



Smooth Transitions

A Guide to Joining Reception Class
at Wells Next the Sea Primary School

CONTENTS



Introduction

An overview of your child's day

What to wear

What to bring

Useful information

Our Ethos

INTRODUCTION



In the Reception Class at Wells Next the Sea Primary School, we follow the Revised Early Years' Foundation Stage Curriculum. In 2012 the government made a lot of changes to this curriculum, recognising young children need to learn through play. At the end of the Reception Year your child's progress will be measured with the Foundation Stage Profile.

More information on this curriculum can be found at www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/eyfs

At Wells Next the Sea we are very lucky to have an enormous learning environment and a very generous outdoor space for our sole use. This space is divided into learning zones with resources that are always available on a daily basis.

As we learn new things the zones are enhanced with open ended resources connected to our learning and interests. The children choose which activities they would like to use in their independent learning and are also asked to come to adult led small groups and circle times and take on adult initiated challenges throughout the day, to extend their learning.

During the first few weeks of term and often at intervals after this, we work very hard in teaching the children how to choose and look after resources appropriately, reinforcing our rules and boundaries and support them in becoming involved, busy learners. This is very important in providing the curriculum in this manner. Some children may find self initiated learning hard at first but soon become very good at it when they know they have experienced adults who will promote their ideas and take their learning forward with new challenges and ideas.

YOUR CHILD'S DAY

Absences

Please telephone the school before 9.15am if your child is unwell if we do not hear from you the office staff will ring to check why your child is off school. Attendance records are checked and fed back regularly, holidays are **not** permitted in term time.

Shared reading time

Please bring your child into school at 8.50am. Wait in the play ground until this time and come in through the cloakroom door. You are very welcome to **share a book** with your child until 9am when we shall signal it's time to say goodbye by singing a song (of course if your child is not settled or you should like to stay and help you would be very welcome). This is different to Nursery School when the children begin to play but they will soon get used to this new routine. If you cannot share a book, a member of staff will be available but please do not leave your child until the bell rings at 8.50am.

Circle Time

Every morning we spend 5 minutes doing some sensory integration and yoga activities. This helps your child's brain to make connections with his or her body. We sing our hello song and chat about our day.

Read Write Ink/ Letters and Sounds Phonics Session

This is done in a fun, interactive and supportive manner using the Communication Language and Literacy Development Programme, Letters and Sounds and Read Write Inc Reading Programme. This learning forms the tools your child will need to become a confident, independent reader and speller. Our school has enjoyed enormous success with this programme.

The children are given lots of opportunities to practice their new skills in context through their play and we often send home little jobs to do too.



Independent and Guided Learning:

After our phonics session the children will choose to move indoor or out to the garden whilst participating in independent learning and adult initiated guided groups.

During this time varying focus activities (dependent on the children's interests) will be going on, where practitioners teach and extend children's skills and knowledge within their play.

Your child will also participate in guided reading and writing, maths, music and drama sessions, woodland learning, philosophy and in time school assembly. We will not begin PE until we consider the children well settled into school. When we begin PE your child will need a pair of plimsolls, a full PE kit will be required after Christmas.

Please bring the kit into school on Mondays and leave it in school all week. Your child will need black/ navy shorts, white t-shirt, plimsolls, jogging bottoms.

The children do not have morning 'play' times with the rest of the school. They will join the rest of the school at lunchtimes and gradually during the afternoons towards the end of the summer term. Just before lunch the children take part in a mathematics session where new skills are taught and modelled.



Lunch Times

The children have lunch from 12.00pm until 12.55pm. All Reception children will be entitled to a free cooked dinner each day, or a school packed lunch, or if you prefer your child can bring a packed lunch from home. Please make their packed lunch manageable for them and as healthy as possible (no sweets, chocolate or fizzy drinks please).

Snack Cafe

We have a snack bar within the classroom and the children can have a snack and freely accessible water whenever they are ready during the day, however they are welcome to bring their own water bottle. You may also like to provide your child with a small, healthy, named snack to have during the day. We have a snack basket to keep it in. The children will not visit the snack café in the school canteen.





Afternoon Session

After lunch we have a topic based or personal social and emotional based focus activity, before returning to indoor/outdoor independent learning. Just before we go home at 3.15pm we have a story, singing, thinking skills or listening activity, before the children independently choose a book to read. Please wait to be invited into the classroom to pick them up through the door at the front of the classroom. The door will be opened at 3.05pm to allow you to talk to staff and gather your child's belongings and be out on the playground to collect any older siblings at 3.15pm. Please let us know if your child is being collected by another adult, we need authorisation there is a message board you can write on at the door. We do not let older children collect their brothers and sisters.

Reading Books and Homework

If your child has been attending Nursery School they will already have a book bag, children new to the school will receive one when they begin school. A large selection of books are available in the classroom for you to choose with your child to take home. These include story books, number books and reference books too.



Once your child begins to read they will be given reading scheme books to take home. You are welcome to change your child's book as often as you like from the shelf. They will also receive a read write ink reading book which we will change each week.

Your child will have a reading journal to record their progress and what books they have read this will be kept in their book bag.

Please do not expect your child to read to you until they have learnt phonics for a little while. We do not want them to feel reading is a struggle just keep reading to them and they will gradually take over! As we move through the term I shall provide

grapheme (letter cards) and tricky word cards to use at home to help your child learn the phonemes (sounds the letters make), they can spell words with the cards and you can make new words for them to read too.

