

Woodthorpe Primary School



Early Years Foundation Stage Handbook



2025 - 2026

Welcome to Woodthorpe Primary School



*Our school is a happy, exciting and caring community in which
each child thrives.*

*Your child is about to start a journey where they will
learn through enquiry, discovery, play and enjoyment...*



We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child into our school family at Woodthorpe Primary School and tell you how much we are looking forward to meeting you all.

Our Nursery and Reception classes are very special and we are going to have so many wonderful adventures together.

We hope that your child is feeling excited to embark upon their journey with us, but please remember that it is completely natural for children to feel a little uncertain too.

We hope that this booklet will give you a glimpse into our Early Years Foundation Stage and the incredible opportunities we provide.

We hope that you have a lovely summer and we can't wait to get to know more about your child in September.

Kindest regards,

The Early Years Foundation Stage Team

My Teachers

In nursery, your child's teachers will be ...



Miss Britland

Duckling's Class Teacher

Assistant Principal



Mrs Agar

HLTA

*(Higher Level
Teaching Assistant)*



Mrs Young

Nursery Administrator



Mrs Pamfret

Teaching Assistant



Mrs Lodge

Teaching Assistant



Miss Cottrell

Teaching Assistant

My Teachers

In reception, your child's teachers will be ...



Mrs Goodall

Gosling's Class Teacher

Reception Lead



Miss Wheeler

Cygnel's Class Teacher



Mrs Godfrey

Teaching Assistant



Mrs Devonport

Teaching Assistant

Other adults...



Mr McGann

Executive Principal



Mrs Grason-Taylor

Head of School



Mrs Elswarth

Vice Principal/SENCO

Our Classrooms...

Nursery



Our Classrooms...

Reception



Where to find Nursery and Reception ...

This is where your child comes into nursery and where they get picked up from...



Ducklings



This is where your child comes into reception and where they get picked up from...

Goslings



Cygnets



Please ensure your class teacher has a complete list of every adult you wish to collect your child (including afterschool clubs and childminders). We cannot let your child go with anyone but the named adults we have listed in school.

If this is arranged after you have dropped your child off, please contact the office.

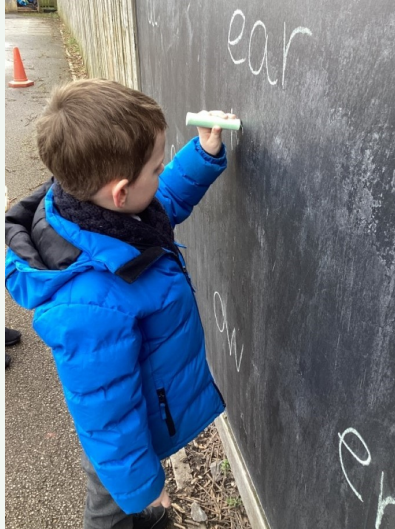
A day in Nursery...

Children will have access to a wide range of activities to develop a variety of skills. Here is a small snapshot of some of our indoor and outdoor activities.



A day in Reception ...

Children will have access to a wide range of activities to develop a variety of skills. Here is a small snapshot of some of our indoor and outdoor activities.



The Reggio Emilia Approach

We draw inspiration from the childhood centres of Reggio Emilia in Northern Italy. Reggio Emilia's philosophy is world famous for providing children with the very best in childcare and education.

The core values of Reggio Inspired classrooms are:

- Children are active participants in their learning.
- Teachers and children share the learning process, finding out things together.
- Relationships between school, parents and community are strong.
- The environment is stimulating, challenging, calm and thoughtful.
- Children's learning is celebrated.



Our environment is designed to encourage independence and freedom of choice, where children can take a lead in their own play, learning and development.

We provide opportunities to inspire and ignite children's interest and passions for life-long learning.

With Reggio inspired classrooms we see the environment as the 'Third Teacher'. Our aims are also inspired by children's curiosity,

- To provide a setting which reflects **beauty**; from the delicate authentic resources to the wondrous natural objects—all declaring, all showing their beauty!
- To encourage **curiosity** and **exploration**. Curiosity is the desire to learn. It is an eagerness to explore, discover and figure things out. As educators, we aim to support and reinforce this innate curiosity to give children the confidence to develop their own theories about our incredible world.
- To provide lots of **natural light** and calm, cosy spaces.
- To offer plentiful **outdoor experiences** and cultivate a love of nature and all her gifts.

