

We hope that this booklet is helpful. We want starting school to be a happy and positive experience for children and parents. We are always available to discuss problems if they arise.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to ask.

www.whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk

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**Starting
School Guide**

Welcome to Whitchurch Primary School & Nursery.

We hope that you will find this pack useful and that it will answer some of your questions about your child's first days at school.

If you have any questions not answered in this pack then please do not hesitate to come into school to talk to your child's teacher.

Furthermore, if at any time you are concerned about your child please talk to their class teacher.

The mornings are often very busy times, so if you would like to have a longer chat with the teacher you can speak to them at the end of the day or please ask for an appointment.



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What should I wear?

A labelled school uniform and a warm or waterproof coat, if needed.

What shall I bring?

A labelled PE kit and a school book bag (available from Price & Buckland).

A named bottle of water.

Free fruit and milk is provided each day for pupils in EYFS, however you may send in fruit if you wish.

A drawstring P.E. bag containing shorts, T-shirt, sweatshirt, jogging bottoms and plimsols all clearly named, which is hung on their peg.

For lunch, either of:

- A lunch box, if they are staying for packed lunch, clearly named on the outside.
- A free healthy school dinner, which is prepared and cooked on site.

A Library folder. This can be purchased from the office. The children will visit once a week. Library days will be visible outside classrooms.

Please could you also ensure that all items of clothing are clearly named as children change for P.E. in the classroom and clothes sometimes get muddled.



Home Visits

Your child's teacher will come to visit your child at home before they start school. This is a very useful time for you to discuss any worries or concerns you may have, and it is a good opportunity for the teacher to get to know your child while they are relaxed in their own home.

If your child has a favourite toy or game they might like to show it to their teacher when they visit.

Please do try to ensure that you can be available at the time of your given appointment, as your child's teacher has a very busy and complicated schedule to meet.



School Uniform

The school colour is red and in the Foundation Stage children should wear:

- Red school sweatshirt or cardigan
- White polo shirt
- Dary grey skirt/trousers or red tracksuit bottoms
- Black school shoes with black or white socks

The full school uniform policy can be found on the school website. Your child will also need a P.E. kit; black shorts, a T-shirt in their house colours, school tracksuit and a pair of plimsols (Velcro fastening are the most successful).

Each child will be put into one of the following team colours: Yellow, Green, Red or Blue.

The P.E. kit needs to be kept in a named bag that will hang easily from their coat peg. School P.E. bags are on sale via the school website and should match the colour of your child's P.E. T-shirt. Please try to avoid shoes with laces, so that your child can be as independent as possible.

Please label all clothing clearly.

Lunchtimes

Lunchtimes are for an hour for EYFS.

Children will eat their meals in the hall with the Key Stage 1 children.

They will be expected to eat sensibly and quietly and be encouraged to have good table manners.

Children can choose to have a packed lunch or a school dinner.

Your child will need a lunch box, clearly named on the outside. Anything your child does not eat will stay in their lunch box so you know what has been eaten.

We encourage healthy eating so please do not include sweets or chocolate. We are also a nut free school so please do not send in any items which contain nuts.

Playtimes

There are two times during the day that are spent in the playground with other children throughout the school.

The members of staff on duty will be especially aware of, and look out for Reception children.

Older children are also very thoughtful towards younger children and enjoy taking them under their wing and looking after them.

Please ensure your child has appropriate clothing for all weather conditions, for example:

Winter – Warm coat, hat, gloves, scarf.

Summer – Sun hat, apply sun cream before school, water bottle in school.



Snacks

The children will have a daily snack every morning. This will be a piece of fruit, provided free of charge and delivered fresh to school. Children under five years old will also be provided with milk, free of charge.

The children can have a drink of water from their bottle at any time throughout the school day. Water bottles will be sent home daily to be washed and need to be returned every morning. Please bring them to school full of fresh water ready for the day.



Learning and Development

Your child will be taught in accordance with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). This is a national document for Early Years children (children aged from birth to 5).

The curriculum lays out objectives which children should meet at different ages starting from birth. These lead up to Early Learning Goals which children should mostly be able to achieve by the end of the Reception year.

There are seven areas of learning and development. Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. These three prime areas are:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Providers must also support children in four more specific areas:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design



Children are assessed using the Foundation Stage Profile. This covers all seven areas of learning and is closely linked to the Early Learning Goals. The Profile will be completed at the end of EYFS. The Profile is based on ongoing assessment and observations of the children, and will be sent home with detailed comments on each area of development at the end of the Reception year.

The curriculum is topic based with a new topic starting each half term. You will receive a newsletter at the beginning of each term outlining what will be taught throughout the topic.

There will be carpet sessions with a numeracy and literacy focus every day. Both group and individual tasks will follow this – taking place either on tables, on the carpet, or in our outside play area adjoined to the reception classes. The children will be learning through structured play activities. These will cover all areas of the Foundation Curriculum. There are opportunities for free play during the sessions.

By the end of the Reception year the children will be prepared for starting Literacy and Numeracy as taught in Year One.



Daily Routines

School begins at 8.50am and finishes at 3.20pm.

For the first few days of the year, we welcome you to come with your child into the classroom, allowing them to hang up their own coats, put away their own reading folders and lunch boxes.

By the end of week four, we expect all children to do this independently. The class teacher will come out to the gate at 8.50am. This is a good opportunity to pass any messages on to the class teacher or to arrange a meeting with the class teacher after school. This is a good time for parents to say their goodbyes to their children.

At the end of the day parents/carers should wait in the green area outside the classrooms. The children will be dismissed individually by the teacher and teaching assistants. Please let staff know if someone other than usual is to collect on any particular day.

All children (including younger/older siblings) are not allowed to use the equipment in the outdoor area adjoined to the classroom on arrival or end of the day at school as they are set up ready for learning activities for the day ahead.

Children will be given reading books to read at home. Your child's reading book will be changed twice a week and they can also change their books as and when needed throughout the week.

