

Wellow House School



Starting school in the Pre-Prep

This book is written for you to read at home with your child. We hope it will help your child to start school happily and that you will find it useful.

When you start school your teachers will be;

Foundation Stage 1 – Mrs Windle

Foundation Stage 2 – Miss Lamb

Year 1 – Mrs Hawley/ Miss Storey

Year 2 – Mrs Crook

Classroom Assistants – Ms Buck Ms Atkin

Lunchtime Assistant - Mrs Bell

School Times

We start school at 8.50am.

We go home at 3.30pm

FS1 children only attending part-time may start or end their session at 1pm.

The class teacher will be there to welcome your child at 8.50am. All classes should line up in the playground when the bell rings. Parents are responsible for their children until this time. Please say goodbye and let us take your children into the class for a smooth start to the day. Please feel reassured that if your child is a little upset this will pass faster if you hand over quickly.

Children will learn the morning routine which includes hanging up their own bags and coats. Please try not to be late as it is unsettling to your child and prevents a smooth start to the day.

Early Birds

There is an Early Birds club that runs from 8.30am until 8:50am. Children may join Early Birds between 8:30am and 8:40am.

Owl Club

If you would like to use Owl Club, our after school club, please write your child's name on the list in the corridor. Owl Club is available from 3.30pm to 5.00pm prompt. This service will be charged for, there is an additional fee for late collection of children; prices are available from the office.

Clothes and Shoes

We change for PE so it is a good idea for your child to practise dressing and undressing by themselves to make them more independent at school and have more time to enjoy their lesson.

Please ensure children have Velcro fastening shoes or shoes they can fasten by themselves. We also wear slippers in the classrooms to keep school clean and use wellies for our outdoor activities. Please make sure both are in school at all times along with their P.E kit.

Please make sure everything your child brings to school to wear is clearly named as we expect the children to be responsible for their own belongings.

Extra School Activities

We have a lot of extra school activities that your child may wish to join:

Tadpoles (swimming) from FS1-Year 2
Tennis from FS2-Year 2
Archery from Year 1-Year 2
Martial Arts from FS2-Year 2
Yogabugs from FS2- Year 2
LAMDA - Year 2

You will get letters about these each term.

School Lunches

Eating with many other children may be a new experience but please do not worry. Your child will be served by their teacher, who will give them a little of everything to try. Often children do grow to like new foods quickly. We have daily desserts, often incorporating fruit but we also offer fruit and yoghurt as options. We do expect children to try their main course before dessert is allowed. The weekly menu is displayed on our information board, the school website and outside the dining room. All the children use a knife and fork to eat with. Please encourage your child to use these at home independently.

Children from Foundation Stage 2 onwards have named school water bottles which they have access to throughout the day. Foundation Stage 1 children are asked to bring in a named bottle from home to avoid the confusion of a class set of bottles whilst still learning their written names. Fruit is provided for all children each day but children are welcome to bring fruit from home for themselves. Milk is also provided at morning break. We realise that, at home, some children may have juice rather water, but we expect that, whilst at school, they follow our guidelines as part of our approach to healthy eating.

Reading Books

At present we are using Oxford Reading Tree, Collins Pathway and Jumpstart amongst others. Please try to avoid these reading schemes at home to avoid repetition. When your child starts to bring home books we are always very pleased when you read with them at home or practise the words or numbers provided. Initially books may not contain words, but tell a story in pictures. These both encourage your child to tell the story using the pictures and familiarise them with the layout of books.

In time, we look at punctuation as well as word recognition and build fluency and expression.

Before your child starts school, try to look at books at home; talk about the pictures and which way the print goes. You will get a reading record, which will be used as a means of communication between teachers and parents; please feel free to write in this. Please ensure that both your child's book and reading record are brought to school on a daily basis. Please take good care of them as damaged books will need replacing.

Special Educational Needs

We constantly monitor all children's understanding of the work presented to them through observation and assessment. If we feel there is an area in which your child would benefit from further support we complete an Initial Concerns Form outlining the area which needs special attention and how we intend to address this. This information will be passed to you in order for us to work together to support your child in this area. These targets will be reviewed termly in an Individual Action Plan to assess the progress being made and modify the next stages. We have a Special Needs team who we use to carry out more detailed assessment if we feel it is necessary. There is also provision for one-to-one assistance if it is felt appropriate but this is chargeable.

