



## Woodside Church Of England Primary School

### Autumn Term Information to Parents



# Welcome to Ash Class!

We would like to give all our families (old and new) a very warm welcome to Woodside. We have really enjoyed meeting you during our stay and play sessions. We hope you and your child had a lovely time and were able to feel a little more reassured about coming to be with us.

### Meet the team

Class teacher: Mrs Clifford

Teaching Assistant: Mrs Hudspith (Mon-Fri am/Tues and Thurs pm)

Teaching Assistant: Mrs Marsh (Mon/Wed/Fri pm)

Midday Supervisor: Mrs Hancox



### School times

School starts at 8.30am

School ends at 3.00pm

You can drop off and pick up your child from the Reception gates at these times. Please ensure that your child waits near you at the start of the day before the gates open. The children are **not** allowed to run over the garden and play by the trees. There are plants in the grounds and footwear also gets dirty. As you can imagine muddy shoes make a real mess in the classroom.

Children going to Woodpeckers will be brought up to the classroom and collected at the end of the day. If you are going to be late or if somebody different is going to collect them please let us know or contact the office.

### PE

We will be having **PE on Friday**. Your child can come into school in their PE Kit. Please ensure that earrings are covered up or taken out. If they are not we will have to put a little bit of tape over the earring to ensure that your child does not have an injury.



### Topics for this half term

Marvellous me!/Nursery rhymes/Goldilocks/Autumn

### Starting school



Starting school can be a very anxious time for everyone! So, if you have any queries or concerns about any issue now or throughout the year, please feel free to speak to us. We can be available to talk briefly at drop off time about any problem that may affect your child during the day but we be able to give you more time after school

You may be very excited to find all about your child's day when you pick them up from school, however you may find that they may just answer with "nothing" when you ask what they have done.

Here are some tips to help you gently encourage your child to open up a little more.

**\*Don't start asking questions straight away-**Many children do not always want to talk about school straight after leaving it for the day. Some may need to process the day and have some "downtime" before they are ready to talk.

*\*Ask open ended questions rather than closed ones.*

*A closed questions only requires a one word answer such as yes or no whereas as open ended questions require a longer answer. Here are some things you could ask your child.*

Tell me the names of two other children who sat on your table for lunch

Tell me about something / someone that made you smile today.

What was the best thing you did today?

Tell me two funny things that happened today.

What was the best thing that your teacher told you today?

What games did you play today?

### **Water Bottles**

*Your child can bring in their own named water bottle that they will be able to access throughout the day. We would like the children to have just water in their bottles as we like to encourage healthy choices and for a hygiene point of view e.g. if the bottle spills it can leave a sticky residue which will encourage ants/wasps etc. However if your child really dislikes water they can have a little bit of squash in their bottle. We would encourage you to bring it in a coloured water bottle so that the squash cannot be seen by others and that you try to reduce the quantity of squash over time.*

**Don't forget:** Your child is eligible for free school milk until they are 5 (you do have to register for this on the "coolmilk" website).

### **Changes to the Early Years Foundation Stage**

*The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) has been reformed this year. These national changes have been made to better support young children's learning and development. It is also the aim that the new framework will better prepare children for their transition into key stage 1.*



*There are some elements of the EYFS that have not significantly changed and some that have. Below are some of the key points from the new EYFS reforms that include relevant changes which parents, carers and children may notice or experience.*

- *Staff will be spending less time on large amounts of written observations and assessments for evidence collection. This means they can spend more time supporting and engaging with the children and learning and development needs.*
- *Children will no longer be assessed against statements from an age band category. Instead, staff will use their experience and knowledge to monitor if a child's learning and development is on track for their age.*
- *The Early Learning Goals at the end of Reception have been changed to become more clear and easier to understand. Staff will use their judgements to assess if the children have met these goals at the end of the EYFS and will inform parents and carers.*
- *There is an emphasis on improving children's language and vocabulary through increasing opportunities for conversations, reading of a wide range of books and holding discussions around activities in other areas of learning.*

- Literacy and numeracy skills focused on in the EYFS have been adapted to better match up with the national curriculum that starts in Year 1.
- There is no longer an exceeding judgement at the end of Reception. Children will instead be challenged to have a greater depth and understanding of ideas.
- Safeguarding and welfare of children is still a priority, with the added mention of teaching children about the importance of good oral health and how to keep teeth clean and healthy.



### Getting to know you

During the first few weeks at school we will be getting to know your child by carrying out observations of them during play so that we can have a clear idea of what their learning and development needs are.

We will be carrying out the Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA) which is statutory in all schools in England from September 2021. The RBA is a short, activity based assessment of pupils' early mathematics, literacy, communication and language skills.



The RBA is not about judging or labelling your child or putting them under any pressure. Your child cannot "pass" or "fail" the assessment. The purpose of the assessment is to provide the starting point for a new measure that will help parents understand how well schools support their pupils to progress between Reception and Year 6-the end of Key Stage 2.

The result of each child's RBA is later used in conjunction with the year group's Key Stage 2 SATs results for the government to measure overall progress primary schools make with their pupils. This will ensure primary schools are held to account and succeed in providing a good education to their pupils.

We have also attached a sheet to this letter which will provide you with more information about the RBA.

### Welly Walks

Each week we hope to provide the children with a weekly welly walk around the local area. These walks have proved very popular with children and adults alike in the past. Welly walks will take place every **Wednesday morning starting from Wednesday 6th October**. With the winter months approaching the children will need waterproofs and wellies for this activity. As the weather deteriorates the walks can get quite muddy so jogging bottoms to walk in are also a good idea. Please provide these items in a bag that can be left on your child's peg. Of course, we welcome as much support from Parents, Guardians and Grandparents on these walks. If you would like to join us any week please come along. We go straight away after completing the school registers and are out for about an hour or so.



### Snack Money

In Reception we ask parents if they would kindly make a weekly contribution to snack money. It is just a small donation of 50p a week to provide the children with a wider variety of fruit for snack time and toast on a Wednesday after our long Welly Walks. We also use it for any little extras in the classroom such as cooking materials. You can pay this half termly, termly or for the whole year, whichever suits. Please send the money into the classroom in an envelope with your child's name on it.



### Labelling clothes

As you can imagine, the children in Reception find it very difficult to keep track of their own clothes. So, to make things easier for them ( and us ! ) can you ensure all of their school uniform and welly walk clothes have their name in.



### A peek into the classroom



At Woodside we have been successfully using the online learning journey of "Tapestry" to allow you to see some of your child's "WOW" moments in the classroom. The app is very safe and secure as the parents of each child have their own individual logins. We are hoping to upload photos each week to the site , where you can see and comment upon their achievements. We will provide more details on how to use Tapestry for parents and carers at a later date.

### All about me' bags

Thank you for the wonderful bags which the children have created. The children will be showing the class their bags and talking about the things they have put in them. We will be working through them each day and will show everyone's bag but please bear in mind that with 30 children in the class this will take time.

### A few other things to consider...

- \*Please discourage children from bringing toys into school.
- \*Jewellery, nail varnish and temporary tattoos should not be worn in school
- \*Our school website [Woodside C of E Primary School \(woodside-ce-school.co.uk\)](http://woodside-ce-school.co.uk) is a really useful way of finding out information about school such as calendar dates, newsletters and lunches.

We really do hope your child has a lovely start to their Reception year. We will be having Parents Evening telephone calls in October to let you know how your child has settled into school but if you have any queries or concerns before this please do come and see one of the Reception team.

Thank you for your all your support

The Reception Team

