

## Whitwell Primary School

### Foundation Stage One



The first steps your child takes in school are extremely important. There is so much to do, to learn and to explore. There are numerous new experiences and friends to make.

We know that this is an important time for the children as they gain skills, knowledge and increasing independence.

We aim to guide and care for the children at all times to ensure that they are safe and happy and are delighted to welcome them to Whitwell Primary School.

Whitwell Primary School provides 52 Nursery/Foundation Stage One places on a part time (15 hours) basis. There are 26 places for the morning and afternoon sessions. There are also a limited number of full time (30 hours) places each school year.

Further information on admissions to Foundation Stage One is available on the School website.

#### **Staff**

Mrs S Draycott Class Teacher (Monday to Wednesday)

Mrs L Williams Class Teacher (Thursday and Friday)

Mrs J Pressley Early Years Specialist Teaching and Learning Assistant

Mrs H Haynes Midday Supervisor

The staff work closely together to ensure that your child receives the best possible start to their education. All the children are treated as individuals and are given every opportunity to develop their abilities and talents in all aspects of school life.



## Foundation Stage One Classroom and Security

Our Foundation Stage One classroom comprises an indoor activity area and a smaller bay for focused learning activities. It has its own outdoor play area which is fenced for security.

There is a staff kitchen and children's toilets. A disabled toilet and shower room is available in the main school building.

Whilst the children are in the building the external doors remain locked. If you require access other than at the start or end of the session, please use the main school entrance. There is a door access system on the main school door. Please press the buzzer and wait for a reply from the School Office.

## Session times

Our morning session starts at **8.40am** and finishes at **11.40am**.

Our afternoon session starts at **12.20pm** and finishes at **3.20pm**.

Our full time children, who are attending nursery for 30 hours a week, the day starts at 8.40am and finishes at 2.40pm. For a small additional fee, it is possible for these children to finish at 3.20pm. Please contact the School Office for more details.

The children staying all day are required to bring a packed lunch and a drink to school or they may order a hot school dinner (please see a member of staff for further details).

When you bring your child into nursery please enter by the classroom door next to the Key Stage One playground.

At the end of each session the children can be collected at the classroom door.

The children should always be collected by a responsible adult over the age of eighteen. Please let a member of staff know if somebody else, other than the usual adult responsible for the child, is collecting them.



## Uniform

In order to promote a sense of belonging to the school we expect all the children to wear our school uniform.

### BOYS:

- Black or grey trousers/shorts
- White or pale blue shirt/polo shirt
- Navy sweatshirt
- Black/dark shoes



### GIRLS:

- Grey skirt/pinafore dress/trousers
- White or pale blue blouse/polo shirt
- Navy sweatshirt or cardigan
- Black/dark shoes
- Blue checked summer dresses

School uniform with the school logo on can be purchased at Tesco online, or if you prefer to buy jumpers/cardigans elsewhere there are badges available at school to sew onto the garments.

**Please ensure that all clothing is named.** This includes coats and shoes. We find it very difficult to return lost property if it does not have a name on.

**We expect each child to have a named bag on their school peg containing a spare set of clothes, underwear and socks (in case of toilet accidents or spillages). This bag does not need to contain school uniform.**



## Home – School Contact

A child's education should be a partnership between the school and the parents. We welcome the involvement of parents and hope that you feel able to approach us at all times to discuss not only your concerns but all aspects of your child's learning.



We hope that all parents will feel happy to visit the classroom and join in activities with their children. There is an opportunity at the start of each session for parents to stay and play with their children.

If you are interested in helping in school on a regular basis, please contact the School Office.

## Parent Consultation Days

Formal arrangements are made for parents to discuss their child's progress twice a year in the Autumn and Spring terms during our 'Parent Consultation Days'.

All the children approaching the end of their time in Foundation Stage One receive a written report in the Summer term outlining their progress before they move in Foundation Stage Two.

**Mrs Draycott and Mrs Williams are always available at the beginning and end of each session of you would like to discuss anything with them.**



## The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum sets standards for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5 years old. The Early Years Foundation Stage supports an integrated approach to early learning and care. It gives schools a set of common principles and commitments to deliver quality early education to all children.

Children develop very quickly in the early years and early years practitioners aim to do all they can to help children have the best possible start in life. Children are given the opportunity to explore activities and resources in a very 'hands on' approach.

