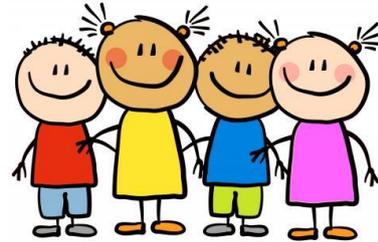


Friday 3rd July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Reception 2020!

In school we have been preparing to welcome yourselves and your children into their new classes in September. As you are aware, we had hoped to organise our usual parent meeting to introduce ourselves and also to inform you of the important information that you will need to know about Woodlands.

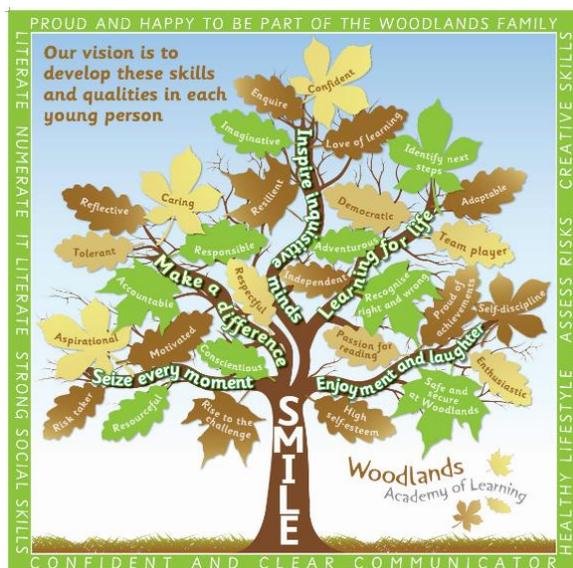


Unfortunately, due to the current situation regarding Covid 19, we are unable to invite external visitors into school and this is unlikely to change in September. **Therefore, we are postponing the parent meeting planned for Wednesday 2nd September.**

However, at this stage we are planning that our transition plans for your child starting Woodlands in September can go ahead as planned on the original letter you received.

We have never been in this situation before, it is incredibly strange that we shall be inviting your child to join us without meeting you first. However, hopefully the class teacher has been able to contact you for an informal conversation. (If you have not received a phone call it may be that we do not have the correct number for you. Please contact the school so we can update the records.) You should also have received a pack containing information regarding school uniform, ideas for things to work on before your child starts, your child's transition plan and the induction form to complete.

We have tried to provide the key information that we would have shared with you in the parent meeting in this letter and we hope it answers some of your questions.



Our Smile Tree

Our Smile Tree is very important to us at Woodlands. This is our vision and aspiration for your child. A summary of our values that underpin all the decisions that we make in school.

Our Smile Tree lies at the heart of our Woodlands family.

One of our sayings in school is that: "You are never fully dressed without a smile."

Who is who?

You and your child are joining the Woodland family and there are a number of staff that you will meet along the way. There are two classes in Reception:

- Mrs Price and Mrs Lippitt supported by Miss Roberts, will lead RP
- Miss Bushell supported by Miss Seale, will lead RB
- Miss Peters and Mrs Stone also support in Reception at different times too
- Mrs Dickson is our SENCO if you need support in the area of special needs
- Mrs Graham and Miss Price are our pastoral team leads if you need support in other areas of family life. We can help in all sorts of way.

Learning in Early Years

Is fun! It is exciting! Learning is a journey of discovery, at times it might be a challenge but it is a journey of achievement. Your child might come home and say they have been playing all day – great, because learning through play is powerful. Playing is experimenting, questioning, exploring and getting mucky...



Your child will work as a member of the whole class, in pairs or small groups. There will be focussed times during the school day when they work with an adult, there will be times when they access different learning labs, inside and outside in our designated EYFS space.



Our children go outside every day and in any weather, so it is important to have the right clothing for the weather. Children in early years will also get to experience Forest School at some point during the year, we shall provide you with more information about this closer to the time.

Your child will amaze you with the progress they will make whilst in Early Years, the speed of progress is incredible at this stage in a child's life. As they learn how to hold a pencil, write their name and write a story.

What will your child's normal day look like?

- 8.30-8:35 Registration
- 8.40-9.15 Phonics
- 9.20 – 9.30 Dough Disco/ Busy Fingers
- 9.30 – 10:35 Party with a Pencil (English)/ Learning Labs
- 10.35 – 10.45 Calendar and Funky Feet
- 10.45 – 11:45 Magical Maths/ Learning Labs
- 11.45 – 12.10 Story time
- 12.10 Lunch
- 12.55 – 13:05 Take Ten
- 13.05 – 14.15 Message of the day followed by Learning Labs
- 14.15 -14.30 Daily dashboard
- 14.30 – 14.40 Rhyme time
- 14.50 Home time

We hope that at some point next year we can invite you into Woodlands to join in the learning with your child.

How can you help get your child ready for school?

Watch the Reception film: The Reception team have created a little film of themselves and the Reception learning rooms, so you can both have an idea of what it is like inside Woodlands. Please watch and chat about the film together. You can find the film on Woodland's website.

Talk to your child about school: Share your happy memories about learning, talk about making friends and having friends. Promote excitement and enthusiasm for what is a very special time. Have a walk to the school and talk about what it will be like going to school every day.



Good bedtime routines: Going to bed early at a consistent time with a consistent routine will mean that your child will be fresh and ready for an exhausting day of playing and learning. A daily bedtime story shared together will set your child off on the right path.

