



Welcome to  
**Reception**

**Reception Parents Welcome Meeting**

**Thursday 11th July 2019**

# **Welcome**

We would like to welcome you and your family to Woodpecker Hall Academy Primary School.

**Head teacher:**

Sharon Parson

**Deputy Head teacher:**

Michelle Griffin

**Assistant Head of Early Years:** Sherin Ahmet

**Primrose Class**

**Class teacher:** Miss Lydia Gibson

**Teaching assistant:** Miss Shabana Begum

**Poppy Class**

**Class teacher:** Mrs Natasha Walker

**Teaching assistant:** Mrs Fatma Huseyin

**Third teacher:** Miss Deborah Boyce

## Our Vision & Values

### Our founding ethos established four key principles:

- Driving up the quality of education provision and standards, to ensure excellent outcomes for all pupils.
- Sharing resources, expertise and provision across the family of CHAT schools, ensuring value-for-money academies.
- Being a self-sustaining and self-improving group of schools, with emphasis on relying on school leaders, teachers, support staff and parents to ensure a good quality of provision for all.
- Sharing our expertise with as many young people and communities as is possible.

**“Together we succeed.”**



### Starting School

During the Reception meeting you will have received a letter in the post inviting you and your child to attend two stay and play sessions in July and September. If your child is new to our school, you will also receive a home visit appointment. Please telephone the school if neither of these dates are suitable so we can rearrange them as soon as possible.

### On arrival

The playground is open from 8.30am. Parents should drop their children at the classroom door where they will be greeted by the class teacher/teaching Assistant. School finishes at 3.00pm and parents should wait beside the fenced area by their child's class for the doors to open. At home time you are asked to collect your child promptly. If for any reason a different person is collecting your child could you please let the class teacher or a member of the office staff know. If you are delayed, please telephone the office so that we are able to reassure your child that you are on your way.

Your child has the option to have either a school dinner or bring in a packed lunch. All children in Reception – Year 2 are entitled to a Universal Free School Meal and no payment is required.

## HOME VISITS

### Home visit booklet

If you are new to Woodpecker Hall Academy we will carry out a home visit. During your home visit we will be going through your child's Starting School booklet with you. This gives us the opportunity to discuss strengths, concerns, hopes and expectations with you about your child. We value any information that you have which can help complete a successful transition from your home environment into school life.



### Tapestry

This is an online journal where the teachers will record observations of the children which you will be able to access from home. It also allows parents to add their own observations of activities/outings at home.



### Learning journals

All children will have a special book called a learning journal during their Reception year. We encourage the children to choose their favourite pieces of art work to stick into their book so by the end of the year they have a collection which will also show the progress they have made.



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All children also have Maths and Literacy books in school and you will be able to see their progress in these during parent consultations.

### Bear Friend

Children will have the opportunity to take home the class bear for the weekend. The bear will come with a bear diary in which we ask you to write an account of how you spent your weekend. This is an excellent opportunity to develop social skills and build children's confidence.



## How can I help my child prepare for school?

- Get into a routine of asking them about their day: “Tell me two good parts to your day. Tell me one thing you are going to do differently tomorrow.”
- Encourage them to clean well after using the toilet and wash hands thoroughly.
- Practise getting dressed and undressed independently at home.
- Encourage them to ask the right questions to ask for help: “Where can I find the tissues please?” “Can you help me put my apron on please?”
- Encourage them to scrape their plate after meals and tidy up after themselves.
- Give them a space in the home where their book bag goes, so they can remember to bring it to school.
- Take them to the library so that they have the experience of choosing their own books.
- Have a bed time routine eg. bath and reading before they go to bed. (Read aloud- our initiative to encourage reading for 15 minutes a day.)
- Nurture curiosity in your child through showing them how to ask questions and how to be interested in everyday and peculiar topics.
- Limit screen time for your children after 6pm so that they are calm and ready for bed.
- Involve them in the daily tasks around the home: “Can you set the table so we all have a plate each?”, “Tomorrow is Tuesday so can you bring your bin downstairs for the rubbish?”, “Before 6pm put all the books away.”
- Praise your child for *trying* rather than achieving something. This is how resilience is built, where children build their confidence even if they haven’t achieved their end goal.