Your child will be doing a wide range of activities during their time at school based around the seven areas of learning and development in the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The three **prime areas** are;

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development



We also support children in four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied.

The four **specific areas** are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design



Some of these activities will be new to the children but many will be familiar, developing and building on their own experiences.

During the school day there is a balance of child-led learning and adult-directed tasks which are carefully planned to practise a particular skill.

Ongoing assessment is an integral part of the Early Years Foundation Stage learning and development process. This is used to make informed decisions about a child's progress and to plan the next steps to meet their needs. The Early Years Foundation Stage Profile is an assessment of children's progress at the end of the Foundation Stage and will be completed by the class teacher at the end of Foundation Stage Two.

## Outdoor learning

All our children are encouraged to spend lots of time outside every day and take part in 'Forest School' activities each week. We play outside in the school grounds or in the Rookery at the bottom of the school field.

**We ask that children wear suitable clothes to play outside as we go outside whatever the weather.** This may include a warm coat, hat, scarf and gloves or a sun hat. **All the children will need a pair of wellies with their name clearly written inside.** They can be kept in a bag on their peg or on the wellie stand outside. We will provide waterproof jackets and over trousers for the children to keep their school clothes clean and dry.

The 'Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage' states that children should

- Show curiosity about objects, events and people
- Use their senses to explore the world around them
- Initiate activities
- Seek a challenge and take a risk
- Make predictions and test their ideas



The outdoors is an ideal place to cover these statements and allow the children to learn through exploration, movement, play, talk and sensory experiences.



We do lots of different activities that are both challenging and exciting. Some of the activities are led by the adults involved and some of the activities are child initiated as the children explore the space around them. These include storytelling, den building, role play, imaginary play, creating art from natural resources and learning about nature and the environment in which we live.

## Food and drink

The children will be provided with a drink of milk or water during each session at Nursery

There is also fruit available that the children can help themselves to, such as apples, oranges, bananas and pears.

Please inform a member of staff if your child has any food allergies.



## How can I help my child settle in?



All children are unique and the amount of time that a child takes to settle into school can vary enormously. Therefore, children will be given time to settle in at their own pace, so as to make them feel welcome, safe and confident in a new environment.

You can help your child feel positive about themselves and their time at school by:

- talking to your child about what they have been doing during the session
- praising your child's achievements
- staying for a short while to join in with the activities in the classroom

## What if my child is upset?

Some children are nervous and some may cry when coming to nursery and this can be upsetting for both child and parent, but is usually a short-lived phase.

If your child does cry please don't be worried. Most children calm down quite quickly when they start playing with the other children. If your child is upset or worried, do not hesitate to talk to a member of staff. It is always best to sort out problems or difficulties as soon as possible.

## Attendance and illness

**If your child is not attending nursery for any reason, please can you inform us by ringing the school office so that their absence is noted on the school register.**

If your child is ill and not attending nursery, please can you inform us as soon as possible.

If your child becomes ill during the day we will contact you by phone and will care for them until they are collected.

Should your child suffer from sickness or diarrhoea, they must be clear for at least 48 hours before returning to school.

It is very important that we have up to date emergency contact details and any relevant medical information for your child.

## Medicines

Although the responsibility for administering medicines lies with parents, we understand at times they may need medicine while they are at school.

School staff will administer prescribed medicine only, provided that an 'Authorisation of Medication' form (available from the school office) is completed and signed. The medication must be clearly labelled and brought into school and collected by an adult. Over the counter medication cannot be administered in school.

## Photographs

We take photographs of children to celebrate their achievements and interests during the school year. These may be displayed around the classroom, on our website. Any photographs taken of children in school or at school related events are for your personal use and should not be posted on websites or social networking sites.

If you have any concerns, please contact us.



In Foundation Stage One our children are encouraged to play and explore together inside and outside the classroom. Young children learn most through playing, and when they are interested in the activities around them.

Our children spend a lot of time outside in our playground, on our school field and in the Rookery.

If you would like to know more about the Early Years curriculum or advice on helping your child see Mrs Draycott, Mrs Williams.

There is additional information available on the school website: [www.whitwellprimary.co.uk](http://www.whitwellprimary.co.uk).

Mrs Draycott and Mrs Williams