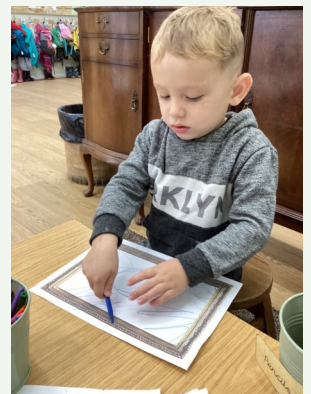
"The best classroom and the richest cupboard are roofed only by the sky"
- Margaret McMillan.

The Early Years Foundation Stage

Our Nursery and Reception classes are based upon the principles set out in the statutory framework for the early years foundation stage.



The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets the standards that all early years providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children's 'school readiness' and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life.



The introduction to the framework states that:

"Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child's experiences between birth and age five have a major impact on their future life chances. A secure, safe and happy childhood is important in its own right. Good parenting and high quality early learning together provide the foundation children need to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up."

Four guiding principles should shape practice in Early Years settings. These are:

1. Every child is a unique child, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.
2. Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.
3. Children learn and develop well in enabling environments with teaching and support from adults, who respond to their individual interests and needs and help them to build their learning over time. Children benefit from a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers.
4. Importance of learning and development. Children develop and learn at different rates. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).



Areas of learning and development

The Prime Areas

- Communication and Language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development

The Specific Areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive arts and design

We explore these areas through exciting and engaging learning activities.

For more information about the statutory framework for the early years foundation stage please see our school website.

What to bring for Nursery



We would encourage our Nursery children to wear comfortable clothes and shoes.

Old clothes are perfect for nursery as we do like getting rather messy!

The children will need to move around freely and not be worried about getting their clothes and shoes dirty. We spend a lot of time exploring outside with activities such as digging, playing in the Mud Kitchen and going on regular forest walks in all weathers.

We also promote independence, so clothes that are easy enough for your child to have a go putting on themselves — jogging bottoms or leggings are a great choice.

School Uniform

Although uniform is non-compulsory, if you would like, your child can wear a school sweatshirt and jogging bottoms/leggings as a uniform.

Visit our school website to find out more information about our school uniform via the 'Families' section.



What your child needs to bring to keep at Nursery...

- Waterproof coat
- Waterproof trousers
- Wellies
- A full set of spare clothes

Additional:

- Water bottle

Please put your child's name on EVERYTHING!!

Communication and Language

At Woodthorpe Primary School communication and language is at the heart of early years; we know that speech and language skills are a key indicator in children's lifelong outcomes. We pride ourselves on providing playful, language-rich environments with opportunities to learn new words and hands-on experiences to encourage learning and provide a context for new words to be explored.

Children in EYFS take part in a daily 'Poetry Basket' session which offers a fun way to explore the sounds and patterns of words. Poems with actions and repetition help children listen to the structure of spoken language and explore new words.

Reading stories aloud and sharing books is an important part of every day in EYFS. This supports children to develop language and understand new concepts. It strengthens their language skills and widens their vocabulary.



WellComm

Every term in Early Years we assess children's Communication and Language skills using a screening tool called WellComm. This helps us to see where children may be in need of some extra support with their listening and understanding or speaking and wider communication. Sometimes children will have more specific things to work on or we look at developing an area of Communication and Language as a whole class. Individual and group interventions are delivered by our EYFS team throughout the week.

We promote children's speech, language and communication as a top priority when communicating with parents and carers. This begins at our 'Welcome to Nursery' and 'Welcome to Reception' meetings at the beginning of the year. We frequently provide advice, support and resources to help parents and carers support their children's speech, language and communication skills.

In EYFS, we work closely with a specialist speech and language professional to seek advice, support and guidance on practice, provision and any individual concerns arising, especially as identified via WellComm screening.

