



Welcome to Whiteways Primary School Foundation Stage 2

This booklet tells you about Foundation Stage 2 (Reception) at Whiteways Primary School. If you have any questions about your child starting school, please come and speak to us.

What we aim to Provide for Your Children

- An environment where children feel safe, happy and settled.
- A balance between adult led activities and those that the children choose themselves.
- Children are all treated as individuals whose interests and needs are well catered for.
- Children learn to become flexible, adaptable enquiring and independent learners.
- Stimulating activities are provided to encourage children to enjoy writing, and reading using both the indoor and outdoor space.
- Children all develop respect for themselves and others.
- Children make excellent progress regardless of gender, educational needs, ethnicity or family background.
- Daily phonics sessions will have a huge impact on improving independent reading and writing.



Learning in Foundation Stage 2

Foundation Stage 2 builds on and extends the learning and opportunities your child may have experienced in Foundation Stage 1 (nursery).

Children work within the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, which covers the following seven areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development – children will learn to share and work together, caring for each other and the environment
- Physical Development – children will develop their physical skills both on a small and large scale, from controlling a pencil to running, jumping and climbing
- Communication and Language – children will work on speaking, listening, understanding and attention
- Literacy – reading and writing
- Maths – children will work on counting, number, shape and solving problems
- Understanding the World – children will learn about the natural and technical world around them and how things change over time
- Expressive Arts and Design – being creative with song, dance, music, art, role play and much more



Parents as Partners in Foundation Stage 2

Throughout the year we will share your child's learning targets with you and keep you up to date with their learning and progress through homework activities.

In the Foundation Stage, children learn through structured play activities and will have opportunities to build on their knowledge and understanding through active learning both indoors and outdoors.

Children's learning will be assessed regularly through ongoing observations and there will be parent's evenings throughout the year (Autumn and Spring term), giving you opportunities to talk to your child's teacher about their progress. Your child's teacher will complete a Learning Journal for your child throughout the year, showing the progress your child is making. You are welcome to look at this record of achievement in school at any time. A full progress report is sent home in the Summer term and parents have an opportunity to comment on all reports.

To build up an accurate picture of your child it is important that you inform us of any interests or achievements your child may have outside of school. Please talk to the staff, we are always pleased to listen.

At Whiteways Primary School we have an open door policy, which means that the teacher is available before and after school so if you have any questions or concerns, please come and speak to us straight away.

Regular newsletters are sent to parents informing them of school holidays, events, visits and other relevant information. Please see classrooms for notice boards with messages and information.



School Information

The School Day

8.40am - School opens, please come into the classroom and settle your child, speak to the teachers and see what activities your child is enjoying

9.00am - Register closes, time to wave goodbye to your child

11.40am - Dinner time

12.40pm - Afternoon sessions starts

2.50pm - Home time. Please come to the Foundation Stage 2 playground to collect your child, children will stay with their teacher until collected by their parent or carer.

If your child is going home with someone else, please let us know so that we can ensure his or her safety.

Breakfast Club

The school has a breakfast club which opens at 8.20am. Children can buy fruit, toast, cereal, cold drinks etc. Staff organise games and activities for the children before school. *You must stay with your child at breakfast club.*

Snack and Milk

All children are entitled to free milk at school until their 5th birthday, after that you can pay for milk each term if you would like your child to continue drinking milk at school. Your child can access drinking water at any time during the day.

Your child will be able to help themselves to a piece of fruit during snack time.



Dinner Time

Your child can stay for a school dinner, bring a packed lunch or go home for their dinner. In school, a teacher and a dinner lady will stay with the children when they eat their dinner or sandwiches.

School dinners

Children have the choice of buying a packed lunch from school or having a school dinner. There is a daily choice of meals including halal, non-halal, vegetarian and school sandwich.

Reception children are entitled to a free school meal every day. The menu changes weekly; please see the menus at the school office or in the classroom. You will need to decide on a Monday what the daily dinner option will be for your child for the week ahead.

Packed lunch

We are a healthy school and promote healthy eating. Please support us by packing a healthy lunch box (no chocolate bars, crisps or fizzy drinks) and ensure children do not bring drinks in glass bottles.

School Uniform

We have a code of dress that applies to all pupils. This is a white or pale blue polo shirt, navy or burgundy sweatshirt, cardigan or jumper and dark trousers or skirts. Children should wear sensible black shoes. Girls can wear shalwar kamiz in blue or burgundy with a plain black or white scarf.

Uniforms are available to buy or order at the school office. Alternatively clothing in the school colours can be purchased from high street shops.

Please write your child's name clearly in all items of school uniform.



Physical Education

Your child will take part in PE once a week. They may play team games, dance, use the large apparatus or practise their ball skills.

Children need a PE kit, this can be kept in school and taken home every half term holiday for a wash.

PE kit

Your child will need a t-shirt, shorts and plimsolls in a bag. No football shirts please. Please write your child's name on every item in their PE kit.

Please support your child by encouraging them to get dressed at home on their own. We will help children at school but encourage them to have a go first and to become independent.

Jewellery

It is advisable not to wear jewellery to school at all. Your child needs to remove any jewellery before doing PE, so if they have pierced ears, please could you take their ear-rings out before school. Staff are not allowed to remove children's ear-rings.

