



Water Mill Primary School

2025

Welcome

Thank you for choosing Water Mill, we are pleased to welcome you to our school. We are well aware that there is a lot of information to remember when your child starts school, especially if your family is new to Water Mill. This booklet gives you some information to help you and your child get ready for the new school year. We hope it will be a happy and successful year for your child and we are looking forward to working in partnership with you.

Reception Induction 2025

We work very hard to ensure that children have a smooth transition into the Reception class. Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) staff take the time to visit Nurseries/Pre-school to gain in depth information.

The following transition events have been planned for you and your child/ren:

Tuesday 20th May 2025 – **EYFS Parent Meeting 4.30pm**

Tuesday 3rd June 2025 – **Stay and Play with Parents 1.30pm – 2.30pm**

Thursday 12th June 2025 – **Teddy Bear Picnic (Parents drop and go) 1.30pm – 2.30pm**

Each session visit is structured to ensure that children and parents are given the opportunity to settle into the Foundation Stage area, meet the staff and other parents, in order for children to gain confidence and independence in the setting.

All staff at Water Mill are looking forward to getting to know your child/children very well. We know that as parents, you are the most important influence on your child. There will always be an opportunity to talk to a member of staff about your concerns or to pass on information. One way to help us to get to know our new pupils even better in their most familiar setting is to carry out **Home Visits**. If your child has a sibling in school, this will occur in July. If you are new to our school, we will arrange a home visit with you in September. More information on these will follow.

Starting School

It is very important that the children's first encounter with school is calm and relaxed. To make sure this happens, we bring the children into school on a gradual basis. All children are unique and some will adapt to school life more quickly than others. Reception children will come in through the Reception play area (at the bottom of the playground), where there will always be an adult to welcome them. At home time, please be in the playground to collect your child when they are brought out at **3:15pm**. Please wait for your child behind the white double lines (this makes it much easier and safer for all our children to see their parents and for all parents to see their children).

To support children in Reception with transition into school the following has been put in place.

Autumn Term – Parents bring children into school to the Reception gate.

Spring Term (after the Christmas Break) – Children will come into school independently through the main doors.

Communicating

We communicate with our parents in lots of different ways and use lots of face-to-face methods to ensure that you can talk to us at any time. We have 'My Child at School' (MCAS) which we use to send information out to parents. Please note that this must be downloaded as this is our main means of contact with parents.

Our School Website is always up to date and full of information that you will need. We also have our school Facebook page, where you can see regular work from children, updates and information, so please follow us on here so that you can see what we have been up to.

Attendance and Punctuality

(Please also refer to the School Policy for full details)

School times – 8.40am-3.15pm

Please ensure that your child arrives on time every day at 8.40am. Small children need the security of a clear routine. If they arrive late, they will miss the important settling in period at the beginning of each session. Once the school gates are closed, any child who arrives late will need to come through the main office and be signed in by an adult.

Your child should be brought to school and collected by an adult. For safety reasons, we need to know who this will be please.

We must also complete a register for each session, giving reasons for any absences. If your child has to be absent, please contact the school office in the morning on every day of absence. On this note, it is essential that we hold current telephone numbers and emergency contacts if we need to contact you in case of an emergency or illness. If you change your telephone number, please let us know immediately.

We do not expect pupils who are genuinely ill to attend school.

If your child has an urgent medical appointment (for example, at the Children's Hospital) that involves missing school, please tell the class teacher and school office in advance so that the absence can be authorised. Please do not make routine appointments for the dentist or the opticians during school time. Urgent appointments are different as we understand that it is difficult to reschedule appointments with consultants and to authorise these, school requires a copy of a medical card or letter from the medical establishment.

There is a strong correlation between good attendance and good progress made by pupils. By ensuring that your child attends every day and arrives at school on time, you are giving them the very best start to their education and encouraging good habits for life.

SCHOOL TELEPHONE NUMBER (0121) 464 7769

School Uniform



Our School uniform consists of:

- Sweatshirt/cardigan with the school logo on (this can be purchased from Kids Essentials in Northfield)
- White shirt, blouse or polo shirt
- Grey skirt or pinafore
- Grey trousers or shorts (no jeans)
- Checked blue and white summer dress (for warmer weather)
- Black, flat, school shoes (not trainers)
- School book bag (from Kids Essentials)

All of our uniform can be purchased at **Kids Essentials in Northfield**. There is further information in your packs that show pictures of the School Uniform, please refer to this when buying uniform for your child.

