

Welcome to Wheatfield's Primary School



We are looking forward to embarking on this
adventure with you 😊

Which class is my child in?

Our Foundation Stage unit has places for 60 children, with classes of up to 30. Each class has their own class teacher and support from teaching assistants. If your child is in Class Ash, Mrs Pope and Mrs Maloney will be their teachers and if your child is in Class Beech, it will be Mrs Cleghorn and Mrs Maloney. The classes have a carpet area each however; the rest of the classroom is open plan to allow the children free flow across the environment both inside and out. The children are free to move throughout the day between the classrooms, playing with friends and learning across the entire environment.

What happens before my child starts school?

There will be three visits for your child to attend. These visits are designed to help them to become familiar with the new environment, build up relationships with the staff and to begin to meet new friends. Each visit is on a Friday morning, from 9.15am -10.15am. The dates are as follows:

- Friday 17th June 2022
- Friday 24th June 2022
- Friday 1st July 2022

More information about these dates will be found on Transition letter that is sent out to you.

Home Visits

We arrange a Home Visit for each child during the first few days of the school term in September. At this visit, we will collect some paperwork from you and will need to see your child's birth certificate. It is important you have this ready for the class teacher to see. As well as collecting forms, the visit provides an opportunity for us to begin to build a relationship with you and your child. We find this makes for a positive start to a child's life at school. You will have the opportunity to talk with the staff about your child's particular interests and needs and find answers to any questions you may have.

When does my child start school?

Every child will start school on **Thursday 8th September 2022**. For the first week, they will attend for a morning or afternoon session only, with the oldest half of the class starting in the mornings and the youngest half of the class attending in the afternoons. This helps support the children settle into their new environment and begin to form new friendships. From Thursday 15th September, all children will be start full time, staying at school all day.

When your child starts school, the morning sessions will start at 8.45am and your child will need to be collected at 11:45am. The afternoon sessions will start at 1:05pm and your child will need to be collected at 3pm. **Once your child attends full time, they will start at 8.45 am and finish at 3pm.**

Will I have a say in my child becoming full time?

Parents are offered full time education for their child during the



last week of September, providing that both the school and parents feel the child is ready for full time attendance. Legally, children must begin school the term after their fifth birthday. For a few children, it may be beneficial to extend the period of part time

decision

in partnership school. We will work with parents to ensure their child starts school secure.



attendance, but this would always be made between home and school. We will always work closely with parents to ensure their child is feeling happy and secure.

What happens on the first day of school?

On arrival, parents and carers will bring their child to the EYFS classroom doors where the teachers and teaching assistants will be there to greet you, ready to come in between 8.35am and 8.45am. The teachers will welcome the children in and staff will help them to find their own peg to hang up their coat and their PE bag in the cloakroom and their own drawer for their blue school bag. It is important that any school bag they bring fits within their tray and is not a backpack, this is due to space.

The children will be given the opportunity to access 'busy learning' activities in the continuous provision to support them settling in.

During the morning, the children will have access to a healthy snack as well as access to their water bottles which are refilled throughout the day by staff when needed. They will be able to play both inside and outside during their session, therefore we do ask that the children have a waterproof coat each day.



We encourage the children to come into the cloakroom by themselves, having said goodbye to you. If ever you leave your child feeling unsettled, do telephone the school and we can reassure you that they have settled. We know this is a big day for all concerned and want to support you also.



What should my child wear to school?

The children at Wheatfields Primary School wear a simple uniform as outlined in your pack, where you will find a list of what they need. This can be purchased from The Green School Shop in St Ives. This also includes PE wear. Please ensure your child has something warm and waterproof to wear each day as they continuously free flow between indoor and outdoor spaces as part of their play.

Your child will keep their PE bag on their peg from the day they start school and we will send it home to be washed at each half term. Please send it back promptly after a holiday. It is important that all pieces of clothing are named to support returning items back to you. The children will often misplace or accidentally swap items and it is very hard to locate unnamed clothing.

Your child will also need sufficient clothing to take part in regular forest school sessions. This clothing is listed on your Forest School letter included in the pack.

What happens at Playtimes?

Playtime can be a worrying time for some children. We take great care to give the children confidence in the playground by building up their experience gradually. Initially, the Foundation children will play in our own outdoor area at playtime, and we gradually introduce them to the main playground.



What happens at Lunchtimes?

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes are entitled to Universal free school meals. In your pack you will also see a letter for PP free school meal funding. It is important you read this and if your family meets the thresholds for PP free school meals, this will then ensure that your child continues to receive their PP free school meals within KS2. Alongside this, the funding provides the school with a grant to support your child in their learning. We want to ensure that every child is given the best opportunities and support within their education.