A good diet: A diet that includes fresh fruit and vegetables will help your child's energy levels and help them learn and retain new knowledge.

Attendance: Please ensure your child attends every day – a missed day is a lot of missed learning. However, if your child is poorly then they really do need to be at home with you. Please contact the school office to let us know, if you forget then you are likely to receive a call from us asking if everything is alright.



Punctuality: Learning starts the moment that your child walks through the door so it is important that your child arrives on time.

Monday 7th September to Wednesday 16th September

Your child's transition plan lists the times to arrive at school and collect your child during the first couple of weeks.

During transition, please take your child to the Reception side entrance (next to the main car park, there will be a sign for the first few days to help).

Daily times from Thursday 17th September

In September, the entry and exit times will be changing for every year group due to COVID-19. These will be the daily times for your child when they are attending full time

- 8:30 – 8:35 Reception arrival through the KS1 playground gate
- 2:50 Reception collection from the KS1 playground, lower door

STAR REWARDS

Each week the children can earn 5 stars for:

- Attendance – in school every day
- Punctuality – on time every day
- Uniform – including PE/Forest school
- Prepared for learning – having reading books in school every day
- Behaviour

Once they have earned 20 stars they can go to Mrs Newton's Prize Shop and choose a prize!



Settling In: Every child is different and some children will settle more quickly than others – please don't worry, every child will settle. Some children will find it difficult to leave their parent, understandably so. Can we ask that you are brave at this time, a kiss and a hug, a goodbye and a "I will see you later" then to leave. The majority of children calm down very quickly when they realise their parent has left but will soon recognise that you will always return at the end of the day. If your child is finding settling quite difficult then together we can come up with a personalised plan to support your child.

Talking to staff: At the end of the day, members of staff would normally be around to talk to regarding any queries. However, in light of COVID-19 we need to undertake more conversations via the telephone or email, rather than face to face. Please have patience that it will take a little time to respond to you because the team will be teaching full time.

Purchase our uniform and label everything! We are very proud of our Woodlands uniform because we dress for learning at Woodlands. Our uniform policy is on the website under Policies. The majority of the uniform can be purchased from a supermarket. The items with Woodland's logo on can be purchased from a stall at Willenhall market. There will also be a uniform stall run by the Willenhall market stall owners on Thursday 16th July at 2:00pm on the school field. We can recommend Label Planet to help with labelling (name stickers that save hours of sewing).

Physical Education will take place every week: Every child needs a complete and fully named kit in a school pump bag. We keep these in school and send them home once every half term to be washed. Remember the colour of the t-shirt is the colour of house that your child has been put into, these t-shirts and pump bags are available from the Willenhall market stall or at the uniform stall at Woodlands on 16th July. Please remove **ALL** jewellery before school and tie up long hair. We expect the children to dress/undress independently – it would help to practice before September.



Parking: Hunts Lane, which is the road leading to school can become very congested during drop off and pick up times. To keep all of the Woodlands Community as safe as

possible we ask that parents park further away from school and then walk. We have an arrangement with The Royal British Legion Club, who are very happy for parents to use their car park during these times.



Hot delicious lunches: As part of Universal Free School Meals, all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school lunch. We have our own kitchen run by Mrs Mason. The dinners are nutritious and delicious with fresh ingredients from local farms.

All children will eat together in the hall but will be put into a family group on each table. A lunch supervisor will be with them every day and will serve them at their tables. This ensures that children will have help in developing the skills of using a knife and fork, table etiquette and manners. The supervisor will also know all children well, so if they have any specific food allergies, they can be catered for confidently. We are used to fussy eaters and will offer alternatives if necessary.

We have invited you to join your child for lunch in early September as part of transition, but again I am afraid we shall have to cancel at this time. We hope to be able to invite you into school to share lunch with your child later in the academic year.

Information Forms: If you have yet to return your completed information forms, please bring back into the school foyer and pop them into the designated box.

Covid-19: The safety of our children and staff are our prime concern. We are currently operating under a very strict risk assessment as we have restricted opening. This risk assessment will be updated for September, following the government guidance. More information about our thorough safety procedures will be sent out closer to the end of the year.

Things your child will need every day:

A book bag for their reading book and letters we send home.

A water bottle

A coat

A warm hat / sun hat (if hot, all day sun cream applied before school)

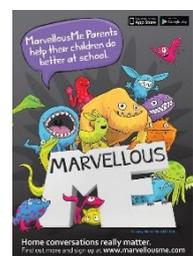
The children are taught to take responsibility for their belongings.

Please label EVERYTHING

Please do not send rucksacks as we don't have the space to store them

We hope that you feel a little more prepared for such an important event in your family's life. If you have any questions or worries then please ring school or email postbox@woodlands.walsall.sch.uk There is no such thing as a silly question! There is also further information about Woodlands in our prospectus which is available on the school website under Prospectus.

We really are looking forward to working in partnership with you – you are part of the learning journey. We shall send things home for you to do with



your child. We will also send you messages using an app called Marvellous Me which we shall tell you more about in September.

Important information to remember:

- The uniform stall on Thursday 16th July at 2- 3:00pm on the school field (Cash Only).
- Parent meeting on Wednesday 3rd September is postponed
- Sharing a lunch with your child during September is also postponed
- A further letter will be sent to you later in the term regarding COVID-19 safety arrangements

Finally, we are all looking forward to meeting your child and you in person in September. I wish you and your family a very happy and safe summer.

Yours sincerely

T G Newton

Head Teacher