school day starts at 8:35am and ends at 3:15pm. Children enter school through the Reception garden gate where a teacher greets them every morning and takes their lunch order. Their belongings are kept in the classroom cloakroom.

At 3:15pm, the class teacher escorts the children to the playground for pick-up. If someone else is picking up your child, please inform the teacher in the morning or call the school office. Children booked into the Beehive after-school club will be taken to the school hall.

Wrap Around Care

Our breakfast and afterschool club is provided by 'Beehive'. You can find out more and register your child for a place [here](#).

Reception Staffing Structure

Class teachers: Mrs Joseph (Mon-Wed)
Mrs Penstone (Thurs-Fri)

Teaching assistants: Mrs Gray & Mrs Harrison



Lateness and absences

If you arrive at school after 8.50am, please take your child to the school office to sign them in. The receptionist will take their lunch order and take them down to the classroom.

If your child is unwell and not able to come into school, please phone the office on 01344 772034 and leave a message before the start of the school day. We hope they feel better soon!

If your child becomes unwell during the school day, we will contact you. Please let us know in the morning if you have given your child any medication before school, or if they have complained of feeling unwell, as it helps us to build up the bigger picture. If your child requires medication during the school day, please fill in a form at the office. We do have a sofa, cushions and blankets in the Reception classroom so that we can take good care of them and help them to rest if needed!

School Uniform

Children will need school uniform, P.E kit and waterproof clothing. Branded school uniform can be purchased from PMG Schoolwear. P.E kits and waterproof clothing are kept in school and are usually sent home for washing at the end of each half term.



School Uniform Cont.

Your child will need to wear the following:

- Sky blue polo shirt / shirt / blouse
- Grey trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore dress
- Blue checked dress/playsuit in summer weather
- Burgundy sweater or cardigan with school emblem
- Black shoes (no trainers, please)
- Wildmoor Heath school bag



**REMEMBER
TO CLEARLY
LABEL ALL
BELONGINGS!**

PE Kit

- Sky blue P.E t-shirt
- Navy blue shorts, jogging bottoms and a navy hoodie
- Trainers (please note that in Reception, trainers will not be needed until the Summer term)

PE takes place once a week in Reception. PE kits need to be kept in a separate bag which stays on your child's peg.

Waterproof Clothing

- Waterproof jacket/coat
- Wellington boots
- Waterproof trousers or a waterproof all-in-one suit

Spare uniform

We also ask that children have spare uniform and underwear in their school bag, in case of toilet accidents or messy play!



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Lunchtimes

Lunchtime at school is 12:15pm – 1:15pm, although we always go into the hall a little bit earlier in Reception because we get hungry! All the children eat in the hall and sit together. 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. There are always lots of teachers who are there to help too.

Every child in Reception is entitled to a free school meal and we encourage you to take this up. Each day children are provided with a choice which consists of a hot meal, hot vegetarian option, a jacket potato option as well as sandwiches and paninis.

You may choose to provide a packed lunch for your child instead. At Wildmoor Heath we promote healthy eating and ask that you provide a healthy packed lunch, for example, no sweets or fizzy drinks. We are also a nut free school. Thank you for your support with this.

Healthy Snacks and Water

Children are provided with a portion of free school vegetables or fruit every day. If you want to provide your own snack for your child you can do but we ask that it be nut free and healthy. We are on a mission to be a plastic free school so we ask that the snack is kept in a reusable container. Children will also need to bring a filled water bottle to school everyday.



The Early Years Foundation Stage

In Reception at Wildmoor Heath School, your child will be in the final year of the Early Years Foundation Stage (birth to age 5). This very special time continues the journey from home and preschool and is the foundation of future learning and success. The EYFS is an active curriculum where children learn through play, across seven areas of learning.

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

- **Communication and Language**

(Listening and Attention, Understanding, Speaking)

- **Physical Development**

(Gross Motor Skills, Fine Motor Skills)

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

(Building Relationships, Self-Regulation and managing Self)

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

- **Literacy**

(Comprehension, Word Reading, Writing)

- **Mathematics**

(Number and Numerical Pattern)

- **Understanding the World**

(Past and Present, People, Culture and Communities, The Natural World)

- **Expressive Arts and Design**

(Creating with Materials and Being Imaginative and Expressive)



A typical day in Reception

Phonics

Phonics is a very important part of the reception year and is taught everyday using the Little Wandle phonics scheme. Children quickly learn the letter sounds, enabling them to read and write. It is important to us that children learn to love reading. Children will get to bring books home so that they can share the excitement and read with you at home. In the Autumn term, there will be a phonics and reading workshop so that you can find out more and learn how to support your child at home.