Communication Friendly Setting

Woodthorpe Primary School is an accredited Communication Friendly Setting. This means that understanding the speech, language and communication needs of all our children is embedded into classroom practice. Staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills and strategies to create a setting that enhances and develops children's communication, creating a rich learning environment for all and supporting children who have communication needs.



What to bring for Reception

At Woodthorpe, Reception children wear school uniform.

This includes:

- Black or grey trousers or shorts, grey skirt, pinafore dress or red gingham dress
- Plain or embroidered with logo white or red polo top or plain white button shirt
- Red jumper or cardigan with or without logo
- Dark coloured or white socks or plain grey, black or red tights

Footwear:

- Low-heeled dark coloured shoes or boots suitable for active play or trainers with velcro fasteners
- Open-toed sandals should not be worn, even in the Summer Term for health and safety reasons.

Additional:

- Water bottle
- Book Bag



What your child needs to bring to keep in Reception ...

- Waterproof coat
- Waterproof trousers
- Wellies
- A full set of spare clothes

Please put your child's name on EVERYTHING!

Visit our school website to find out more information about our school uniform via the 'Family' section.

Tapestry



We share your child's learning journey with you online. We use a program called 'Tapestry' to document some of your child's achievements. We will contact parents/carers in the Autumn Term with your log in details.

What is Tapestry?

Tapestry is an online learning platform that documents your child's learning journey in all areas of the Early Years Curriculum. It is a fantastic tool which provides communication between home and school. It can be used on an internet browser or via the Tapestry app (for mobiles and other devices). Tapestry allows written information, photographs and videos to be shared.

How we use Tapestry

At Woodthorpe, we use this observation tool to capture the 'wow' and 'significant' moments in a child's learning journey. We will not document every moment in the child's play/learning. This allows practitioners quality time to engage and interact with children. Observations will be used to monitor a child's learning journey and will be used to identify children's emerging needs, interests and next steps.

Parents/Carers

All parents/carers will be given the opportunity to sign up to Tapestry via their personal email address. Once an email address has been provided, we will activate your account and assign you to your child. You will receive an email to set up your account and password. When the account is activated, you will be able to view all content linked to your child and add your own observations. You will receive notifications when a new observation is added.

In EYFS, we aim to gain a wider understanding of a child's learning journey both at school and at home. We love to see observations; it is a great discussion point with the children and allows us to see what children do out of school. Parents/carers can use Tapestry to capture their child's interests or any 'wow' and 'significant' moments in their child's learning journey. This may include learning at home, days out, holidays, special events, new skills, interests etc... Teachers will respond to parent/carers observations via the comment section and/or 'like' the observation.

Tapestry



Memos

The memo section is a communication tool to strength home-school relationships. It allows practitioners to include notes, clickable links to other webpages, media, and documents. Memos may be used for the purposes below:

- Send out a whole cohort/class/group message.
- Send out learning/homework/ additional supporting materials to parents/carers.
- To be used to inform parents/carers what the forthcoming learning will be. This is to engage families with learning in school, support children's interests and encourage communication.

Tapestry Challenges

Each half term teachers will set a Tapestry challenge for you to complete with your child during the holidays.

How to use Tapestry

Please see below for some useful videos on how to use Tapestry.

- Setting up an account— <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n7ROkDnb4IO>
- Setting up notifications— https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZvjWs_lFgn8
- Adding an observation— <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=espJ96TJHV8>
- Finding and viewing Memos— https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQgO_eaD7kQ

Privacy - The use of Tapestry is a secure area, copies of any observation (content and media) are not to be posted on any social media or shared with other families.

Nursery Lunches



If your child is going to be staying for any lunchtime sessions at Nursery there are a couple of options:

- You can choose a school dinner or*
- Your child can bring a healthy nut-free pack-up*

Our school meal provider is Dolce School Catering.

To view menus and pre-order meals please login to your School Grid account. Please note that meals can be ordered up to a term in advance but must be ordered via the School Grid no later than 8:55am on the day that the meal is required.

If your child is arriving at lunchtime for the afternoon, they can be dropped off at around 11:40am. If your child is going home after lunch, the children are normally ready for collection between 12:30pm and 12:35pm.