All uniform must be named clearly please.

PE Kit

All pupils must have the appropriate named clothing for P.E. each week. Our P.E policy states children will come to school in their P.E kits when they have P.E. Children **must** be wearing the correct P.E kit which is listed below:

Children will be allocated a 'House' that they will belong to (if you already have siblings in the school, it will be the same house).

- Sweatshirt/cardigan with the school logo on, as per usual uniform
- According to their house, children will require their house colour T-shirt for P.E (this may be purchased from the school office at a cost of £2.00)
- Navy / Black shorts
- Navy / Black joggers (plain, no logos)
- Black pumps for indoor PE
- Trainers for outdoor PE

Again, further information in your packs show pictures of the PE Kit, please refer to this when buying uniform for your child.

Sometimes children require spare clothes to be kept in school. From our past experience we have found it useful to have a spare pair of socks and some underwear, just in case your child has 'a toileting accident' in school. These will need to be in a named bag that will be kept on your child's peg.

WE CANNOT EMPHASISE ENOUGH, THE IMPORTANCE OF NAMING EVERY ITEM OF CLOTHING INCLUDING YOUR CHILD'S PUMPS! THANK YOU.

Book Bags

Children should keep their school reading books in the blue school book bags. Only books and papers are allowed in the bags – no drinks or food please! Not only does it help prolong the life of books, but it also encourages your child's sense of responsibility, knowing they

must be brought safe and clean into school every day. Once again, please print your child's name inside the bag and also on the nametag on the outside.

Snacks

We are delighted that our school participates in the School Fruit and Vegetables Scheme, which reinforces our commitment to healthy eating. All children will receive a water bottle at the beginning of the year which will stay in school. Pupils have constant access to this throughout the day. This keeps pupils well-hydrated.

Payments

We use the online payment system 'My Child at School' (MCAS). This means that you will have the facility to make payments for school expenses, such as school dinners (not until the children are in Year 3), trips, breakfast club, after school club etc, online with debit or credit card. Login details will be sent out.

Free school meals

Children from Reception to Year 2 are allocated Universal free school dinners. However, if you know you are eligible for means tested free school meals could you please complete relevant form within your pack.

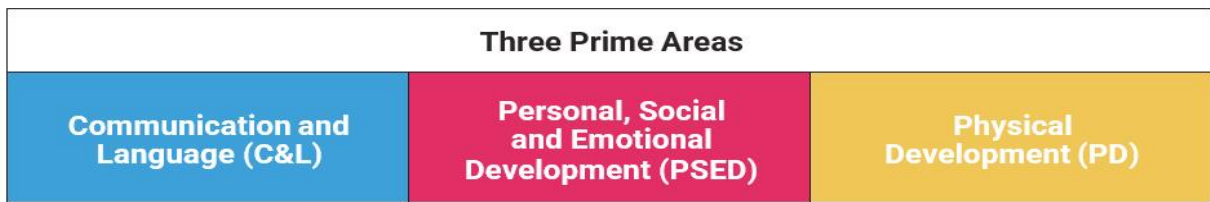


Teaching and Learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Children start school in Reception in the year in which they are age 5. They follow a practical and engaging 'Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum'.

The skills, knowledge and characteristics of Early Years are the building blocks, the foundations for learning throughout life. We endeavour to provide a high-quality language rich, stimulating play-centred environment. We do this through a topic led curriculum approach, so that the learning is structured in meaningful contexts for the children. There is a balance between adult led and child led tasks, where they are able to freely explore, investigate, use and apply their skills, learn and have fun!

There are seven areas of learning and development that shape educational programmes in the early years' settings. All areas of learning and development are important and interconnected. Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting a child's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.



These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. We will ensure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs. This is a little bit like a curriculum in primary and secondary schools, but it's suitable for very young children, and it's designed to be really flexible so that we can follow your child's unique needs and interests.

Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside.

Please refer to the school website for further information.

If you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact school to discuss these. We want to work in partnership with you to ensure your child/ren receive the very best education they can at Water Mill.

Mrs S. Suglani
 EYFS LEAD/ Reception Teacher
 April 2025