



Welcome to Whitmore Park Reception

Ambitious young minds are the future leaders of our community





Introduction

Starting Reception is an exciting time for both you and your child. There will be lots of new things to learn and of course you will want to ensure that your child is well prepared for this important event. We aim to make it a happy and memorable experience. We hope that this booklet will provide some useful information and will help your child settle quickly into school.

Reception Classes and Staff

There are three classes in Reception. Each class has a teacher and a teaching assistant.



Miss Ridgway
R Delta Class Teacher & Reception Leader



Miss Blower
R Beta Class Teacher



Miss Mosey
R Gamma Class Teacher

RECEPTION INFORMATION



Mrs Halima—Assistant
Teacher



Mrs Burton—Nursery Nurse

Here are the Reception Teaching Assistants

Mrs Moss



Miss Parnell



Head Teacher
Mrs McGibney



Settling in

We are really looking forward to welcoming all of our new Reception children this year, we can't wait to get to know them and see how they will thrive at our school.

We will endeavour to make the transition into school as smooth and as exciting as possible for the children to enable them to settle happily into school life.

We hope that you find the information in this booklet useful. Please share the pictures contained in this booklet with your child so that they can begin to look forward to joining us in Reception at Whitmore Park. Please also take a look at our school website where you will find a page for 'New Pupils 2021'. You will be able to view a video 'welcome' from the Reception teachers and have a virtual tour of the Reception classrooms.

The School Day in Reception

8:45am – Doors open

8:55am – Registration

9:00am - Morning Learning (including Read, Write Inc, Numeracy and Independent learning time where children are able to choose their own activities).

11:30am - Lunch

12:30pm – Registration and Afternoon Learning (including Literacy, Story time, Snack and Independent learning time).

3:15pm - Home Time

Arrival & Departure

Your child will enter the Reception classes through the doors in the Reception Outdoor Area. The classroom doors will be open between 8:45am and 8:55am. The staff are very busy at the beginning of the day settling the children and so we ask that if you wish to speak to your child's class teacher at length, you see them at the end of the school day.

When your child starts school full time, following settling in sessions, we ask parents to bring their children to the classroom door, hand them over to the staff and to leave promptly so that the staff can settle the children. This ensures that the environment is calmer, and not crowded and the children settle much quicker when they are encouraged to enter the classroom independently.

Please be reassured that the children will be supported with coats and settling in. If there are any problems, we will call you or discuss them with you at the end of the session. Teachers will be available at the end of the session should you wish to ask any questions or discuss how your child settled in.

The doors will close at 8:55am for registration.

If your child is late then you will need to take them around to the main office. We encourage you to arrive as close to 8:45am as possible as this is valuable time for the children to settle in.

Please collect your child promptly at 3:15pm and let us know in advance if anyone else will be collecting your child, or if you are going to be late collecting them.



Please be aware that the members of the Reception Team will not allow a child to be collected **by** anybody who is not listed on the authorised collection form.

Children may not be collected by a child under the age of sixteen.

A Typical Day in the Autumn Term

Throughout the day children have a mixture of adult-led teaching and independent learning time. Adult-led teaching includes lessons in Literacy, Numeracy and Read, Write Inc. The children will also have specialist teachers for weekly P.E. Our classroom environment is divided into different areas of learning. These include:

- Writing areas
- Numeracy areas
- Reading areas
- Investigation area
- Small world area
- Creative area
- Fine motor area
- Scissors skills area
- Role-play area
- Technology area
- Block and construction area

The children are encouraged to independently visit all of these areas and access the resources. We also have an exciting outdoor classroom that the children have access to every day.





Uniform

Whitmore Park School uniform consists of a red school sweatshirt or cardigan with a white shirt or polo-shirt. We encourage children to wear uniform with the school logo, this can be purchased from the school office or from Andy Blair Schoolwear, Moseley Avenue, Coundon. Children should also wear either black or grey trousers or a skirt/dress. Footwear should be plain black shoes. Please ensure your child does not wear jewellery or nail polish to school. Pierced ears should contain small studs and not hoops. Children will also need a book bag to bring their reading books home. To protect school books, can we ask for you to please not put water bottles in their book bags. Can we also request that you keep the long strap attached to the book bag as they can be hung more easily on their coat peg with this. Please do not send your child to school with a large backpack as they can make it difficult for children to place coats on coat pegs.

On P.E days children are able to come to school in **black or grey** leggings or jogging bottoms instead of their school trousers/skirt. They may wear their usual **plain white** polo shirt or a **plain white** round neck t-shirt. Children may wear trainers to school or bring in a pair of PE pumps to change into. You will be informed which day your child will participate in P.E. in September.



Lunch

You will be able to choose between sending a packed lunch with your child from home or a school meal. If you have selected for your child to receive universal infant free school meals, a school meal will be provided for them. Meals in Reception are free for every child. Children will have a choice of meal and a drink. They will be supported by adults in the dining room with cutting up their food while they are still learning to do this more independently. Their Reception teachers will also accompany them to the dining room while they are settling in. At Whitmore Park, we use a system called 'Meal Manager' which enables you to pre-select your child's lunch at home each week. If you send your child with a packed lunch, please ensure no glass bottles, fizzy drinks or nuts. We are a nut free school. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY NUTS OR GINGER**, or nut based products such as peanut butter into school, we have some children who are severely allergic to nuts. Also any product containing ginger.