Maths Mastery

Maths is taught daily through our maths mastery programme. The children develop the concepts of mathematics through practical activities, maths talk and through real life problem solving opportunities.

Story time

Reading is at the heart of everything we do at Wildmoor. Throughout the day, children in Reception have lots of opportunities to listen, join in with and re-tell stories. Our learning theme each week is based around a story book. Story time is used as an opportunity to develop children's vocabulary, speaking, listening as well as their reading and writing skills.



A typical day in Reception continued

Discovery Time

The children have plenty of opportunity to play in Reception and as they do, the teachers support and guide their play. Staff look for teachable moments as the children learn through play. The children choose where they want to learn and can free-flow between the classroom and large outdoor area. We call this time of the day, Discovery Time! I am sure you will hear lots about it!

Outdoor learning

Outdoor learning is an important part of the curriculum at Wildmoor Heath. Children in the Reception class have access to a large outdoor area, which is used in all weathers!

Opportunities and experiences

Throughout the year we hope to give the children lots of experiences and opportunities. We go for regular walks on the heath, do lots of baking, invite visitors into class, go on a school trip in the Summer term to the farm and much more! It is always an enjoyable year!



Is my child ready to start school?

We recognise children will begin school at different stages in their development and we value each individual child. If you have any concerns about your child's development however, then please do come and speak to us about it. We are here to help! Before your child starts school, it may be useful for them to have experiences of the following things:

- Dressing and undressing, including shoes
- Using the toilet independently
- Washing and drying hands
- Using a tissue
- Using a knife and fork
- Sharing toys and taking turns
- Tidying toys
- Listening to stories

Settling into school

It is really important to us that your child settles quickly into school life and feels happy and safe. We gather information about your child from their key worker, have stay and play sessions at school, visit your child at home and have a gentle phased start to starting school. We work hard to get to know your child and what motivates them so that they feel excited and ready to learn!



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 make appointments to see Mrs Joseph or Mrs Penstone (class teachers) or Mrs MacManus (Special Educational Needs and Disability Coordinator (SENCO). The Headteacher, Mrs Vincent, and the Deputy Headteacher, Mrs. MacManus, are available daily on the school gate if you have any queries.

There is lots of useful information on our school website and letters from school, including regular newsletters and reception class updates, are sent out to you via email. Once your child has started school, you will be sent a link to download an app called My Child at School which is used for communication and payments.

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.



See-Saw

This year we will be using See-saw, an online learning journal, as a way of documenting your child's learning. We will send you an invite to sign up so that we can share photographs of your child learning at school with you. You can also use the app to upload any photographs of 'wow' moments from home too!

Starting school checklist

- Read all school communication and ask if you are unsure of anything!
- Attend the information evening and visit sessions.
- Hand in all completed forms to the school office as soon as possible. Ensure that they have the correct email address and telephone number for you.
- Label all school uniform including: bags, P.E. kit, shoes, wellington boots and waterproof clothing.
- Complete the 'All about me' sheet and chatterbox challenge for September.

On your child's first day in school please bring:

- School bag
- Water bottle (to be sent home each night to be washed and refilled)
- P.E. kit in a separate bag to be kept in school
- Waterproof clothing and wellington boots to be kept in school

All about me!

Please complete the following pages and return back to us.

This is a photo of me at home!

At home I like doing . . .

I don't like or I am frightened of . . .

When I am upset to make me feel better I like . . .

At home we speak these languages. . .

In my family I have . . .

I attended this pre-school or child minder . . .

All about me continued . . .

What is your child looking forward to about coming to school?

Is your child worried about anything at school?

Is there any other information about your child that you think the class teacher should know?
Please include any medical conditions, allergies or any other concerns that you have?



Chatter Box Challenge



To the new Butterfly Class!

This Summer we are setting you a challenge. We would like you to decorate a shoe box and then fill it with a few items that you can talk about, to help us get to know you. You could include photographs, a favourite soft toy, an item from an activity that you enjoy or from a special memory that you may have. Just anything that you would like to share with us and the rest of the class! In September we will let you know which day we would like you to bring your chatter box into school. Have fun decorating your box and making it all about you. We can not wait to see them!