It is clearly our intention that any weaknesses are identified and targeted as early as possible to enable your child to reach their full potential through early intervention and support.

The Foundation Stage

In the Foundation Stage the children will be learning mostly through practical activities and experiences. We plan and prepare activities so that the children can learn through a variety of mediums. We believe the characteristics of Effective Learning are:

Engagement- Engagement

- Playing and exploring
- Finding out and exploring
- Playing with what they know
- Being willing to 'have a go'

Active learning – motivation

- Being involved and concentrating
- Keeping trying
- Enjoying achieving what they set out to do

Creating and thinking critically – thinking

- Having their own ideas
- Making links
- Choosing ways to do things

Sand, water, construction, role play areas and ICT resources will be offered as continuous provision in order for your child to reinforce the skills he/she is learning.

The children's learning will be split into the following areas.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Making relationships
- Self-confidence and self-awareness
- Managing feelings and behaviour

Physical Development

- Moving and handling
- Health and self-care

Communication and Language

- Listening and attention
- Understanding
- Speaking

Literacy

- Reading
- Writing

Mathematics

- Numbers
- Shape, space and measure

Understanding the World

- People and communities
- The world
- Technology

Expressive Arts and Design

- Exploring and using media and materials
- Being imaginative

Key Stage 1

Once your child enters Year 1 he/she will gradually move to a more formal teaching and learning style. As within the Foundation Stage the activities will be differentiated to meet the needs of your child to ensure appropriate progress is made.

We base all our planning on the National Curriculum, but with the flexibility to incorporate the interests and experiences of the children to enhance their learning. The subjects covered are: Numeracy, Literacy, Science, Information Communication Technology (ICT), History, Geography, Art, Design

Technology, Physical Education, Music, Religious Education and Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE).

In Year 1 subjects are topic based to provide an exciting stimulus for learning. You will receive an information sheet containing an overview of the topics at the beginning of each term so you can reinforce subjects at home or perhaps go on a related outing.

In Year 2 separate subjects begin to be taught more distinctly in preparation for Prep school, which has subject specialist teachers. Most lessons are taught by the class teacher but some subjects are taught by specialists from the Prep school. This helps the transition process into the prep and familiarises them with the environment. As in Year 1 an overview of the topics within subjects will be provided at the start of each term to keep you informed.

Throughout the Pre-prep, children are taught French and British Sign Language. This is taught by all of the Pre-Prep teachers on rotation to introduce basic skills. Examples of topics covered are: numbers, colours, days of the week and weather.

Our Pre-Prep offers a nurturing environment where all are working towards providing a caring and supportive platform where all children can flourish. You may talk to any member of the team if any topics arise which you wish to discuss and we welcome working with you to provide the best education for your child.

School Uniform

	Boys	Girls
Winter	Tie with elastic neck Grey Shorts Short sleeved white shirts School V-neck jumper Green $\frac{3}{4}$ socks with turnover tops Black Shoes Green school coat Wellington Boots Slippers Hat, scarf and gloves/mittens School reading folder	Tie with elastic neck Tartan tunic Short sleeved white shirt School V-neck jumper Green $\frac{3}{4}$ socks with turnover tops or tights Green/Black headband or bobble Black Shoes Green school coat Wellington Boots Slippers Hat, scarf and gloves/mittens School reading folder
Summer	As above	Green and white stripe dresses School V-neck jumper White ankle socks
Sportswear	White Shorts School white polo t-shirt White ankle socks School sweatshirt School jogging bottoms Black plimsolls School kit bag Sun hat Year 1 and 2- Black trunks and towel	White Shorts School white polo t-shirt White ankle socks School sweatshirt School jogging bottoms Black plimsolls School kit bag Sun hat Year 1 and 2- Black costume and towel

In Year 2 children are invited to stay and join Prep games on a Friday afternoon. Additional kit requirements are outlined below.

<i>Activity:</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Boys</i>
<i>Autumn</i>	Hockey- Shin pads Gum shields Football Socks	Rugby- Gum Shields Football Socks
<i>Spring</i>	Netball- Standard PE kit	Football- Shin Pads Football Socks
<i>Summer</i>	Rounders- Standard PE kit	Cricket - Whites can be worn but not essential.

It is essential all items are named.

In the summer we ask that parents apply an all-day sun cream before the children arrive at school. For Health and Safety reasons teachers are not permitted to apply sun cream.