We are committed to promoting healthy lifestyles for our pupils and our school kitchen provides freshly cooked, healthy meals each day. The kitchen changes our menus every term, these can be found on our school website, providing you opportunity to explore the different meals being offered termly. Every day there is a choice of two hot main courses, a vegetarian option, a choice of vegetables, filled rolls, salad bar and at least two choices of dessert, as well as fruit and yoghurt.



Children may bring a Packed Lunch to school. Please can we ask that it contains no chocolate or sweets. You will also need to include a drink. However, we ask no fizzy drinks please.



The children are supervised by their own class lunchtime supervisor, who is there to support the children. After eating their meal, they will all go out to play on the playground, before the afternoon session begins.

Will my child be able to have a snack and drink?

Your child will need to bring a named water bottle to school each day. You will find a water bottle in the pack given to you at the New Parents meeting, kindly donated by PAWS. **The children are only allowed water to drink** as it is well known that drinking water aids concentration. The children will also be given a healthy fruit snack each day during the morning session.

Will my child be allowed to go to the toilet?

The children are allowed to freely access the toilets in the classroom and we encourage them to be independent, but we will support them when needed. If there are any issues, or concerns around toileting please discuss them with your child's class teacher during the home visit.

Will my child be safe?

Children learn best when they feel healthy, safe and secure, when they have their individual needs met and when they have positive relationships with the adults caring for them. At Wheatfields Primary School, we take all necessary steps to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children in our care. We promote good health, manage behaviour effectively and ensure the suitability of staff and provide a safe and stimulating environment. We maintain a rigorous system of records, policies and procedures to ensure safety of all the pupils. The Early Years Foundation Stage staff are appropriately qualified and experienced to work with young children and we consider your child's safety of paramount importance.



What if my child is unwell?

If your child is unwell, please telephone the school absence line in the morning before 9am, to let the school know. If your child has sickness or diarrhoea, please keep them away from school until they are completely clear, **at least 48 hours**. If your child has a medical appointment, please let the teacher and the school office know, so the register can be marked appropriately.

What if my child needs medicine at school?

The school follows DfE guidelines.

Antibiotic medicines, eye drops, ear drops and non-prescriptive medicines are not administered at school. Parents should be aware that employees in school have no contractual obligation to administer medicines. Advice from unions and professional associations is that members should not administer medicines.

Only medication for chronic conditions will be administered at school. We require a completed parental permission for the administration of all medicines. The medication must be brought into school in the original container/package in which it was dispensed by the pharmacist. The name of the child and the required dosage should be easy to read. All medication will be registered in the school's medical book. Children are supervised while they take their medication by staff.

The school aims to be as co-operative as possible in this matter, whilst still protecting its staff and pupils. Local GPs seek to ensure that children who are prescribed medicines can, as far as possible, be given the appropriate doses outside of normal school hours. We strongly urge parents to request this with GPs whenever possible. If, in exceptional circumstances and following discussions with a GP, medicine has to be administered more frequently, then please speak to the Headteacher who will then decide how the school can best meet the child's needs.

What if I need to take my child out of School?

If you need to take your child out of school during term time, other than for medical appointments, please inform the school office. Parents should avoid booking family holidays during term-time. All holiday taken in term time will be recorded as unauthorised. Please see the school website www.wheatfields.cambs.sch.uk and see our Attendance policy for guidance.

How best can I help my child at school?

As a parent, you play a vital role in our partnership between home and school. You will want to provide the best for your child and support their learning as we do in school. The greatest support that you can give your child before starting school is to;



- Build their confidence and independence such as putting on their coats and attempting new tasks independently
- Have high expectations of your child's behaviour that are also achievable such as sharing things with others and showing kind hands towards their peers
- Encourage your child to talk about their experiences and



interests. Confidence in talking to others really helps support your child across their academic progress as well as in building up new friendships.

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- Encourage your child to dress and undress themselves independently
- Practise eating with a knife and fork
- Make sure your child feels confident to use the toilet and wash their hands

If ever you have a concern about your child, however small it may seem, please talk to one of us and we will do our utmost to help and support your child. Parents and teachers need to work together to ensure we provide the opportunities for your child to grow, and develop new skills.



Partnership between home and school is very important to our staff as it helps build upon your child's progress across the curriculum. Using Tapestry, which is an online journal of your child's learning, both yourselves as parents and staff are able to upload observations, videos and photos of your child learning. These are then used to support the assessment of how your child is progressing towards the curriculum. Working together to offer exciting experiences and opportunities for learning across both the home and school environment, we can provide the best start to your child's education.