Fruit and Drink

All children are given a piece of fruit and a drink of milk everyday. Your child will also require a water bottle that they will need to bring to school every day. Please ensure that the bottle is named and contains only water. Water coolers are accessible throughout the school day for children to refill their bottles with chilled water if needed.



Reception Behaviour Policy

At Whitmore Park we have high expectations of behaviour and we support all of our pupils to be well behaved. All adults and children work to our Golden Rules:

- Do be honest.
- Do be kind and gentle.
- Do listen to others.
- Do look after our school.
- Do your best.

There are rewards and sanctions related to these Golden Rules. Children's good behaviour is rewarded with stickers on a 'Behaviour Rainbow Chart', and good learning is rewarded with stickers on a 'Learning Ladybird Chart' or even visits to the Head teacher to show very special work! Teachers each have their own special prize box for children to dip into when they receive 10 stickers!

We always primarily focus on rewarding positive behaviour rather than giving a sanction. For incidences of poor behaviour, the child will be spoken to and helped to understand why the behaviour is inappropriate. If the behaviour is repeated, they may be asked to have a short time-out for thinking time (no longer than 5 minutes). For incidences of serious bad behaviour children may be sent to (Miss Ridgway) the early years leader or (Mrs McGibney) head teacher.

Our school Values





Reception Curriculum

Reading



At Whitmore Park school, we use a structured, synthetic phonics approach to teaching pupils to read. In Reception, children have daily phonics lessons. We use a highly engaging scheme called 'Read Write Inc'. The children learn the sounds that are represented by letters and how to form the letters correctly. Each letter has a corresponding picture and phrase to support this. Once pupils have learnt some single letter sounds, they will be taught to blend the sounds together to say a word.

In Reception, children learn the 44 sounds that form the English language. Children learn the essential skill of blending these sounds together when reading words using an approach called 'Fred-Talk'. Fred the frog is only able to speak in letter sounds and children are required to help Fred to blend the sounds together to read words, for example... Fred says "s-i-t", and the children blend the letters together to say "sit".

When children have the skill of being able to blend, they begin to read the specially written story books during their 'Read, Write Inc' lessons. When children are ready, they will go on to learn more sounds and blend more complex words. They will also develop their comprehension skills through a variety of activities during the sessions.



Reading Books

In Reception, children will receive two reading books a week. One will be a school reading book given by the class teacher that they will read themselves. The other will be a class library book. This is a book, chosen by them, for you to share together, they are not expected to read this themselves. We expect children to read at home a minimum of 5 times per week, every day if you can, for just a few minutes. We will provide you with a reading record to sign and date when your child reads at home. You may also write comments about your child's progress if you wish.

Children will bring a reading book home with words when they are beginning to blend the sounds in words. Initially they may bring a wordless book home. This is a book that tells a story purely through the illustrations. Wordless picture books are valuable tools for literacy development as they engage children, regardless of reading level, in prediction, critical thinking, meaning making and storytelling. Guiding your child's interaction with a wordless book can also develop a richer vocabulary and greater understanding of story structure.



How to Read a Wordless Picture Book With Your Child

At first it might feel a little strange to sit down to "read" a wordless book with your child but we encourage you to tap into your inner child to give it a go. Here are some tips to get you started:

1. Begin by looking at the cover. What can you see? What clues to the story does the cover illustration show?
2. Read the title. Does the title give you any ideas for what the story might be about? Make predictions about the story based on the cover and title.
3. Take a picture walk. Look through the pages of the book with the sole purpose of enjoying the pictures. Talk about anything that captures your attention.
4. "Read" the story. You might go first, inviting your child to add to your story as they see fit. Don't be afraid to tell your story with dramatic flair. Add sound effects and interesting voices that suit the characters of your tale.
5. Encourage your child to take a turn telling their own version of the story.

Ask questions about the book — which is your favourite illustration? Do you have a favourite part of the story or a favourite character? Can you tell about a time you have felt like the main character or found yourself in a similar situation?



Writing

In Reception, children begin learning to write letters during their Read, Write Inc lessons. They have plenty of opportunity to practise forming the letters correctly throughout the day, for example with their finger in the sand tray or using chalk on the floor. As children's skills in phonics progress they will begin to learn how to hear the sounds in words and write them down.

They will attempt to write some words using their phonic knowledge (e.g. they may write 'elephant' as 'eleafunt') and they will learn the correct spellings for other high frequency words such as 'the' and 'said'.

They will also be taught how to hold a pencil correctly using a tripod grip. By the end of Reception, most children will be writing independently and writing clearly enough that you can read what they've written.