Snack Time

All children receive a free piece of fruit at snack time. Water is always available too. Your child can also receive a carton of milk if you apply for it. This can be done via: www.coolmilk.com. Milk is free for 3 and 4 year olds and then paid for when your child turns 5. Please ask the school office for more information.



We would also encourage your child to bring a refillable water bottle each day to nursery with their name on.

Reception Lunches

Children eat their lunch in the dining hall with their friends. Our mid-day supervisors help the children to cut their food but it's really helpful if your child has learnt to use a knife and fork. After our lunch the children go and play with their friends on the KS1 playground.

Our school meal provider is Dolce School Catering.

To view menus and pre-order meals please login to your School Grid account. Please note that meals can be ordered up to a term in advance but must be ordered via the School Grid no later than 8:55am on the day that the meal is required.

Lunch Choices

We currently get a free school meal in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

There are lots of choices:



Hot dinner



Vegetarian
hot dinner



Jacket potato



Sandwich



Or you can
bring your
own packed
lunch

Snack Time

All children receive a free piece of fruit at snack time. Water is always available too. Your child can also receive a carton of milk if you apply for it. This can be done via: www.coolmilk.com. Milk is free for 4 year olds and then paid for when your child turns 5. Please ask the school office for more information. We would also encourage your child to bring a refillable water bottle each day to reception.



Things for your child to practise before joining us

Nursery:

- Engage in play activities and have some favourite things.
- Enjoy being with other children.
- Understand the word 'no' and the boundaries it sets for behaviour.
- Understand the word 'stop' and that it might be used to keep them safe.
- Use the toilet by themselves.
- Be able to take off their coat and put on their shoes.
- Recognise their own name (spoken and written).
- Talk in sentences.

Reception:

- Sit and listen for a short amount of time.
- Enjoy being with other children and share toys with their friends.
- Understand the word 'no' and the boundaries it sets for behaviour.
- Understand the word 'stop' and that it might be used to keep them safe.
- Use the toilet by themselves.
- Be able to take off their coat. Be able to put their coat on and zip it up.
- Be able to take their shoes off and put their shoes on.
- If they wear tights, pull them up by themselves.
- Eat their lunch with a knife and fork.
- Talk in sentences.
- Recognise their own name (spoken and written).
- Speak to an adult to ask for help.



We look forward to your child joining us!

School Times

Nursery

Breakfast Club

7:50am - 9:00am

Morning Sessions

9:00am - 12:00pm

Lunchtimes

11:45pm - 12:30pm

Afternoon Sessions

12:30pm - 3:30pm

After School Club

3:30pm - 5:45pm

Parents are able to request additional sessions taken after weekly funded sessions have been used and are payable at an

Reception

Breakfast Club

7:50am - 8:50am

School starts: 8:40am to 8:50am

Home time: 3:15pm

After School Club

3:15pm - 5:45pm

Breakfast Club and After School Club

We are delighted to be able to offer full wraparound support for our families. This starts from 7.50am until 5:45pm daily and includes care for all of our children from nursery to year 6.

Nursery pupils must book wraparound care sessions through the nursery as due to the childcare funding they receive, the charges are different.

To book a place at Breakfast and/or After School Club please fill in the google form available on our school website <https://www.woodthorpeprimaryschool.co.uk/wraparound-childcare/>

Breakfast Club: Children have a wide range of breakfasts and also have the chance to play games with their friends or take part in a morning physical activity to really help wake them up.

After School Club: At after school club children start the session by having a snack and completing a 'circle' activity. From this pupils then have the option to complete activities with their friends, take part in physical activities or relax with a book or film.

Please see our school website for further information about our Wraparound Childcare and prices.

Additional information

School Policies

School policies can be viewed on the school website, including Ofsted information, school performance details and our SEND report.



Contact Us

Website: <https://www.woodthorpeprimaryschool.co.uk/>

Telephone:

Main school number: 01904 806464

If your child is ill: 01904 806464

Email:

Nursery email:

ducklings@woodthorpe.elc.org.uk

or

Main school:

admin@woodthorpe.elc.org.uk