## **Phonics Read Write Inc.**

Woodpecker Hall Academy follows the Read Write Inc. scheme of work and children will work in matched level learning groups after the half term.

Children are introduced to the set 1 phonics sounds. A new sound is introduced in each lesson. The lesson focuses on hearing the sound, reading the sound, writing it and also blending words with the focus sound in.

Once children have a secure knowledge of the 31 set 1 sounds, children are introduced to a 'bridging the gap unit' where children are encouraged to apply their phonic knowledge to read short sentences and short stories by blending the sounds they hear. Once children can confidently read these sentences, the children will move onto the higher stage reading books.

Comprehension of a text is key to developing children's understanding. Please ensure you are reading to your child every night to support their understanding of different stories.

Finally, fluency and pace is important to ensuring your child is a fluent reader. Your child will be encouraged to read clearly and with ease in order to progress within the programme.

Useful website for parents- [www.ruthmiskin.com](http://www.ruthmiskin.com)



## **Breakfast club and After school care and extra-curricular activities**

We offer a Breakfast club (7.45am-8.30am) and an After school club (3.00pm-5.45pm).

Reception children are welcome to attend once they have all started full time from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

In September parents will receive a letter explaining which extra-curricular activities are available for Reception children to attend after school.

## **PTA**

We encourage parents to become involved as much as possible in order to feel part of the Woodpecker Hall family. The PTA work hard together to organise and run fundraising events throughout the year including, cake sales and the Winter and Summer fairs.

## **Community Outreach Team**

Our CHAT Community Outreach workers work with families and outside relevant agencies outside our school community to benefit our children's achievement.

With the help from teachers and staff we can help offer support in parenting skills, awareness of and support on the curriculum, support in learning English or simply providing you with opportunities to meet other parents.

## **Parent Pay**



“Make convenient and safe cashless payments in school”

Our school uses ParentPay to pay money to the school. It is a secure online payment system. As a cashless school we do not take any cash or cheques. Paying through ParentPay using a debit/credit card is more convenient and flexible. You can pay for in school events such as shows and school trips.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What does my child need on their first day at school?**

Please ensure your child is wearing their school uniform and that they bring their book bag. They will also need a water bottle. Everything needs to be clearly labelled with your child's name.

### **When can I chat with the teacher?**

You can make an appointment to meet with the class teacher before or after the school day. Please remember that in the mornings and at the end of the day the teacher's priority is to get the children into class safely and then release them to their parent or carer at the end of the day.

### **How do I let the school know someone else is picking up my child?**

If you are running late you can call the school with the details of who will collect your child and the office staff will pass the message on to the teacher.

### **What do I do if my child is sick?**

Please call the school office before 9am and speak to the office staff. Your child may still want to come to school even if they are unwell but please ensure that you keep them at home if you think that they could infect other children. If your child has vomited they must not return to school until 48 hours after their last bout of sickness in order to avoid spreading infection.

### **What do I do if my child has a medical appointment?**

We ask that wherever possible medical appointments are arranged outside of the school day. If you do need to take your child to a medical appointment during the day please bring your letter to the office who will take a photocopy of it. Ensure that you sign your child in and out of school.

### **Can my child wear jewellery?**

For health and safety reasons children are not allowed to wear jewellery to school other than small, stud earrings.

### **Can my child bring a snack for morning break?**



The Government supplies free fruit for all Reception and Key Stage 1 pupils which they are given during the morning break, so it is not necessary for them to bring a snack to school.

**Can my child bring their own water to school?**

Yes, we encourage children to drink water during the school day. Please clearly label your child's water bottle.

**What happens if my child hurts themselves during the school day?**

Our staff are trained to attend to the children. If a child has bumped their head or has a visible mark or graze they will have a note in their book bag and you will receive a call from a member of staff to make you aware.

**How can I become involved with my child's school?**

Parents are welcome to join the PTA, become a parent volunteer and attend coffee mornings.

**How do I pay for trips and events?**

Our school uses ParentPay to pay money to the school. We **do not** take any cash or cheques. ParentPay is a secure online payment system that every parent will now be using in the school. Please see letter in pack.