



Starting at

Wouldham All Saints Church of England School



Information for Reception Parents

The following information will be useful for you as your child starts school.

The Reception year is the final year of the Early Years Foundation Stage. In the Reception year there is a balance of teacher and child initiated activities. There are set times of the day where the children are involved in planned activities which are designed to support each of the children in reaching the next step in their individual learning journey and the children are then given the opportunity to develop these independently during child initiated supported play (Time to Explore).

Themes we will aim to cover during the year may include-

- ★ All About Me
- ★ Festivals and Celebrations
- ★ Traditional Tales
- ★ Journeys
- ★ People Who Help Us
- ★ The Woods
- ★ Growing Plants and Lifecycles
- ★ The Seaside



During the year, we also plan and develop activities linked to the interests of the children in the class, which helps to inspire them and encourages the children to learn as we develop their own interests and ideas. We share information about learning through a weekly class newsletter.

Phonics and Reading

Before reading develops, children need to be able to pronounce the letter sounds correctly and blend sounds together to make words. We follow the Bug Club Phonics scheme that links to our reading books. We will share further information about this so that you can support your child at home too.





At the start of the school year, the children will regularly take home an enjoyment book from our library of storybooks. Reading together is one of the most beneficial activities that you can support at home. Try to read a variety of books together and encourage your child to retell and answer questions about the books as you read together. When we feel children are ready for school books we use an online reading scheme called 'Bug Club' more information will be shared about this when the time is appropriate.

Water

The children should bring in a named water bottle, which they have in the classroom and can fill up with fresh cold water throughout the day. If the children have access to water, it improves concentration and learning. The water bottle needs to be a small plastic sports style bottle with a lid. The bottle needs to be clearly labelled with your child's name. We ask that the bottles are filled only with water and not squash, milk or fruit juice.



Squiggle Whilst you Wiggle



To develop handwriting we use a program called Squiggle whilst you Wiggle which involves the children doing large scale movements, dancing with ribbons, drawing, and painting to music. During the first term we focus on developing rhythm and pattern flow in preparation for handwriting and work towards encouraging fine motor pencil control and letter formation.

Clothing

Our uniform is straightforward and practical with the 'badged' school uniform available to buy in store and online through Uniform Base in Chatham.

- Jumper or cardigan
- Tie (a tie-up not clip-on tie is recommended)
- Book bag (all children need a school book bag as we do not have room for rucksacks in the classroom)
- PE team t-shirt
- PE bag
- Caps are also available if required.

Children also need:

- A plain white shirt with collar (not a polo shirt)
- Grey or black trousers, dress or skirt
- In the summer months, grey or black shorts or a blue summer dress
- Plain socks or tights
- 'Classic style' black shoes
- Black PE shorts and plimsolls.

For Forest School and outdoor learning

- A pair of wellington boots
- Waterproof overalls

Boots, trainer style or canvas shoes or sandals are not suitable. Footwear needs to be waterproof, durable and able to cope with outdoors, walking, running and general playing. We always recommend children have shoes that are sized and fitted correctly by a suitable shop.

Jewellery must not be worn in school with the exception of a simple watch. If ears are pierced then plain studs can be kept in but your child needs to be able to remove and replace these for PE. Long hair must be tied up/back and any hair accessories should be plain, understated and preferably in school blue.

The children use both the indoor and outdoor classroom during child initiated time, therefore during the winter we advise that they are sent to school with a warm hooded coat, hat, scarf and gloves (all clearly named). In the summer your child will need a school summer cap. The children will have access to water, mud and sand in our outside classroom and so we ask that they also have a pair of wellington boots to keep at school.



Behaviour Strategies

We have a number of different strategies in the school that encourage positive behaviour.



- ★ Positive praise and relationships
- ★ Developing a sense of responsibility through encouraging the children to look after themselves, each other and the environment.
- ★ The children develop skills in the area of self-regulation using the Zones of Regulation and Jigsaw PSHE curriculum. The children will be supported to identify emotions in themselves and others and be introduced to a range of strategies to help regulate their emotions and improve their wellbeing
- ★ The overall aim is to encourage and praise positive behaviour and to ensure that the children are clear of the rules and behaviour boundaries for effective learning.
- ★ We work closely with parents/carers if children need extra support to display positive behaviour at school and we value your support.

Sharing Home Learning

Speaking and listening is a very important part of the curriculum. Children need to be able to talk about experiences and to also listen and question others. In class, we use a system called Evidence Me to take photographs and make observations of your child's learning journey throughout their Reception year. You can also use Evidence Me to send us any special 'wow' learning moments that you have observed your child doing at home and to tell us about your child's weekend. The children always enjoy telling us about their weekends and we will plan in opportunities during the week for them to talk to us about their experiences and share any photographs that you/they might have taken and sent to us. Once the children have started school, we will send information on how to access and set up Evidence Me.

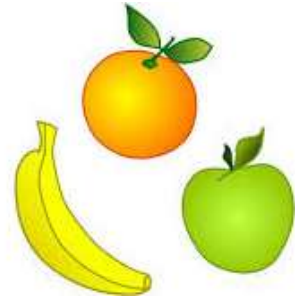


Attendance

Being at school is important to ensure that your child has a positive start to school and makes good progress with their learning. This also means getting the children to school ready for the start of the day on time every day. We monitor attendance and punctuality and will discuss this with you if this is becoming a concern.

General Useful Information

- ★ The children will need to bring in one snack a day that must be fruit or vegetable.
- ★ Until your child reaches the age of five they can have free milk at school, you just need to fill in the form available in your pack.
- ★ If your child wears earrings they must be studs only and be taken out for P.E days.
- ★ Your child will have a contact book, which we will check every morning for messages from you about your child. This is an effective way to ask questions or tell us information.
- ★ If your child is absent from school, please email or call the school office on the first day of absence.



***If you need any further information, please
contact us***

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