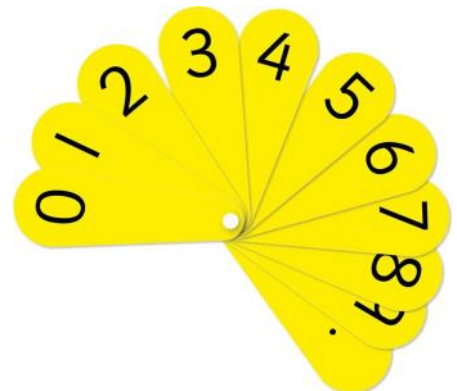


Numeracy

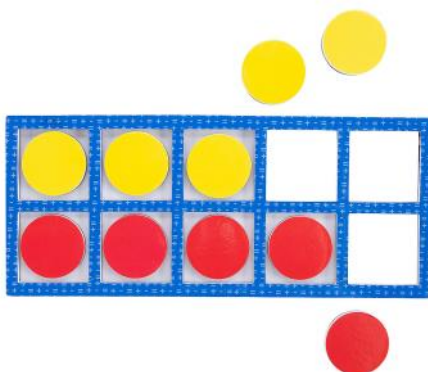
In Reception, children participate in a short, daily Numeracy session. We aim for children to have a deep understanding of the foundations in mathematics. We use exciting resources such as 'Ten Town' and 'Numberblocks' to help teach numbers and concepts. During their independent learning time, children are encouraged to visit the Numeracy areas in the classrooms to complete activities that consolidate the learning in the Numeracy sessions. They are also set a weekly independent maths challenge 'maths minion challenge'.



Challenge is provided through exploring the composition of numbers and exploring the relationship between addition and subtraction e.g. 5 is made up of 3 and 2 or 4 and 1 and this can be written as $3+2=5$ or $5=3+2$. They can be challenged to consider that 'three is two less than five' and also use the correct vocabulary.



Children will have the opportunity to explore a wide variety of resources to support their understanding and learning in number. These include numicon, stacking cubes, tens frames and counters, real money/coins, number lines and number fans.





Am I ready for school?



Tips for parents

When your child starts primary school there are a number of skills that they should ideally have mastered. Use this sheet as a guide to help track their progress.

Self-care

- I know when to wash my hands
 - I can wipe my nose
- I can ask for help if I don't feel well

Speaking & literacy

- I am interested in reading stories & looking at picture books
- I am able to talk about myself, my needs & feelings
 - I am practising recognising my name when it's written down

Getting dressed & undressed on my own

- I can button & unbutton my clothes
- I can put my own shoes & socks on
- I can put my coat on & use a zip

Interest in the world & new activities

- I enjoy learning about the world around me
 - I am interested in exploring new activities or environments
 - I like asking questions

Eating

- I can use a knife & fork
- I can open my packed lunch on my own
 - I am confident at opening wrappers & packaging

Writing skills

- I like tracing patterns & colouring in
- I enjoy experimenting with different shaped scribbles
 - I am practising holding a pencil

Going to the toilet

- I can go to the toilet on my own, wipe myself properly & flush
- I can wash & dry my hands without any help

Independence

- I am happy to be away from my mummy, daddy or my main carer
- I am happy to tidy my belongings & look after my things
- I am feeling confident about starting school

Listening & understanding

- I am able to sit still and listen for a short while
 - I can follow instructions
- I understand the need to follow rules

Sharing & turn taking

- I can share toys & take turns
- I can play games with others
- I can interact with other children

Counting skills

- I enjoy practising counting objects
- I like saying number rhymes & playing counting games
 - I can recognise some numbers when they are written down

Routines

- I have practised putting on my uniform & getting ready to leave on time
- I have a good bedtime routine so I'm not feeling tired for school
- I'm learning to eat at the times I will on school days



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Please share these photographs with your child to help prepare them for starting school in September:



This is the dining room where you will have your lunch. You can bring a packed-lunch to school with you or you can have a delicious school meal. There will be adults to help you to cut up your food if you need help.

This is where you will go to the toilet and wash your hands. The toilets are small especially for children.



These are some of the toys that you will be able to play with. We have lots of different toys for you to learn with.

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Each classroom has a comfy reading area where you can relax while looking through a book.

The classrooms also have a area where you can practise your numbers and counting. There are many little things for you to count.



This pirate ship is in our outdoor classroom. We have lots of other great things for you to play with outside too!



This is our playground where you can play games and run around with your new friends after lunch.

These are the pegs where you will hang your coat and bag. You will have your very own peg with your name on it.



These are our Construction Areas where you can build and create with Lego, blocks and many other construction resources.



This is our Maths Minion. He likes to set little maths challenges for you to complete each week.

You will be able to try and play a game on one of our ipads.



This is our climbing equipment in the outdoor classroom. Do you think you will be able to climb across our trim trial? We will be able to help you.



This is our puppet theatre outside where you can make a puppet show for your friends to watch.

This is our performance area where you can dress up, sing, dance or play music on the stage for your teachers and friends.



We have a vegetable patch in our outdoor classroom. You will be able to help plant some vegetables in the Summer term. I wonder what you would like to grow?



We can't wait for you to come and learn with us in Reception!

We look forward to working in partnership with you.