

# Welcome to Reception at Whitley Park Primary and Nursery School



## 'Whitley Park Primary and Nursery School celebrate 'good' rating from Ofsted -June 2015

- "Children have a range of opportunities to develop their reading and writing. Phonics is taught well and children make good progress."
- "Adult-led activities are based on their good knowledge of individual children and ensure that each is challenged appropriately. This leads to children who are keen learners who listen carefully to adults and follow their guidance."
- "Children behave well; they play together without disagreement and learn to respect each other's difference. Children in the early years feel safe, valued and special."

## Admissions and transition to Reception

Parents who are considering applying for a school place for their child at Whitley Park are encouraged to visit us for a school tour. Please contact our office to make an appointment. Formal admissions are to be completed in accordance with Reading Borough Council's schools admissions policy.

Many of our children in the reception classes will have attended Whitley Park Nursery. These children will have lots of opportunity to visit the reception classes in the Summer Term to become familiar with their new learning environment.

We recognise the importance of a smooth transition for all children and work closely with our feeder settings to arrange transition visits both to Whitley Park and for our staff to visit your child at their current pre-school. During transition meetings with our feeder settings we work hard to ensure that where possible we place children into classes with any friendships they may have made at their pre-school setting.

Once your child has been offered a place at Whitley Park we look forward to welcoming you. Starting school is a very exciting time although we do appreciate that it can be daunting too and so we would like all of our parents to feel confident moving forward onto the next stage of their child's learning journey. In June you will be sent a welcome letter to invite you to an informal parent meeting to learn vital information about your child starting their learning journey with us.

At the meeting you will have the opportunity to meet our Head teacher; Mrs Karen Salter, our Early Years Leader; Mrs Shan Holland, the Reception Leader and her team. You will also have the opportunity to see the Reception Provision and outside learning environment too.



## Starting in Reception

### Home Visits

On entry in September, we like to offer our children who have come from other feeder settings a home visit so that we can welcome new families who may be less familiar with our school. During the home visit the class teacher and EYP will meet with you and your child for further information sharing and to build those vital early relationships in order for us to work together to ensure a successful transition and future learning at Whitley Park.

For children who have attended Whitley Park Nursery we offer lots of transition into the Reception Provision prior to the Summer Holidays but we will consider any requests for a home visit should a parent feel it would be beneficial to their child.

If you are concerned about your child starting school because they may have additional needs, please contact us so that our school Senco; Mrs Julie Rivers can arrange to join us for a home visit or set up another meeting.

### First week

Once our home visits are completed, we welcome our children in to their classes on a part time basis for the first few days. This means that your child will come to school for either mornings or afternoons for the first few days and will try a school lunch in a smaller group to begin with. We feel that a staggered start is important for your child to ensure that we can give as much individual time and attention as possible to help with settling them into a new environment, routine and to start to build secure relationships with the new adults who will look after them.

## Reception Learning Environment (The Provision)

We are a Three Form Entry Primary School, which means that we have 90 school places divided into 3 base classes in Reception. Each base class has a qualified teacher, an Early Years Practitioner (EYP) and a teaching assistant (TA) We also have a fourth EYP who supports children who may present with additional needs.

We have three base classrooms in our Reception Provision with space surrounding the classrooms to allow children to access different equipment and resources across the different areas of learning. These areas include a kitchen where children can have a drink and some fruit, a literacy area, a small group room for a range of different groups and activities and space for art and crafts and imaginative play. Outside, we have a garden where children can access all areas of learning on a larger scale.



Our Base Classrooms are called;

Woodland, Birds and Mini-beasts and each class is divided into two 'home base' groups;

Woodland Class; 'Squirrels' and 'Hedgehogs'

Birds Class; 'Red Kites' and 'Robins'

Mini Beasts Class; 'Ladybirds' and 'Butterflies'

Our additional needs 'home base' group is called, 'Bumblebees'

The smaller groups allow us to get to know our children and their individual needs well. Each group has a 'home base' within the provision, which is situated close to children's home box and coat peg. Children will spend time each day in their 'home base' to have register, to look at the daily board, to learn Maths and to have stories and songs together.

Children will regroup for their Phonics learning time according to their progress in the RWInc programme but will use the base group learning spaces during this time.



Each Base class will have a different curriculum emphasis to foster the different areas of Learning in the EYFS. This allows us to create bigger spaces where children can explore equipment, resources and activities and where they can practise the skills and concepts taught and modelled by our staff. Children will spend time in each of the rooms over the course of a week to ensure that children are exposed to a broad and balanced Early Years Curriculum.



Children's well-being and involvement is prioritised and the curriculum is tailored to meet individual needs in order to ensure that our children are equipped with the skills necessary to make progress in their learning.

## Continuous Provision and the Reception routine

Children will have the opportunity to access all areas of the Reception provision in a carefully managed way. The day is structured so that children have the opportunity to make independent choices and to learn through their play (continuous provision). Adults will play alongside and interact with children to scaffold their learning and will plan enhancements and challenge to ensure that children make good progress in their learning Journey. Teachers and EYP's will teach children Phonics and Maths in groups and will also introduce new learning ( learning focus) at the beginning of each morning and afternoon session.

### A typical day

8:45am - Doors open and early morning task

9:00am - Register and learning focus

9:20am - Continuous provision

10:50am- Phonics (RWInc)

11:15am -Recall, story, songs and rhyme time

11:45am -Lunchtime

12:45pm -Register and mindfulness

1:00pm - Maths group time

1:20pm - Continuous provision

2:45pm - Story time

3:10pm - Hometime

During the week children will also have PE, Birthday Assembly and a timetabled session in the school library.

## **Information Sharing and Celebrations**

Throughout your child's time spent with us in Reception we will be capturing their Learning and Development in their own unique Learning Journeys. We record observations of their learning by taking photographs and by talking to children about their knowledge, skills and developing interests. We welcome parental contributions in helping us to plan for children's 'next steps' towards reaching the Early Learning Goals.

As well as more formal parent evenings we also enjoy welcoming our parents to our "Come and Share" learning sessions where you can join your child in the Reception unit to find out about their learning.

We also warmly invite parents into school for various celebrations during the school year.

**We look forward to welcoming you and your child**