Your Child's First Week at School

All children will start school on Wednesday 4th September 2019. School will be closed for staff training on Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd September. We are happy to work with families to provide a happy and smooth settling in period appropriate to the needs of individual children. These arrangements can be made with the class teacher.

Foundation Stage Staff

All practitioners within Foundation Stage 2 will work with your child at some part of the day. Teachers and teaching assistants work closely together to ensure the best teaching and learning opportunities for your child.

Class teacher – Mrs Hawley

Class teacher – Mr Proctor

Support staff – Miss Howard, Miss Greiner, Miss Jabeen, Ms Kasem, Ms Hartmann.

Foundation Stage staff are all here to make sure your child is happy in school - please let us know if you have any concerns so that we may resolve them quickly for you.



Other information

Homework

Each week your child will have a piece of homework to do. This is usually an activity for you to do together and links in with what we have been doing in class.

Child Protection

The school's Child Protection Policy is reviewed and updated annually. As a school, we have close contacts with the School Health Service, Family and Community Services and the Police, any or all of whom may become involved if abuse is suspected or alleged.

The school has a responsibility to collate basic information such as who has parental responsibility for a child, and to pass this information on to the relevant agencies if so requested. In the event of an investigation into possible child abuse, the school has a duty to co-operate with the investigating agencies to the best of their ability to promote the welfare of the child. Whilst the school will always try to work in partnership with parents and ensure that parents are fully informed of, and participate in any actions concerning their child, if there is a conflict of interest, *the welfare of the child must be the paramount consideration.*

Attendance

When children are absent from school parents **must** let us know the reason either by a letter or by telephone. If we are not told the reason or a satisfactory explanation has not been received we record the absence as unauthorised.

Children's progress in school is greatly affected by their attendance and it is very important that children come to school except when they are ill. Parents should not take their children on holiday during term time as we have found that this seriously affects their educational progress. If it is unavoidable for you to take your holiday in school time then you should make a request using the holiday absence form available from the school office. You will be asked to state the reason why the holiday must be taken during school time.

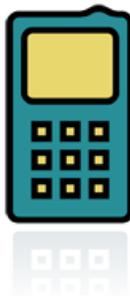
Extended absence– If children have more than 5 days unauthorised absence, the council will issue a term time leave fine. If your child is absent for more than 4 weeks, they will be taken off the school roll, at the request of the council, to make room for other children who may want a school place. Once a child has been taken off the roll there is no guarantee that they will get a place when they return if there are not places available.

Behaviour

3 simple rules govern all children's behaviour in school:

1. Respect ourselves
2. respect other people
3. respect our environment

We are very keen that parents should be involved as partners in the education of their children. If we have concerns about your child's behaviour we will contact you to alert you to any problems that may be occurring.



Emergency Contact

The school keeps a register of addresses and telephone numbers where parents may be reached in case of emergency. *It is very important that you keep us informed about any change in your place or work, home address or telephone number.*

Road Safety

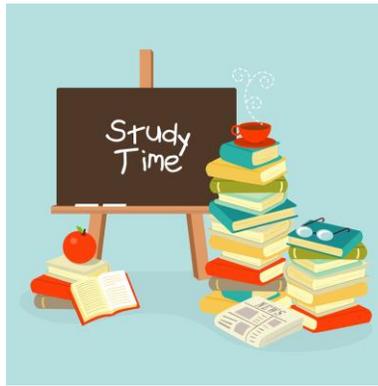
A large number of children have to cross busy roads on their way to and home from school each day. The school spends time teaching children about road safety and we ask all parents to help by continually stressing to their children how important it is to cross roads carefully using the crossing patrols wherever possible.

* Please do not park cars on the zig-zag lines outside school or in the school car park

* Please park sensibly and take extreme care, we don't want any accidents

Medical Care

First aid trained staff are on hand at all times of the day. If your child is prescribed short-term or long term medication, or treatment for an allergy or specific medical condition that they need to take during the school day, you will need to contact us and complete the necessary forms and agree safe procedures for managing medication. We must be told about children who have long term medical conditions, allergies or who use asthma sprays.



Preparing your child for school

Many parents ask what they can do at home to help their child, so here are a few ideas, you may already be doing these and have lots of other ideas of your own. Please share your ideas with us at school and other parents.

- Play I spy, encouraging your child to hear the first sound in words.
- Sing nursery rhymes together.
- Count things such as buttons, cups, apples, stairs etc.
- Play games such as dominoes, lotto, snakes and ladders and jigsaw puzzles to help develop memory.
- Enjoy reading/sharing stories together – children learn about reading by listening to stories and by making up stories as they look at the pictures.
- Look out for words and numbers in the environment eg, on buses, signs etc.
- Give lots of opportunities to use pencils, crayons, paint, scissors, glue etc.
- When they are ready to learn letters, teach them the letter sounds as well as the names. In school we teach them lower case letters first with just a capital letter for the beginning of their name. It is important that children form letters correctly.
- Encourage your child to get dressed and undressed by themselves.
- Provide toys or games which require small, careful movements to help your child develop fine motor control and coordination.

We are really looking forward to getting to know you and your child and look forward to a long and happy friendship.