Will my child bring a library book home?



To support your child's reading development, we provide a selection of home reading books. To begin with, the children will read books with only illustrations, with your support creating their own verbal stories to develop their use of language. During

this time, we will be teaching the children phonics to give them the tools and skills to begin reading words independently. They will then begin bringing home books with text presented. In accordance with our school policy, the children are expected to read daily with you at home. This can be a page of their book from school, you reading a bedtime story to them or perhaps reading signs on the way to school. The children will be encouraged to change their books at least once a week but they are encouraged to independently change them as many times as they like during the access to these classroom to support each child with a each day they can will be colour coded



week. They have texts within their this. We will provide Library folder and choose a book that according to level of

difficulty. They will also have a Home School Diary in their folder, where parents will record the date, title and any comments they wish about their child's reading. This Library folder can be put inside a navy blue Wheatfields School bag, which will also be useful to transport home letters, pictures etc. This bag fits perfectly in your child's drawer in the classroom.



What will my child be doing all day?

We believe that pupils in the Foundation stage learn best through play-based opportunities, first hand experiences and that they become self-motivated independent learners through the provision of a balance of child initiated and adult led experiences. We provide a high quality curriculum based on the principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage document. The curriculum is wide and varied, and builds on your child's existing knowledge, skills and experiences.



The curriculum is based on three prime areas:

- Communication and Language
 - Physical Development
 - Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- And four specific areas through which the prime areas are strengthened and applied
- Literacy
 - Mathematics
 - Understanding the World
 - Expressive Arts and Design



Young children learn through enjoyable and challenging activities. If at the end of the day your child tells you they have 'just played', rest assured that your child's day has been well planned and purposeful. Your child will have been learning through focussed play activities. You will



be able to also see images, observations and videos of your child's learning through their online Tapestry journal, providing you with opportunities to share their day at home.



Forest School

At Wheatfields we are passionate about Outdoor learning and providing children with as many opportunities as possible to learn in the outdoor environment.

Forest School is the name for the approach to educating children in the outdoor environment on a regular basis; supporting the main curriculum, allowing the children opportunities to take safe risks and raise their self-esteem and independence.



The children in EYFS are lucky enough to have access to weekly Forest School sessions on the school site. The children will



attend one afternoon session a week to explore the skills and principles of Forest School and develop a love and respect for the world around them.

We will take part in activities such as climbing, den building, sowing and growing, whittling and storytelling to name a few. A lot of their learning experiences within Forest School will also be recorded on their tapestry journal allowing you opportunity to see them learning in action as well as time to share and discuss their Forest experiences at home.

How will I know how my child is doing?

Assessment in the Foundation Stage takes place through observation of what the children show they can do and say. During the first few weeks of school, in accordance with government policy, the children will be assessed using national baseline assessment tool. Alongside this teachers will also use



their observations of your child within the first few weeks, information shared by yourselves and their pre-school settings to provide an overview of where your child is working within the Early Years Curriculum. From this, the staff can plan and support your child in

continuing their learning journey within the environment and sharing this with you to support them at home.

As a school, we use a programme called 'Tapestry' to record our observations and as a tool for sharing your child's learning with you. At the new parents meeting we will explain Tapestry and how it works to you, some of you may have already used this as part of your child's learning at re-school. You will then be asked to fill in a form which asks for an email address. This email will be linked to your child's personal Tapestry account so that you can access videos, images and observations on a daily basis that share your child's learning with you. This can be accessed online, via an app on your mobile, iPad or android device. Without completed form the school cannot sign you up to access your child's account. **Please ensure you hand this in before the deadline date.**



Thank you. At our first Parent Consultation in October, we will also be able to discuss how your child has settled in at school and our assessments with you.

National Baseline – What will this look like for my child?

Starting September 2020, all schools across England and Wales are required to complete the national baseline with pupils in reception. The expectation is for schools will carry out the assessment within the first 6 weeks of children starting school. It will be an activity-based assessment of children's' starting points in:

- Language, communication and literacy
- Mathematics

The assessment will be age-appropriate, last approximately 20 minutes and teachers will record the results on a laptop, computer or tablet. It will not be used to label or track individual pupils, but to provide information on each child's starting points to support planning ahead for their next steps. No numerical score will be shared and the data will only be used at the end of year 6 to form the school-level progress measure. However, teachers will receive a series of short, narrative statements that tell them how their pupils performed in the assessment at that time. These can be used to inform teaching within the first term.

To finish, a final big warm welcome to Wheatfields Primary School, We are so excited to have you join our family and to begin this exciting adventure with you.