We learn the alphabet names for letters and the sound (phoneme) the letter makes alongside each other. As the year progresses they will bring home extra reading challenges and mathematical thinking activities and speaking and listening challenges. Please do not expect work sheets or handwriting practice sheets, we do not work in this manner (please see our mission statement).

Learning

Planning is displayed within the classroom so you will know what we are learning about. We also send home a weekly newsletter and write in your child's home school diary every week. We are always happy to chat about your child's learning and development.

Planning in the Early Years' Foundation Stage is based upon the children's interests. We call our medium term planning Possible Lines of Direction.

We use core stories and reference books to help our learning. The children also have the opportunity to have educational visits, and visitors in school to enhance their learning. You will be asked for a financial contribution. We often make visits to our rich and varied local shops and businesses too.



As in Nursery School or pre-school your child will have a Learning Journey where we collate observations, pieces of work and photographs throughout the year. This is done through EExAT an online Learning Journey system. Assessment for learning can only be made through your child using their new skills independently, this means the learning is embedded, it is then noted and put into their learning journey. Please feel free to add to your child's learning journey yourselves with learning done at home. Throughout the year we will request information from you about your child, such as their current interests or what they have been up to over a holiday or weekend. Please take the time to complete this valuable information for us, as it helps us to get to know your child better.

WHAT TO WEAR PLEASE NAME ALL CLOTHING!

If your child is accessing our curriculum in the way it is intended **they will get dirty!**

School uniform is available from Mrs Frary in the Sandcastle Palace Canteen. Black shoes only please! No trainers, sandals, crocs etc no matter how hard your child pleads. Please be patient if your child comes home muddy or painty we do encourage them to use aprons (which are available freely in the classroom), and as they learn to be more autonomous it will get less and less. The school uniform is very easy to wash. Please make sure your child has suitable clothing we go outside in all weathers!

Top Tip: Always rinse paint in cold water before washing.
There is a no jewellery policy in school.

WHAT TO BRING



At school your child will need....

- A coat: we go out whatever the weather
- Their book bag
- A small healthy snack (please no sweets or chocolate)
- A packed lunch or you may order a hot school meal, see Mrs Cox.
- A change of clothes if your child is a little unreliable with toileting skills (this is not a problem in any way).
- Sun hat and previously applied sun cream in hot weather. We do not apply sun cream.
- Wellington boots

USEFUL INFORMATION

Children with additional needs

Research has shown that the continuous provision environment, combined with teacher initiated learning experiences and a good induction system is an inclusive way of meeting the needs of all children. As we get to know the children we may discover your child may be particularly gifted or need a little extra support in an area of learning. This will be discussed with you and possible action initiated. Support from outside agencies through the school's special educational needs co-ordinator Mrs Beck (SENCO) may also be used.

The EYFS team are very experienced in children's development and behaviour management strategies and we also have a close partnership with the school nurse and Parent Support Advisor who are available to discuss any medical or family issues you may have. If your child has an existing need that has not been identified at Nursery or Pre School which is concerning you please chat to the team.

Parent Helpers

We value and welcome parent helpers into class, if you have some time each week where you would like to come and help in class, please come and talk to a member of staff. We also invite parents or carers to join us on our educational visits, an exciting opportunity to share a valuable learning opportunity with your child.

Parent's evenings are facilitated twice a year and you will receive a detailed report at the end of the school year. If you would like to chat at anytime during the school year about your child's learning please see Mrs Norman or Mrs Beck.

At Wells Next the Sea Primary School we value and respect parents as their 'child's first educators' and really look forward to working in partnership together.



Baseline Assessment

In September we will be undertaking a baseline assessment of your child. This will be completed in the first half term of your child's time in Reception class. We will observe your child at play and undertake play based activities with your child to learn more about them. This will help to build a clear picture of your child and enable us to plan appropriately for their future learning. Alongside this we will be completing the new government baseline assessment, if this goes ahead for September 2020 as expected.



OUR ETHOS

At Wells Next the Sea Primary School Reception Class we want to provide the best possible learning experiences for young children.

Our principles:

- recognition of the uniqueness of each child's capacity and potential
- an holistic view of each child's development
- recognition of the importance of play as a central integrating element in a child's development and learning
- an ecological view of humankind in the natural world
- recognition of the integrity of childhood in its own right
- recognition of the child as a part of a family and a community

Our pedagogy:

- knowledgeable and appropriately qualified early years professionals
- skilled and informed observation of children, to support effective development, learning and teaching.
- awareness that education relates to all capabilities of each child, imaginative, creative, symbolic, linguistic, mathematical, musical, aesthetic, scientific, physical, social, moral, cultural and spiritual.
- parent/ carers and educators working in harmony
- first hand experiences, play, talk and reflection
- activities and opportunities that have sense, purpose and meaning to the child and involve joy, wonder, unity, concentration and satisfaction.
- an holistic approach to learning which recognises children as active, feeling and thinking human beings.
- encouragement rather than punishment.
- individual and collaborative activity and play
- an approach to learning which develops children's autonomy and self confidence.

Our environment:

- physically safe yet intellectually challenging, promoting curiosity, enquiry, sensory stimulation and aesthetic awareness.
- demonstrates the unity of indoors and outdoors of the cultural and the natural
- allows free access to a rich range of materials that promote open ended opportunities for play, representation and creativity.